



FROM THE PRESIDENT

On Wednesday February 24th the EVA was finally able to present the 2020 Citizenship Awards which we did at the Hills Hub hall. Representatives of the recipients' families and from community organisations attended. Congratulations to the Citizen of the Year, Graeme Legge and Young Citizen of the Year, Blaise Cosme.

At this meeting representatives from many groups in Emerald were given an opportunity to promote their organisation and its plans for the upcoming year. **Dick Bartley, President**

EMERALD AND DISTRICT ROTARY CLUB

Supporting local individuals and families impacted by the pandemic continues to be a major focus for the club. In the past 12 months, we have distributed more than \$12,000 in food and petrol vouchers through our partners ECHO, St. Mark's in Emerald and St. Luke's in Cockatoo.

Our club has long supported Emerald Secondary College in running the annual Deb Ball for the students and other young people, and planning is well underway for the June event. We are also now helping out at the school's Breakfast Club twice weekly. With food supplied by the Victorian Government, this is a great initiative which ensures participating students receive a nourishing first meal of the day.

With the easing of COVID restrictions, our community events program is back on track. Don't miss our next Sausage Sizzle on Saturday, 27 March, outside Emerald Village Butchers. If you've ever wondered what Rotary is all about, this is a great opportunity for members of the community to have a chat with our friendly members over a snag, and find out more.

ANZAC DAY

This year, due to Covid, Anzac Day, Sunday 25th April, will consist only of a Dawn Service. A limited number of people will be able to attend. Because of this, the service will be live streamed on Facebook and Youtube to the residents of Emerald and beyond. More details will be released closer to the day.

There will also be an Anzac football match at Chandler Reserve on the Saturday before, between arch rivals, Emerald and Gembrook. It will be a great precursor to the Anzac day Weekend for Emerald. May the tradition continue. **Peter Maloney, President**

LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

- Railway Dog Saturdays and/or Sundays 6-9pm
- Emerald RSL Blues Night Friday March 19th featuring Jesse Valach Band
- Cockatoo RSL Sunday arvos - local bands and open mic.
- Brunch on McBride Cockatoo - LURO featuring - Sunday March 28th 11-1pm

FRIENDS OF EMERALD LAKE PARK

Celebrating over twenty years of volunteering at Emerald Lake Park in 2021. Working Bees for March will be concentrating on removing Sycamore-maple seedlings from bushland. March 14th and 18th. Community members are invited to assist. Meet at Lakeside car park and follow the signage. Time 9-11am. **Sheila Hampson, Co-Ordinator**

DRREA

Dandenong Ranges Renewable Energy Association is pleased to offer something very special to residents of Clematis, Emerald, Avonsleigh, Cockatoo and Gembrook.

It is the Eastern Dandenong Ranges Community Energy Hub.

Buy your electricity via our Community Energy Hub:

It won't cost you much more

It might cost you less

It will benefit the environment and the local community

The energy hub is a joint project with Indigo Power which is a community owned energy retail company based in Beechworth. They are a certified social enterprise which commits them to returning 50% of their profits to clean energy and community projects in their hubs situated around Victoria. All power supplied by Indigo Power is Carbon Neutral and is offset under the National Carbon Offset Standard. Our initial aim is to get 100 members, then 1000. You can join by logging onto indigopower.com.au **Peter Cook, Co-Ordinator**



Recent solar panel installation at the Emerald RSL. Funded through a grant organised by our local member for Latrobe, Jason Wood.

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 has been heavily impacted by COVID shutdown and lack of confidence in the domestic travel market, as well as the international border shutdowns;

We are operating again and numbers are still restricted per carriage, therefore trains are operating with lower capacity;

Puffing Billy Lakeside Discovery Visitor Centre is nearing completion and we will invite the Emerald Village Association to a tour of the site and meeting to be held on site when it is open; Puffing Billy Railway will shortly launch a Locals Pass offer – that encourages locals to take out a yearly pass and encourage visiting friends and relatives to travel on PBR. **CEO - Peter Abbott.**

U3A

The Community Networking evening held recently at the Hills Hub revealed again what a rich and inclusive community we have. Our U3A has managed to increase its numbers in spite of lockdowns and uncertainty. We now have over 400 members and 48 different classes and groups meeting regularly. We had feared we might lose some of our tutors and group leaders during lockdown, but instead we found them learning the technology and Zooming with their groups, waiting in the wings for things to start in person again. Our afternoon tea for tutors held recently was intended to be a way of encouraging them to stick with us. Instead it turned out to be an opportunity to thank them for never having left. U3A has three objectives for its members – intellectual stimulation, encouraging physical activity and, perhaps most importantly of all, social interaction. Returning to the Hills Hub has been vital for the latter.

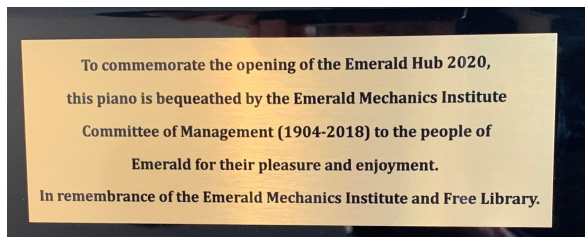
Our most recent project is the establishment of a small exchange book library on the first floor of the Hub.

