



LOCKED-DOWN EDITION - #2

Emerald - our home, our oasis - green, clean and safe

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Even though we seem to be in lockdown or having a breather before the next one, there is some good news for Emerald. If you have been following Facebook you will observe that we have a new group of local people - Emerald Village Exercise & Recreation (EVER) led by Vanessa Kewish and the plans they are working are:-

1. An upgrade of the Puffing Billy playground
2. A Pop-up Skate Board park on the old netball courts in Worrall Reserve. A short term option till we get a permanent skateboard facility
3. An upgrade of the bike jumps area in Pepi's Land

Currently planning and negotiating with the Shire is continuing. The EVA is supporting all these projects and we are hoping to achieve some action in the near future.

Town Maintenance Action Plan

The EVA has expressed concerns that there are a number of items that have not been actioned.

We intend to follow up as many of the items make our town safer.

Dick Bartley - President

EMERALD CITIZEN AWARDS - 2021

The 2021 Emerald Citizenship Awards aim to acknowledge local individuals and a local group or organisation that have 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. It has

been a period of constant change with a need for resilience. Nomination forms will be available from Peter Maloney, Dick Bartley or from the Emerald Library or Hills Hub.

ROTARY CLUB OF EMERALD & DISTRICT

Since 1980, our passionate members have worked together to improve the wellbeing and resilience of our local community and beyond. Here's a selection of international programs we support that make transformative change in people's lives:

- **Wheelchairs for Kids** – giving mobility to children in impoverished communities
- **Interplast** – providing medical care, surgical intervention and training to people in the Asia Pacific Region
- **Rotarians Against Malaria** – delivering projects aimed at controlling and, ultimately, eliminating malaria
- **Shelterbox** - providing emergency shelter and other essential items to disaster-hit families

Of all the international campaigns Rotary gets involved in, our work to eradicate polio for more than 35 years is perhaps the most remarkable. Rotary has helped to reduce polio cases by more than 99.9 per cent and in 2020, Africa was declared free of the wild poliovirus. Rotary's polio eradication network, including its people, infrastructure and systems, is now playing a crucial role in the fight against COVID-19. In March this year, the World Health Organisation stated that "The critical role that polio assets have played in tackling multiple health emergencies, in supporting immunization activities and in COVID-19 response, demonstrate that these assets have a clear role to advance future national and global health security".

Want to know more about how you can help us create a better world? Please visit our website <https://www.emeraldrotary.org.au/> or call 0408 769 491. Visitors are most welcome at our meetings.

Ros Weadman - Publicity

EMERALD LADIES PROBUS

Emerald Ladies Probus Club meets at Emerald RSL on the third Monday of each month at 10am. All retired or semi-retired ladies are welcome to come and join us.

Anne Simpson - Ladies Probus

EVA MEETING REPORT

Looking up from Lockdown and looking forward...

The Emerald Village Association met for both July and August by "Zooming" together last Wednesday 25th August. And what an interesting and hopeful night it turned out to be...

Our guests included Peter Abbott, CEO of the Puffing Billy Organisation (Emerald Tourist Railway Board) and Vanessa and Ben Kewish from the **Emerald Village Exercise and Recreation Group**. (Look for the **EVER** Facebook page).

Peter talked about the Puffing Billy Lakeside Discovery Centre and plans for opening and other Emerald Puffing Billy Precinct ideas - see separate report.

Vanessa and Ben spoke to the state of Playgrounds, Skate and Bike Jump parks in Emerald and the increasing interest of the Community to have concrete plans (in the foreseeable and "do-able" future) put in place for our youngest members. Over 500 people have joined the EVER Group since its inception.

Pop up Skate Park

Vanessa presented an example of a Pop-up Skate Park - by Skateramps Australia, in a car park in Maribyrnong. A similar removable Skate Park is proposed for a disused Netball Court at Worrell Reserve. The cost would be approximately \$25,000 and Crowd Funding is suggested as a source of funds. It would be used as a trial to see how it functions as the Worrell Reserve Master Plan does provide for a proposed Skate Park in the future.

