



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

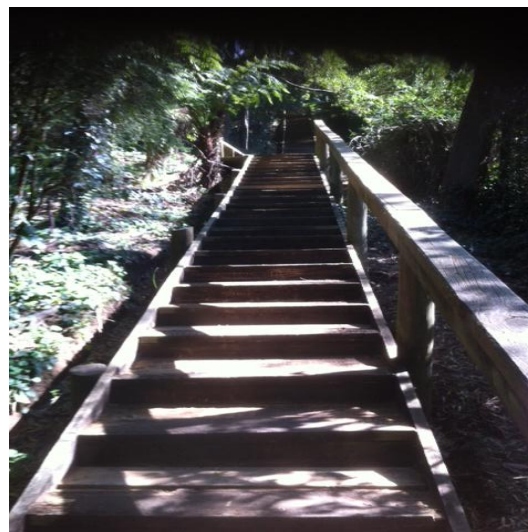
1. Community Meeting April 28<sup>th</sup> Topic - Playgrounds in the town and facilities for teens (skateboards and bikes). The speaker will be Samantha Cross - Team Leader Passive Reserves at Cardinia. She will present and take questions.

2. Future Meetings, The EVA will be holding community meetings on the 4th Wednesday each second month. The meetings start at 7.30 and our aim is to have speakers who can provide information on current happenings in our town. The dates are April 28/June 23/Aug 25 and EVA AGM/Oct 27. Suggested speakers would be appreciated.

3. Car parking construction Worrell Reserve to commence SOON so it will be interesting to see if the provision of car parks is adequate.

4. Clean up Emerald. Well done to all the folks who were involved in picking up rubbish around our town.

Mother and son seen in Belgrave-Gembrook Road collecting litter on Clean Up Australia Day



5. The Telopea Rd Steps. The Lions Club of Emerald, the Meander group and the Hills Conservation group have been repairing the many steps that lead walkers down from Telopea Rd to the beautiful Menzies Creek track which starts there and ends in Sassafras.

**Dick Bartley, President**

## EMERALD AND DISTRICT ROTARY CLUB

2021 marks 100 years of service by Rotary in Australia and New Zealand. To celebrate doing good locally and around the world for a century, we've teamed up with the Rotary Club of Belgrave and Puffing Billy Railway for a special celebration train ride with 100 Rotarians, dignitaries and local school children aboard. Members of the community will be able to wave to people on the train as it meanders along its journey from Belgrave to Emerald on Saturday, 22 May. Stay tuned for details in next month's edition. Our monthly Trash 2 Treasure Market, held on the first Saturday of each month, is a great opportunity for members of the community to learn more about Rotary. Come and grab yourself a bargain and have a chat to one of our friendly members between 8.30am – 1.30pm at the Emerald Primary School oval on Heroes Avenue. To book a stall please email [emeraldrotarymarket@gmail.com](mailto:emeraldrotarymarket@gmail.com) or call 0408 769 491.

Applications for the McLeod Murphy Memorial Scholarship Fund will close on 7 May. Established in memory of Emerald's first doctor, Dr McLeod Murphy, this scholarship invites applications from students residing in Emerald and surrounds to apply for funds to assist with their study of medicine, medical science or a related field. For more information, please contact Ian Wakefield on 0418 336 042 or email [ikwconst@bigpond.com](mailto:ikwconst@bigpond.com)

## ANZAC DAY

Dawn Service only in Emerald this year - a ticketed event for 500 people; tickets (free) are available on the [RSL website](#) and Facebook page. The service will be **LIVE STREAMED** on Facebook, Youtube and the [RSL website](#) starting at 5.15am on April 25th; so everyone in Emerald and beyond can witness the dawn service Emerald is renowned for. Our theme this year is "Animals in War". A special video to remember our animal friends has been produced and will be shown after the dawn service.

After the service the traditional scouts breakfast will be on offer and the Club will be open to Emerald for refreshments. **All welcome.**

In addition, the Emerald RSL is collaborating with the Emerald Football Netball Club who are hosting the local derby football match against Gembrook Cockatoo on the day prior - April 24th at Chandler Reserve. We will be featuring a flyover of 9 warbirds, 100 pigeons, a cannon to start the game and a full battalion brass band to march the players onto the ground. A big and memorable day that will be attended by Brad Battin, Brett Owen and Jason Wood.

**Peter Maloney, President**

## LEST WE FORGET

## SURVEY OF TOWN FACILITIES

The EVA is organising a tour of town facilities to identify and list those issues that need Council attention.

The EVA has requested Council officers responsible for parks & gardens, disability accesses, street furniture & facilities infrastructure, footpath construction and parking signage and marking to attend the tour.

Some issues that have been mentioned are:

- Puffing Billy park - bench seats, picnic tables and a drinking fountain
- More rubbish bins in main streets
- Wheelchair and mobility scooter access
- Landscaping at the Puffing Billy crossing on Beaconsfield Road.

