

Emerald - our home, our oasis - green, clean and safe

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Currently the EVA is negotiating a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Shire of Cardinia. The main objective is to improve the consultation process so that the Emerald Community has greater knowledge of local issues and developments and we can provide an avenue for input from the community.

We are currently trying to increase the membership of the EVA so we have a large representative group of residents who can be involved in the consultation process.

If you are interested please complete the EVA membership form on the back of this newsletter and drop or post into the Hills Hub 420 Belgrave Gembrook Rd Emerald 3782 or post it to this address or complete the EVA Membership form on the EVA website.

Our next community meeting will be held in the Hills Hub hall on Wednesday 27th April at 7.30pm.

The Topic: Cardinia Council speaks to their Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

HAPPENINGS IN EMERALD:

The car park at Worrell Reserve is expected to be finished early in April. Please note if you are going to the Cafes there is some parking at the back off Madigan Lane.

Do you have a problem with rabbits? A public meeting will be held soon to discuss this issue.

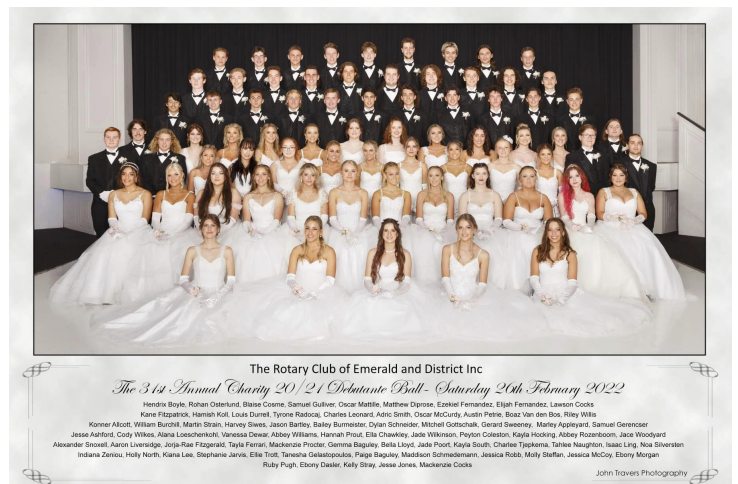
If you are a coffee fan, we now have at least 8 providers in the town.

Dick Bartley - President

ROTARY CLUB OF EMERALD & DISTRICT

After having to cancel six previous events due to ongoing COVID-19 lockdowns, we were thrilled to finally make the fairytale Deb Ball a reality for 36 stunning couples on Sat, 26 Feb at The Grand,

Wantirna. Our members supported the year 11 and 12 students, primarily from Emerald and surrounds, with dancing lessons over 20 months and on the night they did everyone proud. Applications for the next Deb Ball scheduled for Sat 11 June 2022 are now open – visit <https://emeraldrotary.org.au/page/debutante>.



[To view this photo in more detail go to the EVA Facebook page](#)

To further support locals impacted by the June 2021 storm event, we held the Rotary Storm Recovery Festival on Sun, 27 Feb, in conjunction with the Belgrave and Monbulk Rotary clubs. Over the past several months, Rotary District 9810, of which Emerald Rotary is a part, raised \$102,000 through RAWCS (Rotary Australia World Community Service Ltd). These funds will go towards a variety of projects, activities and resources to help those impacted. We will be working

with the community to develop our local emergency response capability.

Grants presented at the festival included:

- Rescue Log – “The story of the Big Storm” book for primary school students - \$3,971.50
- SES equipment and training - \$16,775
- Mt Dandenong Preschool - chestnut roaster & loo hire - \$1,850
- Habitat for Humanity - \$27,000
- Treasure Our Trees - \$37,747
- Monbulk Emergency Group - Satellite phones - \$5399

And don't miss our new Emerald Rotary Market with an expanded array of crafts, produce, collectables and treasures on offer. Held on the second Saturday of the month from 8am-1pm at the Emerald Primary School oval, Heroes Avenue, it's a friendly community market in the heart of the hills. To book a stall, call 0408 769 491 or emailemeraldrotarymarket@gmail.com.

Ros Weadman - Publicity

EVA - REPORT

February - our second meeting for the New Year and we discussed some “Big Picture” challenges coming up for Emerald District and the Community. Our local Ward Councilor and Mayor, Jeff Springfield, attended and reminded us that a round of Council Grant applications were available until March 17th.