The Emerald Village Association moved a motion to show the Cardinia Council our support of the idea.

What a great recreation space for younger children, parents and grandparents to visit and flip, glide and power their way around!

Pepi's Land Bike Jump Park

The suggestion is for a 3 track BMX Mini Course to upgrade a mostly neglected Jump Park that is ignored by large numbers of young people. They have developed their own jumps in often inappropriate waste land, unsafe and close to roads.

A local BMX track designer has been approached and has suggested a plan that he could build for approximately \$6598.

It needs Council approval, hopefully funding and Crowd sourced funding. Wow!

What great ideas to see come to fruition - a positive way to finish another Covid Lockdown riddled Year and give our young families something to look forward to.

We finished the night talking about town maintenance, Emerald Group and Individual Citizenship Awards, traffic and Fire Risk Management - it was a busy night!

Shelley Beardshaw - Secretary EVA

EMERALD LAKE PARK

At the recent EVA meeting Peter Abbott, Puffing Billy CEO spoke to us and explained that the clearing behind the new Discovery Centre was part of the original Discovery Centre Plan. 80 trees were removed - less than originally scheduled, to allow for an upgrade of parking, traffic flow, Disability Parking, lighting, guttering and Bus Turning. The Discovery Centre has been funded with \$8 million dollars from the Puffing Billy, State and Federal Government (total budget \$20m) – there are no Council funds.

The new carpark will be a Cardinia Shire asset. Through the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning the Puffing Billy Organisation has funded an Offset Program to the cost of \$85,000 which will allow for tree replanting in the Yarra Valley, plus 16,000 trees and shrubs to be planted around the centre.

The Discovery Centre's opening has been delayed by COVID restrictions and an official opening is planned for late September/early October. A "soft" opening is planned for the September School Holidays. Landscaping and Carpark to be finished by Christmas.

The centre will include a "Changing Places" to offer high accessibility in the new Centre with heightened Disability access.

Changing Places - Campaign for accessible public toilets

No Solar panels are planned at this stage, but PBO are investigating Green Power for all of Puffing Billy Operations. They are working with Sustainability Victoria to develop a PBR Carbon Plan, given that the Steam trains burn black coal.

The hope is that the Discovery Centre attracts more visitors other than Puffing Billy train passengers. Business was down 90% in the last twelve months.

The Centre needs to trade and make a profit with a large Café and displays.

The Organisation recognises the need to work with the Council and the Community regarding traffic control.

Trevor Budge asked “ Is there a Masterplan for Puffing Billy land throughout Emerald?”

P. Abbott replied that he would like to create a Precinct Plan for Emerald Station and plan to open up to the Puffing Billy Park. Possibly including a Café and a Nursery reflecting the original use of the Trains and Nobelius.

Shelley Beardshaw - EVA Secretary

EVA PLANNING MEETING

Anita Ransom, Cardinia Planning & Urban Design Coordinator, will address the EVA on September 29th (hopefully). Her topics for discussion will be:

- What is the Council's existing policy for development in the Emerald district?
- Is the existing Emerald District Strategy relevant or useful?
- How can the EVA and the wider Emerald community work with the Council to implement the new Cardinia Council Plan 2021-25?
- How will the Council influence building design and architectural standards in Emerald?
- How can the EVA get information about significant planning permit applications in Emerald and whether they are advertised or not?

All are welcome to attend.

Dick Bartley - President

EVA WEBSITE - VOLUNTEER

The Emerald Village Association website - emeraldvillagenews.com.au needs a person to take full responsibility for its continual update and maintenance. To be done in conjunction with other social media duties.

If you are interested please make contact with Peter Maloney (email address below).

One expression of interest has been received. But more the merrier.

