

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our local community has had some very significant events to cope with since the last edition of this Newsletter. We should acknowledge the great support of the SES, CFA, Service Groups, local organisations, the Cardinia Shire Council and the Shire of Yarra Ranges. Moreover, many people have helped their neighbours to clear trees and debris, providing food and access to heating and showers.

Dick Bartley - President

STORMS - THE AFTERMATH



As power has been restored to the mountain, the Dandenong Ranges is still in clean up mode following the severe storm event of Wednesday the 9th of June. With the local community looking at where to begin in this mammoth task, "Help The Hills - Dandenong Ranges Task Force" was set up by local volunteer group members wishing to support their community. In the 3 weeks following the storm event, Emerald CFA captain Paul Yandle and Emerald RSL's Chris May have been out assessing downed trees for those with the skills, equipment and can do attitude to tackle over the course of the weekends.

Supported by our local Emerald Rotary Club, "Help the Hills" has had over 250 volunteers over 3 weekends on the ground supporting their fellow neighbours. With chainsaws and "gloved up" hands, volunteers have come from as far

as Portland and the Mornington Peninsula to assist in moving an estimated over 500 tonnes of timber in yards and residential properties. Stacking burn piles, cutting and stacking for later use as firewood.

Local Business, C Me Uniforms and Safety kindly donated over \$2500 worth of safety equipment and Tri Tech Lubricants donated chainsaw oil and grease for the machines that have been out on the ground. We have also seen the veteran lead volunteer group Disaster Relief Australia in and around town tackling some of the jobs.

As the roads have opened up in the worst affected areas of Mt Dandenong, Kalorama and Olinda, crews continue to make headway in helping where they can.

Through this voluntary work, and gesture of good will to our fellow community members, ties of friendship and comradeship have been formed after the pandemic year of 2020 and the subsequent lockdowns. But our Hills community, though battered and bruised, has once again demonstrated its resilience and ability to weather any storm.

On behalf of the operations team or the Help The Hills task force, thank you to everyone who has come down and helped out, and to those who have supported us in our mission to serve the community!

Chris May - Emerald RSL Welfare Officer.

THE HILLS HUB



**TED KRZYWOKULSKI
PAINTINGS**

**JOURNEY IN TIME
25 June–30 July**

**Official Opening
Sat 24th July at 2pm
At
The Hills Hub**

A Sacred Meeting Place Acrylic on canvas

Current Exhibition at the Hills Hub - Journey In Time Exhibition – by Ted Krzywokulski. The exhibition is

open to the public on Monday, Wednesday, Friday mornings 9.30-12.00, and Tuesday and Thursday afternoons 1.00-3.30pm. The exhibition is a representation of Ted Krzywokulski's works from his Caulfield Tech. days, to works painted post his Vietnam War experience, through to the present day. Facebook event:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/849394598985108>

Hills Hub Musicians Networking Night was held on Friday 9 July 2021. Next event to be publicized. Gather with fellow local musicians to network, listen to a live DJ and discover creative opportunities within Cardinia Shire. Council is proud to partner with local radio station 3MDR 97.1FM for this event.

Anna Benjamin - Place Maker

ROTARY CLUB OF EMERALD & DISTRICT

Supporting people in need and building community resilience are at the heart of all we do as Rotarians. So, when the storm of 9-10 June wreaked havoc on the Hills community, our club was swift to join forces with local emergency services through the Help the Hills initiative, to support residents in the immediate aftermath. Many of our members helped clear felled trees and branch debris from private properties and our club is providing financial assistance to storm recovery activities.

We extend our congratulations to the three worthy recipients of our club's McLeod Murphy Memorial Scholarship Fund. Established in memory of Emerald's first doctor, Dr McLeod Murphy, each recipient will receive up to \$2,000 to assist with their studies. This year, we're supporting three wonderful young people in their studies of a medical-related field. Also in support of young people, our club is contributing towards the running of two local music events, with all proceeds raised going towards the SALT (sport and life training) program which delivers youth mental health programs in secondary schools.

As always, we love welcoming everyone to our friendly Trash 2 Treasure Markets, held on the first Saturday of the month at the Emerald Primary School oval. There's plenty of pre-loved items on offer as well as home-made goodies, hand-crafted items, plants and an array of new merchandise.

Check out our website at <https://emeraldrotary.org.au> for details.

Ros Weadman - Publicity

COMMUNITY GROUP SIGN



Pictured is the current community group sign you see (maybe) as you enter Emerald from Belgrave. It is very old and in disrepair and is not in a good position to be noticeable to serve its purpose.

Peter Cook from DRREA has requested EVA to support his asking Council to replace it with a new solar powered sign about 30 metres closer to Emerald near the Puffing Billy crossing. EVA supports Peter's plan to approach Cardinia Shire and Vic Roads. Another excellent DRREA initiative.

EVA MEETING REPORT

We held another lively Committee meeting last week and discussed a number of issues that are engaging Emerald.

A new community sign on the entrance to Emerald Township, a new Citizenship award for an Emerald Community group and a proposed mural for the Hub Public toilets were some of the interesting matters canvassed.

The June Storm

Discussion revolved around the recent storm, the use and suitability of the Hills Hub as an Emergency Management Centre and the wonderful work done by ECHO, volunteers and groups such as the SES and Help in the Hills. We heard about the problems with lack of communication due to Telstra towers and NBN requiring continuous power and the effect that had on identifying areas of need and conveying information to Services - especially for newcomers to the District.

Community Service Apps and Social Media were unable to be used as a source of information in areas without power or the Internet.

It was terrific that 150 community members used the Hills Hub for work, warmth and information over the number of days it was open. The SES was operational for approximately two weeks from the Hub.