We had been sent the **Cardinia Council Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2023-2033** and we talked about ways we could respond. Do we see the Council having a fleet of Electric Vehicles? Does planting more trees adequately address issues of heat stress - the biggest killer in environmental terms? How do we cope with an increasing number of big downpours and storms? How do we find out where to get assistance in such times?

You can read the draft and respond as an individual by visiting <https://creating.cardinia.vic.gov.au/our-climate-our-future> or by calling 1300 787 624.

You can also come along to our next **Community Meeting - “Adapting to Climate Change in Emerald” on Wednesday, 27th April 2022 at the Hills Hub**. We start at 7.30pm with a speaker from the Shire who helped compile the Draft document. Can you come along to listen, give suggestions and ask questions?

At our meeting we also talked about what the Emerald Village Association's original Memorandum of Understanding with the Council meant and any changes needed; the development of a Business Plan; and the need to arrange a meeting with the Council.

We will be working with the community to develop our new Strategic Plan that helps identify and serve the needs of the Community now and into the future! Are you ready to help us?

We hope to have a stall at the Emerald Primary School Fair on April 2nd. Come and talk to us. Find out about EVER's petition for the planned Bike/Skate Park at Worrell Reserve.

Or visit our Facebook Page Membership information. E-mail us at evasecretary3782@gmail.com. And stay informed about your Community...

Shelley Beardshaw - EVA

EMERALD LADIES PROBUS

A Probus club is a great place to meet new people if you're retired or semi-retired. It's the perfect place to develop new friendships and enable social interaction with other like-minded people.

Emerald Ladies Probus is inviting all retired or semi-retired ladies to join our club. Interesting guest speakers and the opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities and outings are on offer each month. Our club is non-fundraising and purely a social outlet to stay active in our local community.

We welcome you to come along to a meeting as a visitor to meet our members and consider joining our club. Meetings are held at the Emerald RSL on the third Monday of each month (except December) at 10am.

Contact: - Linda McIvor - viewhigh@aol.com

Linda McIvor - Ladies Probus

U3A

We have had our own local natural disasters, but we can currently be very grateful to be in our little part of the world. Our thoughts are with those suffering hardship during floods in Qld and NSW, and even more so with the brave people of Ukraine.

Membership

There are now over 300 active members enjoying classes; exercising their brain, muscles and vocal cords! U3A Emerald is a hidden treasure, still waiting to be discovered by some, and still waiting to be more fully utilised by others.

Course tutors /leaders

From personal experience, I urge you to get outside your comfort zone and contact us via the website Contact Form at www.u3aemerald.org.au about your course idea. We will give you the

support you want, and you will be surprised by the satisfaction and sense of well-being you will feel once you jump in.

Car Parking

Council have advised that the car park upgrade is on schedule and the first stage will be ready for the start of the footy season - early April.

Heather Bishop - U3A Publicity

HILLS HUB EVENT CALENDAR

MAJOR PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION 9th March

Presented by the Hills Photographic Society

The inaugural Photography Exhibition will be held in the Hills Hub from March 9th until April 16th. Approximately 100 images, occupying all levels of the Hub, will showcase an eclectic array of work by members of the club.

The public are encouraged to visit, explore and vote for their favourite photo.

When you vote you have the chance to win either a \$100 Officeworks voucher or a \$25 Brunch on McBride voucher.

Anna Benjamin - Placemaker

FRIENDS OF EMERALD LAKE PARK

Friends of Emerald Lake Park would like to invite the community to the Sycamore Maple Blitz on Sunday 13th and Thursday 17th March. 9-11. Meet at Lakeside car park and follow the signs. BYO gloves.

Sheila Hampson - Emerald Clean Team

EMERALD ARTS SOCIETY

The Emerald Arts Society was saddened to hear of the passing of June Dudley and we extend our sympathies to her family and friends.

If you wish to pay your respects a memorial service for June will be held at St. Marks in Church Street Emerald at 2.00pm Friday the 18th of March.

Following the service you are also invited to a reception at the Emerald Arts Society rooms (Cnr of Church and Ann Streets, Emerald).

Light refreshments and finger food will be provided.

Wendy Lindrea - Emerald Arts Society

ANZAC DAY - 2022

This year Anzac Day will, it appears at the moment, return to normal. Anzac Day is a Monday this year.