COVID VACCINATIONS - OUR PHARMACY

**We are a
vaccination
provider**



**COVID-19
VACCINATION**

The **Emerald Village Pharmacy** is an approved vaccination provider for the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, helping to provide COVID-19 immunisation for our local area and wider community. In addition, the Moderna vaccine will be available late september.

When it is your turn to get vaccinated, you can book online by visiting our website at www.medadvisor.com.au/Network/E69AF28Q or call us on 03 59683023, to book your appointments to get your first and second doses of the vaccine.

To find out when you are eligible to receive the vaccine, visit:

<https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/eligibility>

Louisa Lammers - Emerald Pharmacy

U3A

Emerald U3A continues to bob about between face to face activities at the Hub, online sessions via Zoom and patient waiting as we move in and out of lockdown. Our resilience is being tested, and we are coming up as winners. Tutors and group leaders have kept in touch with their members, and it is heartening to learn of the many ways our U3A members are keeping themselves occupied and optimistic. Gardens seem to be a focus for many. Others are taking the opportunity to catch up on reading and I suspect we are all doing a bit of binging on TV series. Some of our classes require a degree of continuity and are best presented face to

face where a lot of discussion is involved. A small number have been suspended until we begin afresh next year when, hopefully, life will have become a bit more predictable.

If you would like to learn a bit more about Emerald U3A you can check us out on our web page at <https://u3aemerald.org.au/> or our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/U3AEmerald>

Cheers

Pat Buoncristiani - President

CARDINIA COUNCIL NEWS

Whilst Emerald is not on the list this year (2021/22) for a new playspace, there are projects happening in Emerald in the near future including:

- A new playspace is proposed to be provided at Pepi's Land next financial year as part of the implementation of Council's Playspace Strategy;
- Emerald Lake Precinct master planning is commencing this financial year and is proposed to include a new playspace; and
- The library park play space replacement and new skate park will be delivered in line with the Worrell Reserve master plan which will be implemented in the future in line with Council budget allocation.

Puffing Billy Park is owned by Emerald Tourist Railway Board (ETRB) but managed by Cardinia Shire Council. Council recognises Puffing Billy Park (in Kilvington Drive) is due for an upgrade and continues to undertake regular safety inspections. Council proposed to prepare a masterplan for the park to inform the future park upgrade. The preparation of the masterplan will include community engagement. Council is required to work closely with ETRB in relation to any significant changes to this park. Discussions have commenced with ETRB in relation to the preparation of the Master Plan however no timeline or budget has been confirmed at this stage.

Kristen Jackson - Manager Active and Connected Communities

WHERE ARE WE

During the lockdown to keep to the 5km restriction many of us walked or rode bikes to places in the Emerald district .

This photo was taken at a place I discovered recently. If you know where it is please contact Dick Bartley - dickbartley08@gmail.com

The prize - Coffee and Cake at The Laughing Fox.



OPEN AIR BURNING

A new local law on open air fires has been drafted by Cardinia Shire Council. The proposed new law was informed by community input and is ready for you to review and provide feedback by Friday 17 September 2021.

Search the Council website:
<https://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au>

3782 - BUY LOCAL

In these strange Covid times it makes sense that Emerald residents support those businesses that they live next to. We are delighted that a new Facebook page has been set up to support the patronage of local businesses. Go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/300502891835045>

FEEDBACK (please)

The EVA Newsletter was first published in September 2019. This is our third anniversary. May there be many more!!

The EVA encourages those in the Emerald community to provide feedback on local issues that concern the. Contact Dick Bartley at dickbartley08@gmail.com or Peter Maloney at evanews3782@gmail.com

EVA WEBSITE - VOLUNTEER

The Emerald Village Association website - emeraldvillagenews.com.au needs a person to take full responsibility for its continual update and maintenance. To be done in conjunction with other social media duties.

If you are interested please make contact with Peter Maloney (email address below).

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

