

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

The EVA wishes all residents of Emerald and surrounds a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2022.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

On November 24 we held our annual community Groups meeting in the Hills Hub hall. Congratulations to Lynne Trensky who received the award for Citizen of the year and the Rotary Club of Emerald & District as the group organisation.

After the award ceremony representatives from many local groups provided an insight into their group and their plans for 2022. We have included some of the group's talks in this newsletter.

Many people are now looking forward to returning to a "normal" mode of living. It's good to see so many interest groups working to make this happen.

Dick Bartley - President

SES - NEW EMERALD HEADQUARTERS

The new SES headquarters was opened officially by James Merlino on Saturday November 27th.



A big crowd celebrated the move to the long awaited new operating centre with its latest technology and equipment.

ROTARY CLUB OF EMERALD & DISTRICT

We are thrilled to have been awarded the EVA's inaugural Community Group of the Year award. At the awards ceremony club President Shalini Penny said, "It's wonderful to be recognised for our work which is vast, covering the young, the elderly, schools and the community as a whole".



Paul Bianco - photographer

Here's a snapshot of how our club is making a positive difference:

- Organising community fund-raising events such as the Kids Fun Run with Thomas, All American Car Display and monthly Trash 2 Treasure market. Since it began in 2002, the fun run event has raised over \$671,000.
- Distributing more than \$15,000 in grocery, fuel and pharmacy vouchers to locals impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Supporting young people through organisation of the annual Deb Ball, running Youth Driver Awareness programs and helping out at the weekly Breakfast Club.
- Running an annual speech contest for local primary schools to build confidence and develop the public speaking skills of the students.
- Hosting local community awards such as Pride of Workmanship and the McLeod Murphy Memorial Scholarship Fund, which assists students with their medical studies.
- Many international initiatives, including End Polio Now, Wheelchairs for Kids, Interplast, Rotarians Against Malaria and Shelterbox.
- To learn more about our friendly and fun club, please visit <https://www.emeraldrotary.org.au/> or call 0408 769 491.

EVA - COMMUNITY AWARDS NIGHT



Paul Bianco - photographer

On Wednesday 24th of November about 40 Emerald people gathered to celebrate community members who have contributed to help make Emerald the town we all like to live in.

Our Mayor, Jeff Springfield presented Lynne Trensky with the Citizen of the Year Award for an amazing number of positive Community improvements and interactions that she has been responsible for.

And the Emerald Rotary Club was presented with the inaugural Group of Year Award. They were represented by the President, Shalini Penny and past President, Vicki Van Den Bergen. They detailed for us the help they have given Community members through Covid Lockdowns and destructive storms this year, as well as their extensive list of fundraising events for people in need, near to and far from us.

The assembled citizens then heard from a large number of Community Organisations whose breadth of interests and service to the Community continue to amaze.

The groups included The Hills Hub Placemaker, the Dandenong Ranges Renewable Energy Association, the Emerald Arts Society, the Men's Shed, St Marks Anglican Church, ECHO Youth and Family Services, the Emerald Village Exercise and Recreation Group, the University of the Third Age, the Hill's Photographic Society, the Emerald RSL and finally the Friends of Emerald Lake Park.

All inspired us to find an organisation that suits our interests and volunteer our time and efforts. Blow those Covid cobwebs away.

Shelley Beardshaw - EVA

U3A

From Emerald's U3A, we wish all a happy stress-free Christmas / New Year holiday period!

We've come through the second Covid year and I'm sure you'll agree it is at times like this that belonging to a caring community group like U3A reveals its

importance to an individual's wellbeing. As most of you probably know, we exist to promote mental stimulation & learning, physical activity, and most importantly social connection and friendship. Whether you've lived here for most of your life or only just moved into the area, the U3A can introduce something new and positive to your life.

The Hills Hub became our home away from home in 2021 and it's a pleasure to be there. We've previously not had access to use of the commercial kitchen, but watch this space for expanded classes!

2022 Course List below has just been finalized and will be up on our website u3aemerald.org.au from Monday 6th December. You can join U3A Emerald and pay the annual \$40 membership fee via this website; then go ahead and apply to join courses of interest to you.