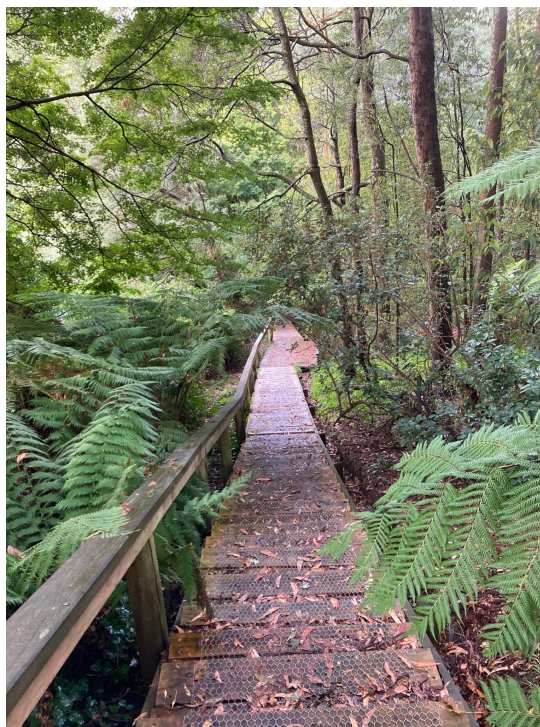
The normal Dawn Service will commence at 5.30am. Puffing Billy will "present" as in previous years and the scouts will provide breakfast.

At 10.30 the community march will take place from town centre to Anzac Place where the morning service will occur.

Refreshments will be provided in the RSL clubrooms followed by the footy from the MCG and the traditional Two-Up.

On the Saturday prior, (23rd April) the traditional Anzac Football Match between Emerald and Gembrook will take place. This year the game will take place at Gembrook if their club rooms are completed - otherwise Emerald will step up.

WHERE AM I?



This time where are these steps located? The first correct entry will receive a \$15 voucher for The Laughing Fox.

Contact: Dick Bartley - dickbartley08@gmail.com

CARDINIA - Connected Communities

Council would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the applications for the Community Wellbeing Support and Community Capital Works grant programs applications will close on Friday 11 March.

Thank you to those who have submitted applications already. If you are having any difficulties using the SmartyGrants platform please do not hesitate to contact us.

We would also like to take this opportunity to promote some upcoming activities and workshops.

Neighbour Day

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of Neighbour Day on Sunday 27th March 2022, this year you're invited to tell us how you've connected with your neighbours recently. This might include activities that have led to reduced isolation, new friendships, and how you look out for each other.

Head to [Connecting Cardinia](#) to tell your neighbourly stories and be in with the chance to win a prize pack for you and your street! Terms and conditions apply.

We're also hosting a free online seminar on Friday 25 March 2022, 12 noon – 1pm. Dean Cracknell from Town Team Movement who has worked across Australia building community connections will be Key speaker on the day. The seminar will focus on learning how to bring community members, neighbours and streets together for better connections and social cohesion. [Register here.](#)

Hannah Milne - Community Development Facilitator

NEW TOILET FOR EMERALD

Council will now install a new toilet adjacent to Worrell Reserve in front of the Hills Hub.

Cardinia Shire Council

New accessible toilets

These public toilets will be closed for the construction of the new Exeloo twin accessible toilet. Construction is planned for late March to late May.

Alternative public toilets are available at:

- Hills Hub and Emerald library
- Public toilets at Ferres Rd (corner Belgrave-Gembrook Rd)
- Puffing Billy Place.

Council apologises for any inconvenience

BENDIGO COMMUNITY BANK - at work



Community Bank Upwey, Belgrave and Cockatoo, part of Bendigo Bank, recently thanked local hills brigades by donating to each a Milwaukee Tool kit valued at over \$1,000.

Director, Shane Miller seen here presenting the tools to members of the Emerald CFA

CARDINIA - SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Skill development Workshops

We would also like to take this opportunity to advise that we have some free skill development workshops coming up for local community organisations. The workshops will be delivered by Our Community and there is a range of topics listed below. You can attend one or attend all.

Marketing and Promotion (including social Media tips)

- Friday 18 March 2022, 5.30pm to 7.30pm - Online event
- Thursday 31 March 2022, 5.30pm to 7.30pm - Online event

Good governance. Great results!

- Saturday 2 April 2022, 9am to 11am
Main hall, Emerald Hills Hub, 402
Belgrave-Gembrook Rd, Emerald
- Saturday 4 June 2022, 9am to 11am Koo Wee Rup
Community Centre, 255 Rossiter Road, Koo Wee
Rup

Understanding financial reporting, insurance and risk management

- Saturday 2 April 2022, 12 noon to 2pm
Main hall, Emerald Hills Hub, 402
Belgrave-Gembrook Rd, Emerald
- Saturday 4 June, 12 noon to 2pm
Koo Wee Rup Community Centre, 255 Rossiter
Road, Koo Wee Rup

Strike Grant Gold!

