

# Emerald Village Association Inc.

Reg. No. A01047531

## NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 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

- Currently, we are completing the process to select a Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year. At this stage applications have closed for the adult Citizen but we have had no nomination for Young Citizen. Please identify a young person in our area who has and is making a significant contribution to our community. Please contact me and we could support you with the nomination.
- "Walkin' Emerald". I have found many diverse ways to walk 5km. My favourite is to walk down Monbulk Road to the Golf Course up Lawsons Road and back to town centre.
- Another is down to Emerald Lake around Wright Forest and back to town centre.
- EVA AGM cancelled to further notice. Dick Bartley

### PEN PAL PROJECT - Update

The Hills Hub Pen Pal Project is alive and thriving! Letters have been passing back and forth between three grades of mostly Year 5 students and their Senior Pen Pals, who are scattered throughout the Hills, including residents of Lifeview Emerald Glades. Despite difficulties with longer Australia Post deliveries and both our Junior Pen Pals and their teachers being at home with remote learning, the mail is getting through!

We are grateful for the dedication and enormous efforts of the teachers and Emerald Primary School staff and the interest and enthusiasm of the Senior Pen Pals. Hopefully, the students returning full time to school next week may make the job of letter writing and posting easier for both the students and the teachers.

The Pen Pal Project is giving a lot of people some joy in difficult times.

We are told a lovely story about a fellow Pen Pal-er observed opening her letterbox and discovering one of the precious letters within. Such genuine pleasure observed. Shelley Beardshaw.

### EMERALD and DISTRICT ROTARY CLUB

Our Club has continued to have its weekly meetings every Tuesday night at 7pm., but via Zoom instead of at our usual home the Paradise Valley Hotel. Our usual events, the Great Community Raffle, the Primary Schools' Speech Contest, the Kids Fun Run With Thomas and the 2021 All-American Car Show and Man Cave Alley have all been postponed because of the COVID Pandemic, while the Deb Ball has been rescheduled to the 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2021. We are still working hard in isolation however, for example, our Youth Committee has applied for a VicHealth Grant of \$50,000 to support the physical and mental health of children and youth in our local area, which stretches from Menzies Creek to Macclesfield and Gembrook. In partnership with St. Mark's, St. Luke's and Emerald Community House, we are supporting families who have been the hardest hit by COVID. We invite guest speakers to two of our meetings a month and on 6<sup>th</sup> of October, our guest will talk about Australian Rotary Health's "Ride for Research" and "Hat Day", a fundraiser which aims to help "Lift The Lid on Mental Illness". On the international stage, Africa was recently declared free of the wild polio virus, and this would not have happened this early if not for Rotary working in partnership with the Gates Foundation and other supporters. Only Afghanistan and Pakistan still have polio, a completely preventable disease, which attacks young children leaving them paralysed. Next year, COVID permitting, we'll be celebrating 100 years of Rotary in Australia and New Zealand, and we're planning a number of community activities. Being "People of Action" and a Service organisation, we are really keen to get out amongst our communities again. Currently we have 37 members, ranging in age from 32 to 87, about 40% of whom are women. We are a lively bunch of people who enjoy each other's company and have lots of fun together, while we are helping those less fortunate. We are always looking for new members, as the more members we have the more we can "do good in the world". To learn more about us, go to our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/Rotaryclubemeralddistrictinc](http://www.facebook.com/Rotaryclubemeralddistrictinc), email us at [info@emeraldrotary.org](mailto:info@emeraldrotary.org) or phone 0408 769 491.

## U3A

As you can imagine there has not been a great deal of change since last month's newsletter. Our Zoom classes continue to operate very successfully, as both tutors and members refine their use of the technology. Almost 50% of our courses are continuing using Zoom, which is a credit to the resiliency of U3A members and their readiness to continue to learn. Of course, that is the nub of U3A – we never stop learning! Word has spread about us, and I have been invited, as one of three Victorian U3As, to attend the Victorian Governor's virtual morning tea on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Emerald U3A has been chosen because of the way we have been determined to maintain our thriving group in spite of these restrictions and difficulties. Amazingly, our membership has actually grown by 12 since the start of the pandemic. That's optimism. If you are over 55 and no longer working full time, check out our web page at <https://u3aemerald.org.au/> You may be tempted to give us a try too.

## FRIENDS OF EMERALD LAKE PARK

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 LIONS

Lockdown is causing anxious moments for our Lions. They are raring to go to repair the Telopea Road steps which are long overdue for maintenance. Lions are getting on with business with all meetings and their Conference now online.

## COCKATOO NEWSLETTER

- The Cockatoo History & Heritage Group are very pleased to announce that their recent publication "Cockatoo Voices from The Past" has been short-listed for the Victorian Premiers History Award. Members of the group are Dot Griffin, Arthur Wintle, Jan Shaw and Ruth South. Copies are available from Brunch On McBride.
- The current October edition contains an excellent map of Wright Forest. Perfect for your Covid walk.

## EMERALD LIBRARY

The team at Casey Cardinia Libraries are feeling grateful.

We are back in the libraries facilitating FREE home deliveries, so that you are still able to access physical resources.

From Monday 28 September you can also access contact free 'click and collect' of your holds and 'binge bags' that will be accessible from all our libraries including the Cardinia Mobile Library which is also back on the road from next Monday.

We have been absolutely blown away by the positive and constructive feedback provided by more than 1500 people through our recent Community Survey. We asked you to tell us what you really think and oh wow you really delivered.

We love your glowing comments on social media and are humbled every time you write to us via email or regular post and thank us for the work we do.

Despite all the challenges thrown up by COVID, we have never felt more connected with you – our community.

The only thing we really miss is seeing you in our libraries.

No doubt, we will get the active case numbers down by working together, behaving responsibly and looking out for each other.

Please read on and enjoy everything we have on offer for you this month.

Chris Buckingham

CEO Casey Cardinia Libraries

## LOCAL ELECTIONS - RANGES WARD

Emerald is situated in the new single councillor Ranges Ward. Current Mayor Jeff Springfield will be standing for election and will be elected unopposed. We congratulate Jeff on his year of service in the mayoral robes.

We also congratulate Leticia Wilmot for her many years of service to the community. Leticia will not be seeking re-election. And we send best wishes to Brett Owen in the upcoming election.

Ballot packs will be mailed to enrolled voters from October 6th 2020.

**The EVA Inc. thanks the Cardinia Shire Council for funding to allow publication of this Newsletter.**