

Our vision is to work with local community groups and the Cardinia Council to ensure our town is a desirable place to live, and to maintain and develop community facilities which enhance the liveability of our township for residents.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Like many groups and organisations in Emerald many of the plans we made for 2020 have not been completed. We managed to meet via Zoom, organise the very successful Pen Pal project and conduct a selection process for the Emerald Citizenship awards. Next year we approach the year with great optimism. Not only can we complete some changes but we can start finally using the Hub building. Our first live committee meeting will be held on Jan 27th and if rules permit a community meeting on February 27th both in the Hub starting at 7, 30 on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Currently we have 51 people in the EVA; you would be most welcome to join, receive our agendas and attend at our meetings. **Dick Bartley - President**

EVA AGM - NEW COMMITTEE

The EVA AGM was held last week via Zoom. A new committee was elected. They are:
President - Dick Bartley Vice-President - Bruce Ratcliff
Secretary - Shelley Beardshaw Treasurer - Michelle Jackson. Committee: Peter Maloney, Lynne Huberts, Pat Buonchristiani, Ray Schmidt, Denis Alexander-Hale and Howard Winter.

EMERALD AND DISTRICT ROTARY CLUB

It's events season! With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, we have been swift to reactivate our vibrant events program, a core plank of our fund-raising activities to help support and build the resilience of communities, locally and abroad.

On Saturday 5th December our new Trash 2 Treasure market was held at the EPS oval - a great success. It is intended to hold this market monthly on Saturday mornings outside The Hub in 2021.

We're kicking off our famous Rotary sausage sizzles on Saturday 23 January 2021 from 8.00am-1.00pm, in front of Emerald Village Meats. Everyone in the community is invited to come along and enjoy a sausage or veggie burger, and have a chinwag with our passionate and dedicated members.

The COVID restrictions this year have meant social isolation and loneliness for many people, particularly for older residents in our community. To bring some Christmas cheer to residents of Emerald Glades, our members are currently preparing Christmas cards with a personalised message and a small gift for each resident. This is in lieu of our usual visit at Christmas time accompanied by the Emerald Primary School musicians, unable to go ahead this year owing to COVID precautions.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

EMERALD CAROLS

By The Couch

DEC 11TH 7-8PM

YOUTUBE LIVE

WWW.EMERALDCAROLS.COM



RANGES WARD REPORT - JEFF SPRINGFIELD

Firstly, I want to express how honoured I am to have the responsibility of being the new Ranges Ward Councillor and I look forward to working closely again with our Hills community over the next term. Our council had to make many adaptations and changes during our lockdown restrictions and unfortunately many events and projects were delayed. **One of these was the planned official opening of the new Hills Hub which was originally scheduled to happen back in April. I am very pleased to announce that this event is now happening (fingers crossed) on the 14th of December.** Unfortunately, this event will be quite limited to the number of attendees due to Covid safety restrictions. It will be great to finally have this event done and the facility opened for access and use by the user groups and the wider community.

PEN PAL PROJECT

News from the Hills Hub Pen Pals Project. Wonderful news for the Hills Hub Pen Pals, both Senior and Junior! With the Hills Hub opening in a Covid Safe way, we are at last able to celebrate and meet our great Pen Pals. So on Monday the 7th and Tuesday the 15th of December we will be gathering (appropriately socially distanced and masked) and enjoying individual Afternoon teas from the General Store. Chatting to our PenPals about the end of the school year and the Christmas and holiday seasons approaching will take top priority. What a year we have lived through, what memories made and friendships formed through this project. Heartfelt thanks to the teachers at Emerald Primary School, staff at the Hills Hub and members of the Emerald Village Association who made it happen. And of course, Australia Post!

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE - SCOUTS



EDRA - TOURISM & BUSINESS

December is always a busy time for traders, leading up to Christmas and then getting ready for the influx of visitors to Emerald and surrounds over the Christmas holidays. We have already started putting up the Christmas decorations and have been busy organising two Christmas promotions to support traders. **A Christmas Gift Guide, designed to encourage people to shop local will feature gift ideas, store discounts and gift cards, with items for all ages. The promotion will go hand in hand with our annual busking and visit from Santa who will be roaming Emerald between the 12th & 24th of December.**

We launched our promotional video showcasing our Hills villages which coincided with the return of Puffing Billy on November 28th. This is the first video produced to promote our Hills villages, aimed to attract visitors and visiting friends and families. You can view the video and find details on both promotions at emeraldvillage.com.au

EMERALD FOOTBALL & NETBALL CLUB

Pre-season training has commenced at Chandler Reserve for the 2021 season. Monday and Wednesday nights. For more information contact coach Jamie Marshall - 0421 063 965.

It is anticipated that the annual Anzac Day match against Gembrook will take place at Chandler Reserve on Saturday April 24th, the day prior to the Anzac Day service at Anzac Place.

EMERALD MEN'S SHED

The Men's Shed is on the move back to the new Hub some time in the very near future. In the meantime we continue to clear out the old shed so gratefully used by us during the many months the new Hub was being built. We still have loads of tools, machinery and all around useful items to sell at very very attractive prices. Keeping in mind we are a community activity any and all funds we raise will ultimately get back to the residents of Emerald. Call in and see us any Saturday morning or weekdays when we are open and spend a dollar and get a bargain.

We are located opposite Woolworths down the lane way between the grain store and the church, just follow the signs. Look forward to seeing you all.

THE HILLS HUB

The EACH COVID Testing Site moved out of the Hills Hub on Friday December 4 and is relocating to 348 Belgrave Gembrook Rd Emerald (adjacent to Emerald Medical Centre). Contact EACH directly on 1300 219 449 for opening hours.

The Hills Hub Placemaker and User Groups will return to the Hills Hub from Monday December 7 for some end of year activities and to prepare to resume service delivery in 2021. We look forward to opening the Hills Hub to the general public in 2021, in line with Victorian Government COVID-19 restrictions.

Room Hire enquiries are currently being received for 2021. For further information please email - hills.hub@cardinia.vic.gov.au

U3A

As the Emerald U3A year draws to a close, we are enthusiastically making plans for 2021. With restrictions easing, we expect to be back in the Hub, although with some continuing limitations. Our COVID Safe Plan has been developed and we will be offering some new classes as well as the majority of our continuing favourites. You will have lots from which to choose. Check them all out on our web page at www.u3aemerald.org.au.

Active members in 2020 will have their membership carried over into 2021. Don't forget, however, that you will need to register for each class or activity you would like to attend.

Many of our activities will be presented in a hybrid form. Some people will attend face to face in the Hub, while others can participate from home via Zoom. Enrolment can be done online, but we will hold an assisted enrolment day at the Hub for those who would prefer on December 16th from 9am until 1pm.

Pat Buoncristiani - President

CARDINIA SHIRE COUNCIL



Cardinia Shire Council is proud to present **12 days of online Christmas in Cardinia Shire!** The program, which is jam-packed full of FREE online Christmas events for the whole family to enjoy, will this year replace Council's traditional community Christmas Carols which is unable to proceed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 12 Days of online Christmas in Cardinia starts on Monday 7 December and runs through to Friday 18 December with a festive event taking place each day. Refer Council's Facebook page.

Emerald Village Meats advises that their BarBQ is available to community groups for fundraising on a Saturday morning for fundraising. Drop in and see Al.