



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last month the EVA held its first public meeting for the year. The topic/issue was “play spaces and equipment” for our young people. This included skateboards and bike trails. A report on this meeting is included in this newsletter.

If you have an issue which would be suitable for a public community meeting please contact me or any member of the EVA committee. Our next community meeting will be held on Wednesday June 23 at 7.30 in the Hills Hub.

Have you been into Hills Hub to see what it offers? It is well worth a look.

If you like to join the EVA please contact me via the email address at the end of this newsletter.

Joining the Emerald Village Association (it's free) gives you access to agendas and contacts who you can utilise to give input and knowledge of what is happening in Emerald.

**Dick Bartley - President**

## 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

## EMERALD AND DISTRICT ROTARY CLUB

**Rotary Celebrates 100 Years in Australia and New Zealand**

Toot Toot! Make sure you wave to the 100 Rotarians, local school children and dignitaries aboard Puffing Billy on Saturday 22 May as we

celebrate 100 years of Rotary service in Australia and New Zealand in 2021.

Departing from Belgrave at 11am, Puffing Billy will stop in Menzies Creek at 11.25am, Emerald at 12.10pm and Nobelius Siding at 12.25pm. On the return trip, the train will arrive at Emerald at 2.20pm, Menzies Creek at 2.45pm and Belgrave at 3.08pm. Our special celebration train will be a wonderful visual spectacle for children and adults alike, and we hope that the residents of Emerald and surrounds will give us a big wave on the day as we meander along the track.

While Rotary is famous for its sausage sizzles, you may be surprised to learn about the broad array of events, projects and activities we get involved in to provide humanitarian services, build goodwill and work for peace around the world. Here's a snapshot of what we do.

On the local front, we organise several large community events, including the Kids Fun Run with Thomas and All American Car Display, which raise thousands of dollars for worthy causes. We're involved in youth activities such as organising the annual Deb Ball and helping out at Emerald Secondary College's weekly Breakfast Club for students, and host local community awards such as Pride of Workmanship. We also support several international initiatives, including Wheelchairs for Kids, Interplast, End Polio Now, Rotarians Against Malaria, Shelterbox and many others.

To find more, please visit our website at <https://www.emeraldrotary.org.au/>

**Ros Weadman, Rotary Publicity**

## ANZAC DAY

The Anzac weekend was much anticipated as the Emerald RSL had to present to Emerald a service that was surrounded by the Covid environment that was always subject to possible change at a moments notice.

The decision was made early in the piece to do the dawn service only and do that really well for the 600 people who could get a ticket (to provide a Covid-safe environment) and then present it to Emerald as a live stream so all could be with the Club in spirit.

The weekend started on Saturday with the Anzac service at the local football match between Emerald and Gembrook at Chandler Reserve. The RSL organised for 3 airplanes to fly over, a full brass band to play for all, 100 pigeons to be released symbolising “animals in war” and a 25lb cannon blasting to start the game. Unfortunately for Emerald supporters, Gembrook took home the trophy.



At half time the blanket was taken around the ground and raised \$1000. Seen here led by John Scorse, Pete Maloney, Kane Falconer and Chris May urging the crowd to dig deep.

On Sunday morning, the Anzac Day service welcomed Puffing Billy who saluted with their traditional whistle.

Students from the Emerald Primary School and the Emerald Secondary College all made speeches relating to the RSL's theme for Anzac Day - “Animals in War”. A special video was produced for the day and that can be seen on the Club's website - [www.emeraldrsl.com.au](http://www.emeraldrsl.com.au).

It is hoped that next year Emerald can return to the full presentation of 2 services and the community march through Emerald to Anzac Place.

**Peter Maloney, President, Emerald RSL**

## ANZAC DAY BADGE SALES

During the 2 weeks prior to Anzac Day, the Emerald RSL co-ordinated the Anzac badge sale in Emerald raising over \$15,000 for veteran welfare. See below RSL members Betty and Leanne outside Woolworths.



Thank you Emerald.

**Chris May, RSL Welfare & Appeals Officer**

## PUFFING BILLY RAILWAY

### PRESS RELEASE #1

We are excited to announce that beginning Saturday 29th of May, passengers and their four-legged family members can travel on a monthly Lakeside to Gembrook service with the introduction of the Puffing Billy Dog Express.

Accommodating one dog per booking, all furry travellers will enjoy a 40-minute journey through the unspoilt Wright State Forest, over three historic timber trestle bridges – including the tallest on the entire line at 60 metres long and 15 metres high – and past Cockatoo and Fielder station as the train climbs towards Gembrook.

### PRESS RELEASE #2

The journey on board Puffing Billy takes you through the magnificent Dandenong Ranges. With lush fern gullies brushing past and Mountain Ash trees towering overhead, Puffing Billy Railway makes for a wonderful opportunity to relax and breathe in the fresh air whilst the train makes its way through the temperate rainforest.

