

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

At our last EVA Community meeting the topic/issue was the adequacy of the play equipment and facilities for older children in Emerald.

It was agreed that the playground in Kilvington Drive needs to be updated and expanded. Many local families use these facilities. Currently a plan is being developed but we need your ideas. Olinda and Gembrook were mentioned as playgrounds having some popular equipment.

If you like to contribute please email me. See below. A skate board park is planned to be built for Worrell reserve when funds are available. No commitment has been made to this project as yet.

### How to find out what is going on in Emerald?

1. Obviously read and contribute to this monthly EVA publication
2. The Emerald Community House publishes the Emerald Messenger magazine each month and it has some great insights into happenings in our area.
3. Web pages and Facebook
4. The community group notice boards on the walls near IGA
5. Join the EVA ( it's free!) and have access to our agendas or come to our meetings which are held on the 4th Wednesday at 7.30 in the Hills Hub



### Developments in Emerald

1. The car park in Worrell Reserve will be asphalted by end 2021.
2. Seats and a water fountain added to the Kilvington Drive Puffing Billy playground.

3. The sealing of Princess St and Crichton Rd to start later this year.

4. The Worrell Reserve strategy plan lists 5 future projects but no commitment to any timing.

5. If you have driven down Kings Road recently you will notice there are over 10 townhouse developments underway.

**Dick Bartley - President**

## ROTARY CLUB OF EMERALD & DISTRICT

### Toot Toot! Here comes Rotary for another 100 years of service!

Our special commemorative event to celebrate Rotary's century of service Down Under was a major success. We organised the event in partnership with the Rotary Club of Belgrave and Puffing Billy Railway.



*Rotarians enjoying the Rotary 100-year celebrations are (l-r): District Governor Elect Daryl Moran, District Governor Nominee and Rotary Club of Emerald & District member Ken Miller, District Governor Alma Reynolds, Rotary Club of Emerald & District President Vicki van den Bergen, Puffing Billy Railway Chief Executive Officer Peter Abbott and Rotary Club of Belgrave Co-Presidents Helen McKenzie and Rosie Vulling.*

Sporting a Rotary International logo on the front locomotive and carrying a cargo of 100 Rotarians, children and local dignitaries, Puffing Billy steamed through the Dandenong Ranges in glorious sunshine on Saturday 22 May, arriving in Emerald just after noon. At Emerald Station, the local community enjoyed music by students from Emerald Secondary College and a static display showcasing Rotary's

proud history of providing humanitarian services, building goodwill and working for peace.

A special baton of service was passed from one Rotary dignitary to another at the Belgrave, Menzies Creek and Emerald stations. Since our club's establishment in 1980, our passionate members have worked together to create positive change in the wellbeing of our community and beyond. From supporting victims of the 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires to our work today assisting those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, our club has been at the forefront of helping people of all ages who may be struggling through no fault of their own.

To find out more about how we are making a positive difference locally and abroad, and how you can be a part of it, please visit our website

<https://www.emeraldrotary.org.au/>, Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/RotaryClubOfEmeraldDistrict> or call 0408 769 491.

**Ros Weadman, Publicity**

## THE HILLS HUB

Given the stop start approach all organisations have had to contend with, the new Hills Hub is up and running again - subject to lockdown.

A new PlaceMaker has been appointed by the Shire. Her name is Anna Benjamin and her role is to manage the facility and to encourage and develop maximum usage by the community.

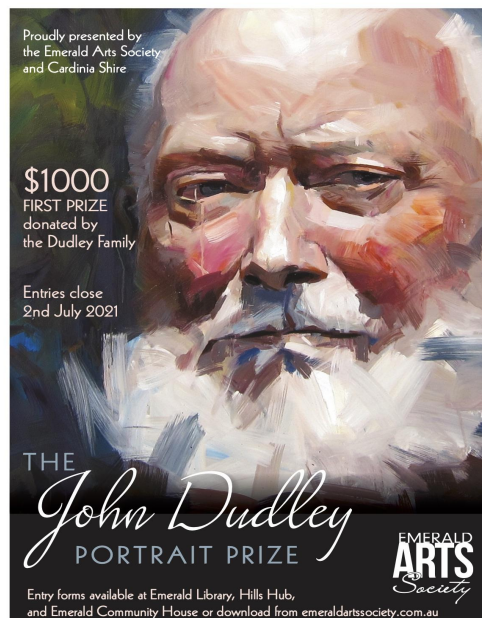
Currently, U3A (420 members), Men's Shed, Toy Library, and a private employment agency, service groups, EVA, and a young mothers group and various private community groups are the main users.