## DANDENONG RANGES COMMUNITY BANK

Expressions of interest are now open for volunteer Directors to join the Dandenong Ranges Community Bank Group.

Dandenong Ranges Community Finance is a franchisee of Bendigo Bank, operating the locally owned Community Bank Upwey, Belgrave and Cockatoo - Gembrook.

They are looking for motivated and organised locals with a passion for community to join their diverse team at Board level as volunteer Directors. For more information or to submit an expression of interest contact John Waters on 0412 250 219 or email [johnwaters@bigpond.com](mailto:johnwaters@bigpond.com)

## EMERALD MARKETS

There are 2 community markets held in Emerald:

1. ROTARY: Trash 2 Treasure market - held on the 1st Saturday of each month on the Primary School oval
2. Community House market - town centre on 3rd Sunday of the month

## PUFFING BILLY RAILWAY

Puffing Billy Railway is encouraging the community to get out and start exploring their own backyard with the release of an annual, unlimited-access **Locals Pass**. Media release attached.

Providing unlimited return travel on any excursion train journey for locals within a 10-kilometre radius of any Puffing Billy station, the Locals Pass provides:

- Unlimited return travel on any excursion train journey (subject to availability) for a year;
- Special discounts on unique dining experiences and events, and;
- Special discounts on major food & beverage and retail products.

"Puffing Billy Railway is an iconic part of the Dandenong Ranges community, so we want the community to be part of Puffing Billy Railway," said Peter Abbott, Puffing Billy Railway CEO.

"This is [also] a great opportunity for the railway to give back to the local community, particularly after a very challenging year."

"We are very excited to share this activity with you and look forward to seeing many more locals take advantage of this pass throughout the year."

**Peter Abbott, CEO**

## U3A

Although many of our groups have paused during the school holidays, we are still a very busy bunch. Line dancers continue to scoot their boots, the philosophers are still scratching their heads as they address some Big Issues, Spanish, Italian and German language learners are practising their verb declensions and conjugations, our water colourists are perfecting their washes. A couple of new classes have proved very popular – Japanese and Music Through the Centuries.

The U3A organisation has three major aims – to help keep older people physically active, mentally stimulated and socially connected. We know all of these things contribute to both quality and quantity of life. If you are over 55 and semi or fully retired give us a try. For a \$40 annual subscription you can join as many classes as you wish. A few have waiting lists, others you can join immediately. Find out more at [www.u3aemerald.org.au](http://www.u3aemerald.org.au)

Our Annual General Meeting is coming up soon on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 1.00pm.

**Pat Buoncristiani, President**

## EVA COMMITTEE MEETING

News from the Emerald Village Association and our March Meeting

The needs of the Emerald Community were top of our minds in our Committee Meeting this month. The need for a Bike and Skate Park and a Playgrounds Review was talked through and we have great news- *Samantha Cross, a Cardinia Shire Representative from the Passive Reserve Department will talk to us at our next Community Meeting! On Wednesday 28th of April at the Hills Hub at 7.30pm we will hear about Shire plans and understandings with these special places for young people in our area. Please come along and join us.*

We also learnt that the old SES area will revert to recreational use as part of the Worrell Reserve once the new SES Headquarters are finished. And how the Hills Hub is being funded and run got us questioning the Shire too. We will request that the Honour Board which details the names of Emerald Citizenship Award winners, which currently lives in the Library, is to be updated and hopefully moved to the Hills Hub.

We formed special sub-committees including Planning, Town Infrastructure and Maintenance, Community Well being and Communication to help us manage the range of issues and discussions to best help plan the best Emerald.

And we look forward to hearing from you as you “ imagine Emerald” from here on. Give us your ideas for

topics and people you would like to hear from in the coming months.

Email us at :

[evasecretary3782@gmail.com](mailto:evasecretary3782@gmail.com)

And come along to our next meeting to talk about Playgrounds, bike and skate Parks!

**Shelley Beardshaw, Secretary**

## BUSINESS & TOURISM NEWS

EDRA are busy helping members build their businesses:

1. Members and families of EDRA are invited to attend their Networking and Family Fun Day at Emerald Lake Park picnic shelter. Sunday April 18th - 11am - 3pm. BYO drinks only.
2. New A2 map and website is being produced. Deadline April 19th.
3. Shop Local promotional video is being produced for local shop owners to use to encourage residents to stay on the mountain.

**More information - Lynne Trensky 0419 584 498**

## RED & BLUES NIGHT

**Emerald RSL**

**Friday April 16th 7.30 pm**

**Featuring - Jesse Redwing**

## NETBALL CLINICS

Net Set Go for 6-8 year olds

At Emerald Netball Courts, Pepi's Land

Start April 21st 4-4.45pm for 10 weeks

Contact: Debbie - 04438 547 157

## OLD EMERALD BAKEHOUSE

Great to see the redevelopment of the old bakehouse behind the CBA. Congrats to the Emerald Community House for making this happen. Local community food providers will be encouraged to sell their produce in the shop.

