



FROM THE PRESIDENT

The EVA will hold its annual Community meeting later this month at which we provide an opportunity for all groups in Emerald to network and publicize what they do. We urge local organisations to be represented.

The meeting will be held in the hall space of the new Hills Hub on February 24th at 7.00pm. Tours of this facility will be conducted at the event.

Dick Bartley - President. Email - dickbartley08@gmail.com

EMERALD AND DISTRICT ROTARY CLUB

2021 is off to a fantastic start for the club with our signature event, Kids Fun Run with Thomas, announced as Community Event of the Year at the Cardinia Shire Council Australia Day Awards. This event is a whole-of-club effort and we are thrilled to be recognised at these prestigious awards. Since it began in 2002, \$671,250 has been raised and donated to local organisations that support children. More than 460 children and their families participated in the 2019 event. We are extremely grateful for the support of our local sponsors, community groups and the many volunteers who help bring this wonderful event to fruition for the benefit of the community.

Our new monthly Trash 2 Treasure Market will be held on the first Saturday of each month. All are welcome at the February market, from 8.30am – 1.30pm at the Emerald Primary School oval on Heroes Avenue.

Applications are now open for the 2021 Debutante Ball to be held on Saturday, 12 June. Registrations for couples close on 12 March. For more information and application forms, please visit our website (see below) or call Shalini Penny on 0417 038 707.

Our vibrant and friendly club meets at 7pm on Tuesdays at the Paradise Hotel, Clematis. To learn more, please visit our website <https://www.emeraldrotary.org.au/> or Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/RotaryClubOfEmeraldDistrict> or call 0408 769 491. Visitors are welcome to attend our meetings.

COUNCIL NEWS

Community Wellbeing and Support Grant Program

The Community Wellbeing and Support Grants Program helps to establish new organisations, projects and services. It also funds initiatives that improve residents' health and wellbeing, support opportunities for volunteering, as well as those which help to build the capacity of community groups, projects and programs to be sustainable.

Visit Council website for more info -

<http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/grants>

There are 3 categories:

Seeding grants of up to \$5,000 to support the cost of starting a new organisation, group, club, program, project or service.

Volunteering grants of up to \$3,000 to help create volunteering programs, train volunteers or promote volunteering opportunities.

Small change grants of up to \$1,000 to assist with a range of ad hoc costs that cannot be met through other funding sources, such as buying small items of equipment, website redevelopment, Christmas decorations and more.

THE HILLS HUB - BIG NEWS

YIPPEE - Hills Hub Now Open to the General Public.

Pop into the Hills Hub for a cuppa, chat and/or catch-up with family & friends (or for a change of scenery if you are still working from home). Free Wi-Fi, laptops for use within the Hub (subject to availability), a toy corner for little ones, air conditioning on warmer days, a book exchange, daily newspaper, and warm welcome await.

Opening Hours:

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 9.30am-12.00pm

Tuesdays & Thursdays 1.00pm-3.30pm

For appointments with the Hills Hub Placemaker, during these times, please call 5943 4650 or email

hills.hub@cardinia.vic.gov.au - Ellen Prior

EMERALD MARKETS

There are 2 community markets in Emerald:

ROTARY: Trash 2 Treasure - 1st Saturday Primary School

EMERALD COMMUNITY HOUSE: General market - 3rd Sunday of month in town central.

EMERALD MEN'S SHED

Yes the Men's Shed is finally operating from their new location at the new Emerald Community Hub operating Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturday mornings..

What is now most important to making this Mens Shed successful, is the need for additional male membership. If you are at a stage of seeking some additional stimulation due to your life experiences the Men's Shed might just be the right place where you could help do the community thing.

You would be made welcome to join the fellowship of like minded men of all different vocations, some who

exclusively join just to have a cuppa and a good chat, which is equally important to a man's health. The most important aspect of a day's activity at the Mens Shed is that when you arrive home you can be satisfied you have done something useful and perhaps made somebody laugh. Join us won't you!! and feel rewarded. Committee of Management Emerald Men's Shed

U3A REPORT

It has been an exciting week for the U3A with our return to classes in the Hub for 2021. To see our members gathering (suitably distanced of course) and exchanging smiles and conversation was so uplifting and optimistic. Amazingly in a pandemic, and with the frustrations of repeated lockdowns, our numbers have grown and we now have over 400 members. You only need to be over 50 and either retired or no longer working full time in order to join our merry band. We have 48 different courses and activities from which to choose. You can explore ideas and places, engage in spirited discussions, learn new skills, play a game or participate in a physical activity. Learn more here <https://u3aemerald.org.au> **Pat Buoncristiani - President**

STREET TALK

Emerald is alive with lots of new developments.

- Custom Framing are shifting in next to the Post Office including an Arts Studio
- Optical Eyes Emerald have opened in Main Road
- Accountants Alexander Neil have moved into new premises in Main Road (rear of building)
- Penny & a Pickle cafe has opened near the pedestrian crossing in Main Road
- Thai Massage is proving a popular first for Emerald in Main Road. Ask anyone who has been.
- C-Me Apparel & Uniform Shop in Main Road is a newcomer. Maybe dry cleaning in future
- Hills Physio are moving to the west end in the new building opposite Vibe Gym.
- Emerald Pilates are opening a second studio next door to the Fruit Barn. Check out their Facebook page.

ECHO

ECHO Youth and Family Services is thrilled to announce that our No Interest Loan Program - Cockatoo NILS, has moved to Emerald. We provide interest free loans to people on low incomes across Victoria and more information can be found at www.echo.org.au/nils or by calling 0427 895 596. Our new office is at 5 Church Street, next door to St Mark's Church, but please call first to make an appointment.

EMERALD NETBALL CLUB

The new netball courts at Pepi's Land are currently having rectification works done to the courts surface, as the contractor that did the initial work and lines didn't comply with Council plans, and the requirements of Netball Victoria. These contractors had been back twice in the last 6 months to rectify, but still the problem persisted. The courts will now be resurfaced with a Rebound Ace surface. This will be a grey colour.

Works on this are due to be complete by the end of February. The Club is hoping that then the clubrooms and courts will be handed over to them to use. This year the Club has 10 teams playing at MDNA, and will be running NetSet go clinics for 6-7 year olds in term 2. They have around 100 members...ranging in age from 6 years to 50 years.

THE ROADS PROGRAM

You would be aware that the Shire has received funding to seal certain roads. The Shire's Infrastructure Team headed by Garry Petroff and Andrew Barr briefed the EVA committee on how the road sealing program will be undertaken. A complete list of roads to be sealed can be found on the Shire's web site. The project will take 8 years and first two streets in Emerald are Princess Avenue and Crichton Rd Residents contributions to be capped at \$7000.

After negotiations works are scheduled to start later this year.

FUTURE OF THE HILLS HUB

A number of community groups including the EVA, U3A and The Mens Shed have concerns about the future funding and management of the new facility. It was felt that Covid severely limited Hub usage in 2020 but we should look forward to 2021 experiencing community usage of this excellent resource.

EVA passed two motions at their recent meeting:

1. That Council develop a business plan for The Hub as a matter of urgency AND
2. That Council continue the role of Placemaker on a fulltime and ongoing basis.

CITIZENS OF THE YEAR AWARD

Wednesday 24th February
The Hills Hub 7.30pm

The Emerald Village Association would appreciate feedback as to whether you enjoy reading the Newsletter. Please make contact with us by email and let's know your ideas for the future - peter.maloney@emeraldrsl.com.au or dickbartley08@gmail.com