The facility is ideal for meetings, functions etc. An operations group has been set to handle usage issues and a board of management is to be established which will look at strategic planning.

## EMERALD ARTS SOCIETY

The Emerald Arts Society will once again hold the annual John Dudley exhibition in July this year. The portrait prize is worth \$1000.

The Arts Society is home to a broad range of members who enjoy being creative, want to develop their skills or even explore new mediums. Below is a list of term activities currently available (subject to Covid restrictions).



Untutored Life Drawing sessions on Tuesday mornings.

Watercolour classes : Friday Afternoon

Oil Classes : Friday morning

Tuition is also available in Lead Lighting and Printmaking if required.

We have our Open Studios programs running Wednesday nights and Thursday mornings, where people can work on their own artwork in the company of others.

If you are interested in any of these activities just contact us via email at:

[info@emeraldartssociety.com.au](mailto:info@emeraldartssociety.com.au) or check out our website at <https://emeraldartssociety.com.au/>

**Wendy Lindrea, President**

## CARDINIA EQUESTRIAN STRATEGY

Cardinia Shire Council is currently reviewing its Equestrian Strategy (2014) so they can improve and strengthen horse riding opportunities and participation in Cardinia Shire. As part of this review, they are seeking your input. The information you provide will help them understand how you use equestrian trails and facilities, current and emerging trends, and support ongoing implementation of the strategy.

**To provide your feedback on the strategy, please visit [www.creatingcardinia/equestrian](http://www.creatingcardinia/equestrian)**

## COVID BUSINESS SUPPORT

1. Licensed Venue Hospitality Support grant - \$3500 per eligible premises. Opened June 2nd

2. Business Costs Assistance program - \$2500 for eligible employing and non-employing businesses in all sectors.



For more information contact EDRA  
[easterndandenongranges@gmail.com](mailto:easterndandenongranges@gmail.com) or visit:

[https://business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/circuit-breaker-business-support-package?mc\\_cid=1fcf22c415&mc\\_eid=8cb7ea8d1f](https://business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/circuit-breaker-business-support-package?mc_cid=1fcf22c415&mc_eid=8cb7ea8d1f)

## EMERALD VILLAGE ASSOCIATION REPORT

### Meeting and Discussion

On Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> May our Committee met to reflect on our last Community Meeting at the Hub; plan the way forward and discuss areas of interests that have arisen in the Community. Here's a summary of some of what we heard, saw and discussed:

### Playgrounds, Bike and Skate Parks

Vanessa and Ben Kewish joined us to give us a young families perspective on the state of three parks - Puffing Billy Park, the Library Park and the proposed Bike/Skate Park at Worrell Reserve.

### Imagining and Planning Emerald

We recognized that the last Emerald Strategic Plan was published in 2009. Do we need to think about what suits our current ideas of what Emerald should look like, how it functions, what we value enough to protect and how we look into the future?

**We are asking you to come along, with your views and ideas, to our next Community Meeting - Planning Emerald - on Wednesday June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7.15 for 7.30pm.**

**Shelley Beardshaw - Secretary**

## EMERALD U3A

Well, here we are again, back in lockdown. But U3A knows how to deal with this, and I am sure we will have lots of zoomers again for a short time (hopefully). Let's hope that all will be well for our Winter Warmer event for members on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Hills Hub.

A special message for the blokes. We have so many activities and classes that might interest you. You can learn about the world, the past, your ancestors, current affairs, science and sustainability. You can play table tennis, go bush walking or try some yoga. Do you like card games? We have them too. Maybe you would like to learn another language or brush up on your high school Italian or German. Perhaps a bit of wine appreciation would tickle your taste buds. All of this and more at Emerald U3A. Come on blokes,

we need you! Check us out at  
[www.u3aemerald.org.au](http://www.u3aemerald.org.au)

Thank you to the Commonwealth Bank in Emerald for their generous donation of \$500.