- **CREATIVE:** Art: Open-Medium; Botanical Art; Calligraphy; Photography for Beginners; Photography; The Private Life of a Masterpiece; Flowers for the Home; Needlework; Working with Wood
- **DISCUSSION & RESEARCH:** Australia and World History; Current Affairs; Genealogy (Advanced); Spotlight on the Environment; Philosophy
- **EXERCISE & FITNESS:** Bushwalking; Table Tennis; Yoga
- **LANGUAGES:** German for Beginners; Italian (Beginners); Italian (Intermediate); Italian (advanced); Japanese for Beginners
- **READING & WRITING:** Book Group; Book Issues/Quarterly Essay; Creative Writing; English Language & Literature; Play Readings
- **MUSIC:** Musicians Sharing Group; Over the Hills Singers
- **SOCIAL & LEISURE:** Cinema Classics; Exploring Victoria; Gardening; Wine Appreciation
- **GAMES:** Bridge; Scrabble
- **SHORT COURSES:** The Pacific, Captain Cook and Art; Seven Centuries of Music; From the Cave to the Internet; Genealogy (Beginners); Towards a Sustainable World; Poetry to Delight

Heather Bishop - Publicity

EMERALD LIBRARY

Vaccination Help: - Struggling with organising your proof of vaccination? Need help with linking your My Gov to your Services Vic App?

The Library is here to help! Drop in during our opening hours to take advantage of one-on-one help with email, smartphones, My Gov or other tricky subjects.

Deliver Joy to your local community! Do you have a lost or damaged library book at home? Or just feeling generous? Drop in to the library and donate a non perishable food item or unwrapped gift and we will wipe the slate clean! Available for the month of December.

Holiday Hours

The Emerald library is pleased to be open 10am-4pm weekdays from 20th Dec- 7th Jan. Stay up to date by regularly checking this website and the Casey Cardinia Libraries Facebook and Instagram pages. And if you haven't already please sign up to our newsletter by ringing the library or visiting www.ccl.vic.gov.au.

SCOUTS ANNUAL XMAS TREE SALE



**1ST EMERALD
SCOUT GROUP**
21 Kilvington Dr, Emerald

**CHRISTMAS
TREE SALES**

December weekends
9am - 1pm

4th/5th
11th/12th
18th/19th



BURNING OFF SEASON

As of November 22nd residents of Cardinia are allowed to burn off everyday except Sundays - leading up to the Fire Danger Period.

Please, if you can, try and use this time to clean up your yards and reduce fuel loads that may be hazardous if a bushfire were to occur.

Always be mindful of the current weather conditions when you are burning off and feel free to ring 1800 668 511 to register your burn.

HILLS HUB EVENT CALENDAR

The Hills Hub is taking bookings for 2022 Arts spaces and rooms available for hire
Contact: hillshub@cardinia.vic.gov.au

Event calendar 2022 for the Hills Hub

Dec to Jan - Emerald Secondary College senior students' art exhibition from Dec 6th through to the end of January

Feb - What's On Cardinia Festival will be a month-long event series celebrating great local artists & creatives, including a magic show!

March - Hills Photographic Society photo exhibition

Sing and Grow music therapy playgroup registrations now open – free but limited spaces available

The Hills Hub is joining with Emerald Library to offer in Term 1

Monday 10 to 11am at the Hills Hub

8 week program

Run by Music therapist

Looking for an 8-week commitment

Program designed to family and ages of the participants from 0 to 5 years old

For more information -

<https://www.singandgrow.org/about-us/>

Register via email - hillshub@cardinia.vic.gov.au

RSL - BLUES CONCERT



**REAL LIFE
LIVE
BLUES MUSIC!!!**

BELL REAL ESTATE DELTA BLUES BREAKOUT

6 BANDS, 2 STAGES!

**BLUES ROULETTES • ANNA SCIONTI • MIKE ELRINGTON
LOUIS KING & THE LIARS KLUB • KEVIN BUCKINGHAM BAND • JARROD SHAW**

SATURDAY DECEMBER 11TH, 2.00-10.00PM

EMERALD RSL 3 MEMORIAL AVE

2 STAGES – BRING A SEAT FOR THE OUTSIDE STAGE

TICKETS \$30 ONLINE AT TRYBOOKING.COM

This is a double vaxxed event



Blues concert at the RSL - back in business.

Bookings on Trybooking. Double vaxxed essential

EMERALD MENS SHED

Christmas is almost here and as it is with other community groups the Men's Shed is no different regarding supply and demand.