## WHY I LIVE WHERE I LIVE

This will be a regular feature in our Newsletter. Please send in your contribution for future editions. To kick off, long time resident Beryl Bartacek was asked for her thoughts. Thank you Beryl.

Your suggestion that I write a piece on Why I Live --- has not been forgotten. However I try it turns out - sad. So much has changed since I came.



Some call it progress and improvement because they want a more suburban life. I and others retired here years ago to get away from suburbia to live where people are friendly, pitching in to help organise and run events and there were views! We liked the old-style shops, shoes, men's wear, knitting wool, plants etc. The U3A is now ten times bigger than when I came and we all knew each other. There were tall trees along the main road, now we have tall buildings.

We no longer have noisy town meetings discussing changes, not that the present Council is interested in our opinion.

See what I mean? I live here because I've settled in and still have friends here. I love the stories of the pioneers and their amazing achievements, we should honour the Bullock-drivers. Present-day changes are so disappointing to me but pleasing to others.

Best wishes to you all.  
Beryl Bartacek.

## ANZAC BADGE SALES



Emerald RSL Welfare and Appeals Officer, Chris May, is out and about around Emerald organising the sale of Anzac badges. Please stop and say "G'day" to Chris and his fellow RSL members.

Chris is an Afghanistan vet who recently moved to Emerald and is hell bent on making a difference for our veterans of all ages.

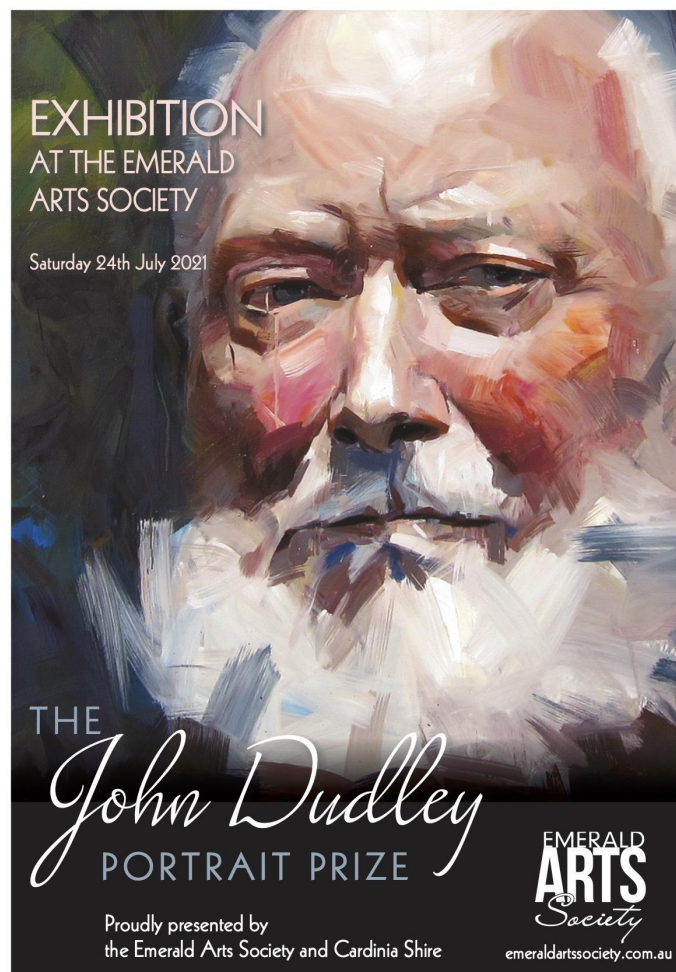
The Emerald RSL is open on Thursday nights from 5pm for social catch ups. Everyone is most welcome. Just drop in and enjoy a drink and chat - and bring a friend.

## EMERALD ARTS SOCIETY

The Emerald Art Society is proudly presenting the annual portrait competition named after their past president John Dudley.

John became involved with the Emerald Arts Society and was elected president in 1992. He was President on and off throughout his time at the society and proved to be an inspirational and hardworking leader.

John was also a talented teacher in a variety of mediums, respected and admired by all his students.



Entry form and details can be obtained from their President Wendy Lindrea via email - [portrait@emeraldartsociety.com.au](mailto:portrait@emeraldartsociety.com.au)

## FEEDBACK

The EVA is interested in your ideas and comments. Please email:

Peter Maloney: [evanews3782@gmail.com](mailto:evanews3782@gmail.com)  
or

Dick Bartley: [dickbartley08@gmail.co](mailto:dickbartley08@gmail.co)