**Pat Buoncristiani President**

## EMERALD LIBRARY PRESENTS -

**A Community Spirit - Chris A'vard Britton in conversation with Maria Millers.**

In her book A Community Spirit: The history of the Emerald Mechanics Institute (1905-2018), Chris A'vard Britton traces all the activities and events that for 95 years had made the Emerald Hall the heart of a growing community.

Listen to Chris A'vard Britton walk you through its amazing history: from relocation to destruction by fire to the incredible community effort of rebuilding, and to its present reinvention as The Hills Hub.

Hear about the events and breadth of activities that made the Emerald Hall the social centre of this community. Meet the exceptional characters that were part of Emerald and relive an era when community was strong and perhaps learn what it took to keep them together.

The talk will be supported with archival images from Emerald Museum and Chris Britton's collection.

Light Refreshments will be provided by Emerald District Lions Club. Saturday 19 June 1pm - Bookings required. Emerald Library 5949 4600  
[www.cclc.vic.gov.au](http://www.cclc.vic.gov.au)

**Sue Walters, Library Team Leader**

## EMERALD MENS SHED

### EMERALD MEN SHED IS OUT TO HELP

Yes the emerald men's shed would like the community to know that they welcome any person who has the need to have something built in the form of timber.

We invite the community to submit a rough drawing including the dimensions and given it is something we believe we can help you with. We will quote a fair and reasonable price to meet your satisfaction.

You might also like to discuss a wooden item in your possession that is in need of repair, here we can also assist you.

Call in and see us at our new location at the new HILLS HUB in Emerald any Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday between 9am and 4pm or Saturday mornings between 9am and 1pm

**Peter Bos, Publicity**



**WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE SUPPORT OF THE EMERALD NEWSAGENCY FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE THE PUBLICATION OF THIS NEWSLETTER HAPPEN.** Newspapers and magazines, Hallmark greeting cards, Tattslotto, Toys and gifts, Art supplies, Stationery, Photocopying and laminating, Daryl Lea confectionery, Paperbacks, Children books and magazines.

## PUFFING BILLY RAILWAY.

### LAKESIDE VISITOR CENTRE CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



The centre is now looking incredible, inside and out. With the final Stage 2 landscaping, vehicle parking and pedestrian access works set to commence in May to nicely finish off the project, our aim is to deliver the full, final vision later in 2021.

The ETRB will be aiming to open the Lakeside Visitor Centre to the public earlier, targeting September, while the final external landscaping touches are completed in November 2021.

We look forward to sharing this new world class centre with all in the near future.

**Sheena Dang - Publicity & Marketing**

## SHIRE OF CARDINIA NEWS

### Worrell Reserve Carpark

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

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

## STAN HENWOOD AWARD

Congratulations to Helen Smith of Upper Beaconsfield - the 2021 Stan Henwood awardee for exemplary service to the community. Helen, among other things, publishes the local magazine The Village Bell in Upper Beac.

## THE GREEN WEDGE

**Be part of the solution to a big problem that impacts us all in the Hills.**

How do we assemble the pieces of the puzzle, to create a unified sustainable vision for our Hills communities? We start by lobbying for a 'Green Wedge Management Plan', because without a clear strategic direction, our rural business sector risks further unnecessary decline.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning required this foundational research & bespoke planning guidance from local councils back in 2004, due to pressures from urban sprawl. It's now 2021, so why don't we have one? Well that's a long story! What's important to know is we now lack a level playing field with neighbouring regions, who completed this work over a decade ago. Consequently this missing 'stitch in time' has handicapped the future of our local agri-business placing our productive land in jeopardy.

The *Eastern Dandenong Ranges Association* joined with other local groups to campaign for this to be completed. Our region certainly made its mark with more points of view posted than any other region on 'Engage Victoria'. So if you wish to protect our beautiful 'Home in the Hills' contact our [secretary@edra.org.au](mailto:secretary@edra.org.au) or for more information visit <https://engage.vic.gov.au/gwal-consultation>

## FEEDBACK

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

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

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