Our order level for community activities is at an all time high; add to that those in the general public arena of Emerald are also seeking to have their requirements completed by Christmas.

Wanting to keep all of our current clients satisfied we find we can no longer take projects on for the remainder of this year.

That said, we do encourage any and all who need our help to call in and place your orders for the year 2022.

Our year 2021 has been as it has with all community driven activities - COVID challenging. None the less we believe we have left our mark here in Emerald to continue to serve this community to the best of our ability.

We wish our supporters, donators of material and the community of Emerald a very merry Christmas and a happy new year

PUFFING BILLY RAILWAY

It was a pleasure to recently show the Emerald Village Committee through the newly opened Puffing Billy Railway – Lakeside Visitor Centre.

The new facility aims to provide an improved destination for visitors to Puffing Billy Railway, whilst also enhancing facilities available to Emerald Lake Park visitors and the local community.

The centre features the Lakeside Hall Interpretative Centre that tells the story of how Puffing Billy Railway helped develop the region, through to the period of it being saved by volunteers. There are also enhanced toilet facilities that include Parents, Disabled and Changing Places rooms available for all visitors, with the centre being fully compliant to current Accessibility Standards. The new Railway Café seats approx. 150 people and aims to use local suppliers to feature the region's produce. Meeting/Function rooms are available for hire as well as having special local community group rates.

The outdoor dining area is accessible for those with dogs and of course we welcome walkers, joggers or bike riders to visit the centre between 9am – 4pm each day. Just a reminder that you do need to show your Vaccination evidence to enter the centre.

A new platform has been built to allow for easier operation of services between Lakeside and Gembrook, as well as for special event trains. Additional employed positions are available at the

Lakeside Centre and PBR as a result of the new centre.

The council car parks are also being rebuilt to provide Disability Parking areas, coach turning bays, plus improved drainage and traffic flows to the existing car park tiers. With delays brought on by COVID construction lockdowns, the upper car park areas aim to be open for peak summer season, with final sealing and plantings to be completed early in the new year.

If any other Emerald community group wishes to have a site tour please feel free to contact:

Peter Abbott – Chief Executive Officer Puffing Billy Railway ceo@pbr.org.au

FEEDBACK

The EVA appreciates your comments re the newsletter and their Emerald operations:

Dick Bartley - dickbartley08@gmail.com

Peter Maloney - evanews3782@gmail.com

Holley Adams - salve5858@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS CAROLS - 2021

EMERALD CAROLS

By The Couch



17TH DEC 7-8PM

LIVESTREAM

WWW.EMERALDCAROLS.COM



Supported by



HILLS PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Like taking photos? Or perhaps developing your skills then check us out or contact :- hillsphotographic@gmail.com

We have a wide range of themes such as portraiture, pets, gardens, birds, landscapes, travel, architecture, abstract and much, **much** more.

Activities include projects, outings, external and internally held competitions, displays (there is one in the Emerald library now), exhibitions and providing educational inputs from a range of experts on a variety of topics related to digital photography.

The club is affiliated with the Victorian Association of Photographic Societies (VAPS) which offers support and a list of judges for our competitions, if required.

Feel free to attend some of our meetings and workshops before joining to learn more about what's on offer. *(We meet at the Emerald Hub every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month)*

WHY NOT COME AND CHECK OUT OUR MARCH EXHIBITION AT EMERALD HILLS HUB 2022.

Membership Family \$65 p.a. Adults \$50 p.a.

Students/pensioners \$30 p.a.

CARDINIA RECOVERY PROGRAM

In response to this year's June and October Storms, Cardinia Shire's Recovery team would like to invite a representative of your community organisation to attend a '**Recovery Think Lab**' at Emerald Hills Hub on 15th December 2021. Supper provided at 5:30 with a 6:00pm start.

- Key support agencies, Windermere and Anglicare will provide a short overview of their service to the community.
- We'll present information on what the community told us about their experience after the storms and provide an opportunity for your organisation to provide your feedback.
- We'll quickly explore solutions and partnerships for the recovery program in 2022

- We'd like to hear from you on how you would like us to continue to collaborate with you as key community organisations on recovery matters.

We value community input into recovery planning however understand this is a busy time of year, so we promise to keep the evening short and to the point!

Please RSVP by email to recovery@cardinia.vic.gov.au for catering by 13 December, please include detail on any dietary requirements.