- Saturday 2 April 2022, 3pm to 5pm
Main hall, Emerald Hills Hub, 402
Belgrave-Gembrook Rd, Emerald
- Saturday 4 June 2022, 3pm to 5pm
Koo Wee Rup Community Centre, 255 Rossiter
Road, Koo Wee Rup

For more information and to register click on the link below-

https://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/info/20004/jobs_training_and_volunteering/960/skill_development_workshops_for_community_groups

Helena Moloney - Council Facilitator

GEMCO PLAYERS COMMUNITY THEATRE

Gemco Youth Theatre fun for young people.



Acting, Drama, role play, creating, performance skills, team work, self expression, confidence, improvisation, games.



At the Gem Community Arts Centre.
19 Kilvington Drive Emerald.

Wednesdays from the **2nd Feb**

Juniors - (Prep to Year 4) 4.15 till 5.30pm - Leaders Joy + Linda.

Intermediates - (Years 4 to 7) 5.45 - 7.00pm. - Leaders Mandy + Amanda + Sharon

Seniors - (Years 7 to 12) 7 - 8.30pm Lachy + Sarah.

Class sizes are limited, so enrol on 2nd of Feb at the Gem to secure your place.

For further information call Joy McLeary 0433193234.

Try out the first session for free then if you love it, join the group!
Cost \$60 per 10 week term plus \$15 membership/insurance per year.



EMERALD PRIMARY SCHOOL - ANNUAL FAIR



Flyer courtesy: Bel Smullen

THOMAS THE TANK RETURNS TO EMERALD

Puffing Billy Railway advises that their popular "Day Out With Thomas" is returning to Emerald for 2022.

Dates for the autumn season are - March 5th and 6th, 19th and 20th and 26th and 27th. Not running on the Labour Day weekend.

Location - Emerald Station. 3 services per day - 9.30am, 11.30am and 1.30pm.

Thomas will travel to Cockatoo and return to Emerald via a 3 hour stop-over at Lakeside Station and the Visitor Centre.

PBR staff will be working hard to minimise traffic disruptions for local residents. Parking will be located in the Emerald Station Reserve next door to the Emerald RSL.

Matt Collopy - Event Manager

GEMCO WORKING BEE



**At The Gem. Sunday March 27th from 1pm.
Pizza Party from 4pm.
Bar open and your first drink's on Bee!**

Pop in for an hour or stay for the afternoon.

After so many lock downs and isolations, it is time to get together and celebrate our space. Let's remove the cobwebs and spruce up our home ready for an action packed, fun filled year at the GEM.

Youth Groups have started, Take Ten is underway, productions are being planned and Puffing Billy is choofing along. So please come along to reconnect and lend a hand.



Many hands make light work
so bring your tools, a bucket,
a cloth and a willing heart.
See you there.



COVID MATTERS FOR SENIORS

In addition to State and Local Government guidelines and restrictions, many organisations and social groups in Victoria made the decision to require vaccination as a prerequisite for membership due to their members being 'vulnerable persons'.

CovidSafe Settings have changed many times over the past two years and it's not surprising if you are sometimes confused. The full story can be found on www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/how-we-live but here are a few pointers *most relevant to local seniors*:

Current rules when out and about:

Venues (*there are others*) for which **you must have at least two vaccination doses** include:

- food and drink venues (cafes, restaurants, pubs and theatres)
- community premises (libraries, the Hub)
- sporting and recreation facilities (sports grounds, gyms and swimming pools) and sporting events.

Only check-in with the Service Victoria app when you have to show you have had at least two vaccination doses to gain entry such as those above.

Masks are no longer required in most indoor settings, but wearing a mask remains strongly recommended if you:

- can't physically distance, both inside and outdoors
- have any COVID-19 symptoms
- are with people who may be vulnerable to COVID-19

Vaccination requirements *don't* apply in limited circumstances including:

- community facilities hosting essential public support groups, support services and health services in limited numbers
- to people involved in community sport (a local footy match) or people using swimming pools for essential medical care
- retail stores (supermarket, post office, book shops)

Heather Bishop - EVA Secretary

MEMBERSHIP - Emerald Village Association

The Emerald Village Association represents you, the residents of Emerald. So why not join?

It costs nothing and you receive all the information about what's happening in your hometown.

The EVA meets monthly at The Hills Hub. So if you feel concerned or have an opinion that needs to be heard about what's happening in Emerald - come on and join and attend our meetings.