As we open up more and more we hope that folks will drop in, take a book and leave another, or borrow a book and bring it back.

Pat Buoncristiani Emerald U3A President.

EMERALD MECHANICS INSTITUTE HALL

When the old Emerald Hall was facing demolition after 110 years of service to Emerald, the Hall Committee decided to leave a legacy for the people of Emerald. It was decided that, as it was a tradition for all community halls to have a piano and the existing reclaimed pianola was not suitable for this purpose, the Committee decided that a baby grand piano would fit the bill and would be a worthy legacy from the Hall Committee to the people of Emerald. It is not intended to be a gift to Council, but to the people of Emerald for their ongoing enjoyment.



HILLS HUB REPORT

Our inaugural art exhibition, Together Alone, is now showing at the Hills Hub. Pop along during 'drop-in' hours Monday, Wednesday & Fridays 9.30am-12pm and Tuesday and Thursday 1pm-3.30pm to view a collection of works by local artists Lana and Carl de Jager. We are also excited to be hosting an evening for artists/creatives in the Hills (and those involved in the arts sector) on Friday 19 March from 6pm-8pm.

The evening will include:

- Tours of the Hills Hub
- An information session about the Hills Hub Arts Activation Program (including artist residencies and exhibition opportunities) and expression of interest process
- Drinks, nibbles & networking

Bookings essential via Trybooking
<https://www.trybooking.com/BORCM>
RSVP by March 15

EMERALD MENS SHED

The Emerald Men's Shed is open for business. They have a magnificent state of the art working environment that is open to all like-minded blokes who would like to get their hands dirty or would just like to chat. Open Tuesday to Thursday plus Saturday morning. C'mon say g'day. Located at The Hills Hub. **Tom Connolly:** mensshedemerald@gmail.com



TELOPEA STEPS REBUILD

An initiative of Ray Spencer and the Emerald Lions Club together with the local Meander group. Working bees are held on the 3rd Sunday and 1st Thursday morning of the month. Progress is rapidly happening with the aid of DLWP blokes "Working for Victoria" who are doing a lot of the hard yakka. Repairs to the steps, boardwalks and bridges are planned with additional planting of tubestock happening. The Meander group have long looked after the welfare of Menzies Creek in this region.

Contact: rayspencer@netspace.net.au

EMERALD TENNIS CLUB

Emerald Tennis Club is open and reactivating tennis at the Club, located in the heart of Emerald, at the rear of Worrell Reserve. We encourage all current and lapsed members to reconnect and attend a session as soon as they are able. Our membership fees are very reasonable and we also offer no cost introductory visits & low cost casual visits.

Contact: info@emeraldtennisclubvic.org.au

CITIZENS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The Citizens of the Year were presented by Brett Owen, the Cardinia Shire Mayor to Graham Legge for his service to Emerald in multiple organisations all his life and Blaise Cosme who was given the Youth Citizen of the Year award for innovative technological facilitation of a variety of community events. Well done gentlemen.



EMERALD COMMUNITY NETWORKING NIGHT

A large number of Community minded folk gave us an insight into their organisations, their place in the Emerald Community and the good work being done from improving Emerald Lake Park by the Friends Of the Park to plans put forward by the young members for the upgrade of the Emerald Tennis Club. The Lions and Rotary Clubs outlined their Community Service provided, the Renewable Energy Association plans to change the powering of Emerald; the Men's Shed making things at The Hub and offering a friendly place to be.

The new CEO of Puffing Billy told us of the upcoming opening of the new Lakeside Visitors Discovery Centre, Ellen Prior from the Hub told us of the Hub's multiple uses - including a Play and Connect session and Art exhibitions. We heard about the University of the Third Age; and ECH told us about their services in child care and food provision provided right through our Covid lockdowns. The Hills Photographic Society was represented as was the RSL who spoke about the upcoming Anzac Day service and Jess from the Library reminded us of all the activities and services available there.

It was a truly remarkable night with 46 attending and it highlighted the resilience, friendliness and neighbourly care for the Community that survived and thrived through a difficult year in 2020. Many thanks to all attending and those presenting. We are blessed with a caring Community.

Shelley Beardshaw EVA Secretary

CARDINIA COUNCIL NEWS

Monthly Council information for township groups

Worrell Recreation Reserve car park sealing.

Project description Pavement construction and sealing of the carpark between the Hills Hub and the new Emerald oval works.

Works to commence in March 2021.

Refinements to the draft design are being finalised. Consultation with the stakeholders is underway.

Current Planning Permit Applications

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

Road Sealing

The first two roads in Emerald to be sealed will be Crichton Road and Princess Street near the Emerald Museum. The "Sealing the Hills" project will involve the sealing of 109 kilometres of unsealed roads in the Dandenong Ranges over 8 years.

Creating Cardinia

Have your say in helping shape the future of our shire. Go to their website and check out:

- Imagine Cardinia
- COVID-19 Community Survey
- Sealing the Hills
- Amendment C257 – Cardinia Planning Scheme

Please contact the Community Development Team if you have any queries.

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

The Emerald Village Committee Inc. thanks the Cardinia Council for financial assistance in the production of this Newsletter.

FEEDBACK

The EVA appreciates your comments:

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