If you cannot attend on the night, Recovery Officers are happy to chat to you or your organisation at a time that suits.

Cardinia Recovery team will be holding Pop Up events in Emerald outside the Hills Hub on the 15th December from 2:00pm and Cockatoo IGA on the 16th December from 2:00-6:30pm.

Members of the recovery team are also based at Emerald Hills Hub every Wednesday and Thursday, come down to say hi!

If you have any questions or queries, please feel free to contact myself on 0481 096 347.

Kat Scott

WHERE AM I



The location for December is very close to the West End of Emerald. If you know contact me dickbartley08@gmail.com and if you are the first one a \$15 voucher for the Laughing Fox is yours.

ECHO

ECHO Youth and Family Services has been supporting the Eastern Dandenong Ranges community since 1984 and we currently provide:

No Interest Loans (NILs) for people on low incomes to pay for whitegoods, car repairs, laptops and more. We recently reopened our office from Cockatoo to 5 Church Street, Emerald. Call 0427 895 596 for more information or to make an appointment.

Free groceries and essentials at The Food Store. ECHO works with St Luke's Church to provide food for anyone who needs it. Open every Monday 10am to 2pm at 1 McBride Street, Cockatoo. Come along and meet our lovely volunteers who will help you find what you need.

School Chaplaincy at six local schools, including The Patch, Menzies Creek, Emerald, Cockatoo, and Gembrook Primary Schools as well as Emerald Secondary College.

The Hills Community Strengthening Initiative (HCSI) includes facilitated playgroups and after-school activity programs in Cockatoo and Gembrook, and a mentoring program for primary school children in Cockatoo. We will hopefully restart all programs in Term 1, 2022

Therapeutic Horsemanship, where we are partnering with Horses for Humanity in a new initiative offering people in our local area the opportunity to interact with specially trained horses to gain a new perspective and develop self-awareness, composure, and communication skills that they can apply to other areas of life.

For more information about all our programs visit www.echo.org.au or call (03) 5968 4460.

FRIENDS OF EMERALD LAKE PARK

Do you walk around Emerald Lake Park to relax and get your regular exercise? Do you take friends or family there to enjoy the picnic and recreation facilities? The Friends of Emerald Lake Park group has been working for more than 20 years to maintain and improve the area for you and for the wildlife that call it home

You can find out more on Thursday January 20th, 10:30-11:30 near the paddleboats when the Friends of Emerald Lake Park will hold a Meet and Greet get together.

You can join the group who meet three times each month to tackle the weeding, the planting and the general improvement of the area. We welcome anyone who would like to make this sort of contribution to our community. Come and find out about our group and what we do.

Report from Friends of Emerald Lake Park Community Evening:

- FELP is commencing its 21st year of volunteering.

- Three working bees are conducted each month - First Saturday, second Sunday and third Thursday.

- Each working bee is two hours 9-11.

- We have been successful with some grants to fund some Tree Identification signage in Arboretums and to undertake woody weed removal, weed tree removal and spraying, using Cardinia Shire approved contractors.

- We have been involved in discussions gathering information for the Emerald Lake Precinct Masterplan, which is currently being drawn up by consultants and is expected to be open for community consultation in March. Please take the time to be involved in these discussions next year.

- Come to our Meet and Greet on Thursday January 20th, 10:30-11:30, near the Paddleboats. Find out our plans for 2022. We acknowledge the financial support of the Cardinia Shire Council in making the publication of this Newsletter possible.

Sheila Hampson - President

COME SIT BY ME

Earlier this year, in between Lockdowns, the Emerald Village Association applied for and was granted some funds to help run a "Come Sit By Me" Project- with Emerald and surrounds Seniors and students from Emerald Primary School.

Well, we envisaged working (with the support of Emerald Primary School teachers) and passing on some of these life skills and hobbies to middle or senior students at an afternoon gathering session once a week at the Hub over 6 to 8 weeks. We are planning to hopefully get off the ground in early May, probably on a Wednesday or Thursday afternoon.

Are you interested in being a tutor or a helper in a group? Joining with a wonderful group of young Emeraldians and a friendly mob of Seniors. Want more details?

Email us at evacomesitbyme@gmail.com

Shelley Beardshaw

THE EVA ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF CARDINIA SHIRE COUNCIL, THE EMERALD CO-OP AND THE EMERALD VILLAGE NEWSAGENCY.