Attached are membership forms for you and your partner. Or you can click on the QR code below to activate the membership form. Just post to the EVA or drop off at the Hills Hub, 420 Belgrave - Gembrook Road, Emerald.



PUFFING BILLY - LOCALS PASS

Did you know? Puffing Billy Railway is offering an annual, unlimited-access Locals Pass. It's time to get out and start exploring our very own backyard!

Available exclusively to residents within a 10-kilometre radius of any Puffing Billy station, the Locals Pass is a chance to learn more about the railway, its activities and signature events, and share these experiences with visiting family and friends.

Providing unlimited return travel on any excursion train journey, special discounts on unique dining experiences and events, as well as major food & beverage and retail products, the Locals Pass unlocks everything Puffing Billy has to offer. To learn more or purchase one for you and your family, head to <https://puffingbilly.com.au/visit-us/locals/>.



PUFFING BILLY - VOLUNTEERS HONOURED



Puffing Billy Railway CEO, Peter Abbott, and the two train drivers who crewed the Volunteer Recognition evening train on the night - Steve Cochrane and Les Thompson.

Puffing Billy Railway volunteers were honoured at a special event at the Lakeside Visitor Centre on Thursday night, to celebrate the enormous contributions that have been generously given to

preserve, restore, and maintain Australia's premier preserved steam railway.

The commitment and efforts of more than 300 volunteers were acknowledged by CEO, Peter Abbott, across tenures that spanned one year of service through to 60+ years. Of the volunteers in attendance, a collective total of 2,118 years of service was recognised; a small representation of the scale of volunteering efforts that make the railway what it is today.

U3A - WINE APPRECIATION GROUP

Visit to Paternoster Winery - Emerald's best kept viticultural secret. Thanks Henk Van den Bergen for your leadership. And Phil Hession for your hospitality.

Among the finest Pinot Noir and Chardonnays in Australia!!

Cheers.



Photo courtesy: Heather Bishop

EASTERN DANDENONG RANGES TRAIL EXTENSION

Cardinia Shire Council, in conjunction with the Victorian Government, has announced \$300,000 in funding to connect the trail in Edenmont Road, Clematis to an existing trail within the Yarra Ranges Shire. This will complete the full scope of the EDRT and link Cardinia and Yarra Ranges Shires.

If your business is in the Eastern Dandenong Ranges, (Emerald, Cockatoo, Gembrook, Upper Beaconsfield, Belgrave, Monbulk, Kallista, The Patch, Silvan, Selby, Yellingbo, Menzies Creek, Nangana, Mt Burnett & Hoddles Creek), this is a great opportunity to join EDRA if not a member already.

Businesses can join at the pro rata rate of only \$25 until the end of June 2022 to take advantage of the EDRA workshops & free mentoring designed for businesses to get the best out of the

www.easterndandenongranges.com.au listing as well as their own website and digital marketing activities.

Lynne Trensky - EDRA Membership & Marketing

ANZAC WALK

With Anzac Day on the horizon, you may consider listening to the stories, narrated by Emerald's own John Shiels, of how the 32 men from Emerald lost their lives in WW1.

All you need to do is scan the QR code below and click the links. To really experience this journey, why not wander down to Anzac Walk and follow the stories on each information stand - starting outside the National Bank. It is a very powerful and moving experience.

Peter Maloney: President, Emerald RSL



EVA WEBSITE - register events

Community groups can now publicise their upcoming events on the EVA website with links to their Facebook page. To do so go to our website as per the below link or scan the QR code.

<https://www.emeraldvillagenews.com.au/whats-on-1>



MUSIC BACK AT EMERALD RSL - 25th March

EMERALD RSL PRESENTS –
A Night of 50's & 60's Rock'n'Roll with one of Melbourne's longest serving best band -



- Where - Emerald RSL, 3 Memorial Ave. Emerald, Vic, 3782
- When - Friday the 25th of March 2022
- What Times - 7.30pm till 10.30pm - Doors open at 7.00pm
- Mobile Contact - 0407 659 683
- Admission - \$20.00 per person.
- No reserve seating.
- Drinks at bar prices.



Proudly Sponsored by -



CARDINIA SHIRE COUNCIL

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



The EVA also acknowledges the support of two local businesses - the Emerald Village Newsagency and the Emerald and District Co-Operative Society.

FEEDBACK

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- **[EMERALDVILLAGENEWS.COM.AU](http://www.emeraldvillagenews.com.au)** -