## PUFFING BILLY RAILWAY

### SPECIAL OFFERS FOR CLUBS AND GROUPS

Our Special Offers include a discounted rate for all groups planning a trip to Menzies Creek Station or Lakeside Station.

Immerse yourself in a trip to the Menzies Creek Museum. Here, you'll get up close and personal with over 80 railway related artefacts from a bygone era, before enjoying a delicious Morning Tea and a good catch up outdoors.

OUR SPECIAL OFFER, starting at Concession:  
\$35.10/pp

Alternatively, we invite you to travel like a king or queen on board our First-Class dining carriages, indulging in a three-course lunch while travelling to Lakeside Station, home to leisurely walking trails and abundant bird life.

OUR SPECIAL OFFER, starting at Concession:  
\$93.50/pp

Terms and conditions apply. Please call our Customer Service Centre on 03 9757 0700 for more information.

### MAINTENANCE TOUR OF EMERALD

On Thursday May 6th the EVA organised a walk around Emerald with representatives from the Shire Of Cardinia to identify areas in our town that require some urgent attention. The list includes:

1. seats and a water tap in the Puffing Billy playground.
2. steps, footpaths in the town
3. safety at the crossing outside the bakery
4. signage
5. parking
6. pruning of vegetation overhanging footpaths

The EVA are hopeful the relevant sections of the Cardinia Council will action these concerns as soon as possible.



Steps - an accident waiting to happen

### NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION - COMMUNITY MEETING

#### Bikes, Skates, Swings and Roundabouts in Emerald

Well, at our Community meeting in April at the Hub we talked about all of these and more. Sam Cross from the Cardinia Shire's Passive Recreation Unit showed us how the Council makes designs and strategic plans to implement them. Their team checks the condition and functionality of every park and makes sure they are fit for purpose. This informs which area is funded next. Have you seen the Leisure Park at Gembrook? It was designed by this team. It garnered much praise as \$1.3 million of Federal, State and Shire funding has built a wonderful recreational area for all ages.

The current area of expenditure in our neck of the woods is in the Emerald Lake precinct and the completion of car parks in the Worrell Reserve.

Lively discussion covered the state of the Puffing Billy Central Town park; the lack of a locally made Bike/Skate Park and how some young people are making their own, informally and very industriously, in various areas of Emerald. A Bike and Skate Park is in the Worrell Reserve Master Plan but is some time away from funding.



**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.

Some more seating and a drinking water fountain for the Puffing Billy Park have been requested for some time, but as this area forms part of a Puffing Billy Reserve master plan, it is not in focus for funding currently. It has had some repair work to some of the play equipment recently.

We learnt the old, some say historic, toilets outside the Hub are to be demolished in December and there was concern about the Emerald Star Bushes planted and thriving in the gardens next to them. Care needs to be taken....

Construction work on the Worrell Reserve Carpark and re-configuration of the entrance and crossing are currently out to tender. Thanks to our Councillor Jeff Springfield for supplying this information.

**Shelley Beardshaw, Secretary EVA**

## CARDINIA SHIRE

### Have your say

Cardinia have been consulting the Community in recent months to assist us in drafting key strategic documents that will guide our future strategic direction. The below draft documents are now available for you to view.

- Draft Council Plan 2021-2025 that includes the Community Vision 2040
- Proposed Council Budget 2021-2025
- Proposed Financial Plan 2021-2031
- Proposed Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2025

Thank you to our community, local businesses, and the People's Panel for input that has helped in the development of these draft documents.

### Feedback on the draft documents closes 5pm Tuesday 18 May.

View the draft documents and have your say at:

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

## ANZAC WALK



Students from Edinburgh College in Lilydale paid Emerald a visit to listen to the Anzac walk audio Trail telling the stories of how 32 men from Emerald lost their lives in WW1. A very engaging and attentive group of school kids who now appreciate a little more about our heritage.

## EASTERN DANDENONG RANGES ASSOCIATION

### Notice to local businesses -

Friday May 14th Breakfast at Bam Bam - 7- 9am

Network with other local businesses in a relaxed environment with great food from The General. Our Guest Speaker, Geoff Trensky will take us through how to improve the in-store experience for customers & how this relates to space, service & products to optimise a return on investment for business. You'll also pick-up some tips on the 4 branding pillars & processes to create engaging Social Media posts. We also invite attendees to provide a 'show' & 'tell' about their business products & services. Don't forget to bring along your business cards & other promotional material to share. Bookings: [www.trybooking.com/BQEJS](http://www.trybooking.com/BQEJS)

\$16.50 inc gst.

## FEEDBACK

The EVA appreciates your comments:

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