Green Wedge Issues

David Nickell from the Eastern Dandenong Ranges Association spoke to us about the need for the Townships of Emerald, Cockatoo and Gembrook to work together with the Council to write a Green Wedge Strategic plan for the District.

Some of the issues canvassed include changes of farming practice and land use; increasing sub-division of rural properties; rapid population increase of young families.

It was noted that a large percentage of Cockatoo and Gembrook workers drive through Emerald to and from their worksites using Belgrave - Gembrook and Wellington Roads. This is causing bottlenecks in Main Road every morning and especially nights of the week.

This is leading to the development of Commuter dormitory townships.

The need for accurate data on projected population growth, traffic and land use is required to help communities like ours plan a way forward.

You can be part of this by coming along to our next Community meeting at the Hub on July 28th - 7.30pm. Guest speaker is Anita Ransom, Cardinia Town Planner.

Shelley Beardshaw - Secretary

BLUES NIGHT - AUGUST

Friday, August 20th at the Emerald RSL - featuring Mojo Mafia.

SHIRE OF CARDINIA NEWS

Worrell Reserve Carpark

Detailed design plans were prepared and presented to the Worrell Reserve committee who requested several minor additions/changes. Tenders will be called in July/August with works due to commence in October.

Project is now due to be completed by December to minimise impact on Football crowds and risk to car park pavement.

Current Planning Permit Applications:

<https://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/advertisedplanningapplications>

Public Notices:

https://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/info/20007/your_shire_and_council/176/public_notices

Creating Cardinia - consultation process:

<https://creating.cardinia.vic.gov.au/>

- Sealing the Hills
- Equestrian Strategy Review
- Connect Reader Survey
- Your Ground
- Youth Survey 2021
- COVID-19 Community Survey

LADIES PROBUS CLUB OF EMERALD

The Ladies Probus Club meets at the Emerald RSL on the third Monday of each month at 10am. All (ladies) are welcome. Contact Anne Simpson - 5968 5203.

At our meeting on July 19th Carolyn Pethick will be our speaker. Carolyn served in the Victoria Police Force for over 30 years and will talk about her book 'To Hell and Back' – A Policewoman's Story, and her work in the police force from the early 1980's to the present day.

Monday 16th August our speaker will be Philip Johnson who will talk about his Best in Show win from Chelsea Flower Show Garden which is being rebuilt at the Dandenong Ranges Botanic Gardens.

EMERALD COUNTRY CLUB & GOLF COURSE

Maybe it's time to start a conversation about the future of the Emerald Golf course. The old clubhouse is sitting on prime real estate in the heart of Emerald and is owned by an "absent landlord" -- who lives in Malaysia. It no longer functions as a golf course and the old house is tenanted out and in good hands to prevent vandalism that has occurred in the past. But what of the future?? A Facebook page has been established to provide a forum for discussion so maybe that's a starting point:

[Friends of Emerald Country Club and Golf Course](#)



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ROTARY IN ACTION

“Drop in for a friendly chinwag over a snag at Rotary’s monthly Trash 2 Treasure Market” - held at the Emerald Primary School oval on the 1st Saturday of the month.



EMERALD CEMETERY MAINTENANCE

Friends and Carers of Emerald Section of Greater Metropolitan Cemetery Trust (FACES) are a volunteer community group who garden each Monday morning at Emerald Cemetery, caring for the surrounds and older grave sites and supporting the GMCT workers.

The community is invited to join us in the annual pruning of the roses on any of the following dates. 12th, 19th and 26th July and 2nd August. Weather and any COVID restrictions permitting.

Time- 10:00-12:00.

BYO own tools, gloves and mug.

Further information - 59684603

EMERALD CITIZEN AWARDS - 2021

The Emerald Citizenship Awards aim to acknowledge local individuals and a local group or organisation that has made outstanding contributions to our local community.

This year we are also seeking nominations for community groups in our district who have made a significant difference over the last 18 months. A period of change and turmoil and needs for resilience. Nomination forms will be available from Peter Maloney, Dick Bartley or from the Emerald Library or Hills Hub.

PUBLIC TOILET MURAL

Local mural artist of renown, Ted Horton, has offered to paint at no charge, an appropriate mural on the walls of the public toilet situated in front of the Hills Hub. Ted

understands that the toilets are due for replacement sometime during the next 12 months but is keen to make the area a tad more appealing to the eye.

HAPPENINGS AROUND EMERALD

- Two new ladies clothing shops have opened - either end of town - Kiki & Fitch and Little Blackbird. Blokes don't rate a mention since Clothing Plus closed many years ago - but I guess high viz gear is available from the Emerald Co-Op and C-Me!!
- Three new sets of units are about to commence construction in Kings Road. The “Go To” street in Emerald.
- “Mindful AF” wellbeing centre is about to open in the new office next to Hills Physio. “Awakening soon”.
<https://www.facebook.com/Mindfulafemerald>
- A new children's day care centre is being built next to the Police Station.
- Playgroups in Emerald are experiencing a boom after a very hard Covid year with little contact with other Mums and bubs. St Marks Playgroups and Play and Connect Playgroup at the Hills Hub are working together to provide warm and inviting places to bring babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers and their Mums together. Interested? Contact Shelley at evasecretary3782@gmail.com

NEW ELECTORAL BOUNDARY

The Gembrook electorate will disappear at the next Victorian elections and Emerald and surrounds will be absorbed into “Monbulk ” - currently held by James Merlino. Current member, Brad Battin, has declared he will be putting his name in the ring for the “Berwick” electorate.

FEEDBACK (please)

The EVA encourages those in the Emerald community to provide feedback on local issues that concern them.

Contact Dick Bartley at dickbartley08@gmail.com

or

Peter Maloney at evanews3782@gmail.com