

# Emerald Village Association Inc.

Reg. No. A01047531

## NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2020

**Vision Statement:** - The EVA Inc. will work with local community groups and the Shire of Cardinia to make our town, Emerald, a desirable place to live; and to maintain and develop community facilities which enhance the liveability of our township for residents.

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Given we are all living through a 1 in 100 year pandemic, being isolated has presented some big challenges for everyone. It should be acknowledged the great work many local groups have been doing to support residents. We do have many people living by themselves so a phone call or a "Hello" as you pass people walking could be very helpful. Let's hope we are nearing the end of the tight restrictions and we can return to normal soon. Dick Bartley.

### PEN PAL PROJECT

The Hills Hub Pen Pal Project is underway with 160 people participating including eighty Grade 5 students from Emerald Primary School. Pen Pals have received their packs which included items kindly donated by Emerald Village Newsagency. Students were thrilled to receive their first letters recently and our older Pen Pals should receive their reply over the next week or so. This project has been a lovely way for folk to connect and we thank the Grade 5 teachers and admin staff of Emerald PS for their amazing support 😊.



Students preparing their Pen Pal packs for their Pen Pals

### IDEAS ON HOW TO SURVIVE COVID

- Local walks - Emerald Lake or Pepi's land. Look out for the chalk basket at the Lake!
- Contribute food and produce to Fernlea and Emerald Community House.
- Set up a local "Walk with a Friend" network.
- For the oldies check out the U3A section for their courses and activities. Exciting stuff.
- Start a Zoom "Plate of Origin" food group. Or a trivia Competition on Zoom. Or "Scattergories".
- Practice one "random act of kindness" a day.
- Give yourself a "Health Challenge" - have a salad with every meal.
- Hand making birthday gifts for others from materials found at home.

### ZOOM - ???

Everyone is Zooming. What to do? Zoom is an internet meeting place. To join a Zoom group go to [zoom.us](https://zoom.us) and join. You may receive an Invitation to join a Zoom meeting - just follow the prompts. Microsoft "Teams" is also popular.

### LOCAL ELECTIONS - RANGES WARD

Emerald is situated in the new single councillor Ranges Ward. Current Mayor Jeff Springfield will be standing for election. Nominations close 12 noon Tuesday September 22nd. Ballot packs will be mailed to enrolled voters from October 6th 2020. Completed ballots need to be returned by 6pm Friday October 23rd 2020.

### CITIZEN OF THE YEAR - REMINDER

Applications are open for nominations for the 2020 Emerald Citizens of the Year Award. Forms are available from Peter Maloney - [peter.maloney@emeraldrsl.com.au](mailto:peter.maloney@emeraldrsl.com.au). There are 2 categories - adult and young citizen (under 25). The award will be made at the Emerald Community Night to be held in November 2020 if the current pandemic subsides. Previous awardees are listed on the plaque in the library foyer.

## U3A

Our U3A continues to thrive in spite of every impediment put in its way. It's hard to stop a determined bunch of retirees with a little time on their hands and a lot of ingenuity.

Our membership has grown again this month and we are conducting the following classes via Zoom: Greatest Art Theft in History, Science and Civilisation, The Issues Book Club, Current Affairs, Australian History, Heritage, Arts and Tourism, Musicians' Sharing Group, Wine Appreciation, Genealogy – Beginners, Genealogy – Advanced, Book Group, Philosophy, The Beauty of Our Language, Over the Hills Singers, Creative Writing, Coffee Club and Exploring Victoria.

A number of our members are participating in the Hub's Pen Pals Project and finding it very satisfying. It's a great idea to link two very different generations through the art of letter writing. Yes, they are real letters that end up in the post and arrive via the postman. What a novel idea.

We have also set the date for our Annual General Meeting Tuesday 27th October at 1.00pm. At this stage we are planning a virtual meeting via Zoom since it is unlikely we will be able to have a physical meeting with 40+ members present any time soon.

Of course we are looking forward to getting back into the Hub and meeting face to face again, but that can wait for now as we continue to show this virus who is in charge.

Pat Buoncristiani

## FRIENDS OF EMERALD LAKE PARK

\* Working Bees have been cancelled due to COVID 19, but will commence again when allowed.

\* A Grant from Federal Government "Community Environment Program" has enabled contractors to remove a large number of Sycamore-maple trees from the western forest.

\*A Grant from Melbourne Water has also enabled contractors to remove holly and other woody weeds. These Grants have provided funds for additional weed work to be undertaken and has provided employment for local contractors during this time.

\*Annual "Weedbuster Week" activities have been cancelled including the popular "Trees for Weeds"swap. Check out the Weed Grant available from Cardinia Shire.

\*Seniors Festival walks through Emerald Lake Park and Nobelius Heritage Park and Museum have been cancelled for 2020.

\*If you are walking or cycling through Emerald Lake Park, please keep to the designated tracks. If having a drink or snack while out and about, please dispose of litter appropriately or take it home. Don't forget to clean up after your dog and keep it on a leash in Emerald Lake Park and Nobelius Heritage Park.

\* An off leash area is available at Pepis Land and it has been very popular.

## EMERALD LIBRARY

Even though the doors are closed for now the Emerald library is still available online 24/7 and is full of incredible resources covering a range of topics, all at your fingertips - [ccl.vic.gov.au/online-resources](https://ccl.vic.gov.au/online-resources) and it is all free!

Library@Home brings the library to you. There are many free videos for kids and adults to enjoy in your own loungeroom as well as competitions to enter with lots of great prizes. Go to the website and click 'Library at Home' to find out more.

The team at Emerald Library are working hard to make sure people across the region feel supported. While the returns chutes are also closed borrowers don't need to worry about returning items on time as all loans have been automatically extended until 1 October 2020.

Even if you have not used the library in a while, get in touch to access any of these free services go to [www.ccl.vic.gov.au](https://www.ccl.vic.gov.au) or call the library Customer Care team on 1800 577 548.

## COCKATOO NEWSLETTER

- The Cockatoo Township Committee organised to supply free of charge 100 planter boxes to grow home vegetables. These kits were supplied and sponsored by the Emerald Co-Op, Cardinia Shire Council, Cockatoo Community House and Hills Community Gardens. Over subscribed immediately as you can imagine. Watch out for Round 2.
- The Cockatoo & Surround Co-Op has been set up to provide affordable produce and household products. Preferably sourced locally. Refer to their Facebook page for details.

## HILLS HUB LAPTOP PROJECT

The Hills Hub Laptop Project is a partnership between the Hills Hub, Emerald Library and Echo Youth and Family Services.

The project seeks to support vulnerable local residents to connect digitally with family and friends & access online support services and activities (e.g. U3A classes) during the COVID-19 pandemic. The project provides a laptop for loan for up to 6 months, a volunteer IT buddy to provide one on one support and access to video tutorials/ training materials. A limited number of internet dongles have been kindly donated by St Marks Emerald for eligible participants who do not have internet available at home. If you know anyone who would benefit from participating in this program, please send a referral via email to [hills.hub@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:hills.hub@cardinia.vic.gov.au)

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