EMERALD Village Association Inc.

MONTHLY NEWS June 2024

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EMERALD VILLAGE ASSOCIATION INC. AND COMMUNITY GROUP NEWS

EMERALD TAKES ON THE ~~MND~~ BEAST

A sea of blue MND beanies greeted the eyes as you walked through the back Beer Garden of the PVA Hotel on Sunday, the second of June. The Community had gathered for the Hills Freeze, a hugely popular fundraiser instigated by a local, Matt Stickland and his family, to raise funds for research and treatment for Motor Neurone Disease. A cause well publicised by Neale Daniher from the Melbourne Football Club at the "G" for coming up ten years.

Over a thousand local people had gathered to watch and cheer on their local heroes, from an Emerald Pharmacist to a current AFL Footballer, a State netballer to a local Principal; some thirteen "Sliders", all dressed in costumes and nervously awaiting their fates, wrapped in towelling, monogrammed Dressing Gowns.



13 happy sliders soon to take an ice-bath





Sarah and Matt Stickland with MP Emma Vulin

The local SES guarded the 4 metre bright yellow blow up slide and children helped heave a Ute load of bagged ice up ended into a shallow pool with great gusto. The Announcer, Ian Cohen from FightMND, enthusiastically introduced the brave souls one by one and each in turn spoke of their commitment to a cause exemplified by Matt's brave charity work as he has battled "The Beast" for the last nine years.

A Silent Auction enticed bidders to make offers for a huge array of donated goods from local businesses; raffle tickets could be bought; sausages courtesy of Emerald Meats and even faces painted to raise money for this worthy cause. The crowds clapped, shouted encouragement and laughed as each participant in turn climbed the laddered slope , sat or stood at the top and on a signal from Matt and Ian, counted down and plunged at break neck speed into the icy abyss at the bottom.

Di D'Alloglio, Emerald Pilates owner bravely threw herself down head first; Louisa Lammers from Emerald Village Pharmacy wowed the crowd with her detailed Elsa costume from "Frozen"; Hagrid from Harry Potter (Ben Owen) made an appearance and an authentic Anthony Fields Blue Wiggles costume was worn by a fellow Army veteran Chris May. Where's Wally (RSL President Peter Maloney) waggled his way up and down and a Spiderman, Dylan Moore, kicked 5 goals yesterday for Hawthorn and one today for beating MND. State Netballer Kaylah Loulanting wore the famous Emerald Football Club's Uniform even though she doesn't watch AFL!



Huge crowd of over 1000 came to support Matt



A sea of blue with Puffing Billy saluting

Just as well the AFL and it's commitment to raising funds for MND research and treatments was further represented by Jaiden Stephenson as Top Gun's Maverick. Mark Pedder, Emerald Football Club's President, on his way to Europe, called past in a EFC Netballer's outfit. "Just a Minion", Craig Clarke, wowed us all with his yellow toning face paint and Darrelyn Boucher, Cockatoo Primary School's Principal, told us the school had raised $17,000 for this wonderful cause and in memory of a Dad lost to MND, with Murphy, five, raising $1200 on his own.

Donald Trump, topically, made an appearance in an orange prisoner's outfit (Patrick Barge) and a great sport, Mark Protheroe, host with the most from the PVA Hotel shocked us in a revealing beach outfit!

The day finished with Puffing Billy whistling past, passengers furiously waving, over $100,000 dollars in total raised and a Community 'paying it forward" for others suffering, as Jason from the Basin movingly told his story of recently being diagnosed.

A great day had for all, with a huge "well done' organisers, sponsors, photographers, CFA and SES Members, Matt's family and Sliders, supporters and the Community.

It may have been cold, in and out of the pool, but a great warmth flowed through the whole event, even if you were not wearing a blue striped Beanie!



















A message from Matt Stickland - the aftermath

When Sarah Stickland & I started out on this 'little' fundraiser, we were aiming to cover our costs and maybe raise about $20K for Fight MND. By mid May, we started to see donations flood in, to not only support us, but also our Sliders. Our Hills MND Big Freeze support crew of Krystyna Barker , Bianca Geysen & Greer Benson were all working behind the scenes, and as each $ came in, we kept on being amazed at the generosity of the Hills Community. We increased our Target to $50K. Then we saw the Sliders competing with each other to try and raise more than the other - Peter Maloney employed a Fundraising Manager , Louisa decked out the chemist in Blue & white, Chris May targeted all of his Firey buddies, Ben Owen doing the same in the SES, and then we had 'little' Cockatoo Primary School motivate their kids to have a slime day, and get Darrelyn on the Slider podium! As a community, we sold over 960 adult beanies, 220 kid beanies, and over 400 pairs of Fight MND socks - truly amazing! To say that we have now reached in excess of $113,000 in our Hills Community is beyond belief, and our wildest imaginations. To our wonderful Hills Community, Sarah and I say a massive thank-you. You have literally brought tears to our eyes.



Photography: Paul, Pauline & Wayne
Hills Photographic Society


A LOT
GOING ON
AT THE
MOMENT
THANK
YOU

From the President

The EVA has been actively involved in the response to the major recent storm which caused power blackouts, communications breakdown, damage to property, road blockages etc. We, along with many community organisations, not only coordinated assistance to those affected, but worked on procedures which will ensure the Emerald community can cope with future incidents. Hopefully, public advocacy for better power and communication services will reduce the power blackouts etc.

In addition to other community groups, EVA Resilience members have been working on issues such as debris removal, alternative power sources (solar batteries), power grids, and welfare support. A report is included in this newsletter.

Sgt Paul Maher, Emerald Police Station, recently attended our EVA meeting and gave us some insights in modern policing. Our feedback is the Police Station is often not manned and concerns have been raised on how the police actually function in Emerald. He will organise an information session hopefully in the Police Station.

Congratulations to our editor Peter Maloney who was one of those who took the plunge last Sunday at the Paradise Hotel. Fighting MND is a great cause and Peter raised over $10,000 which was a fantastic effort.

The current EVA objective is to encourage more young people to join the management committee or one of our subcommittees.
If you have an interest in the future of Emerald come along to a planning meeting which are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Hills Hub at 7.30

We are intending to create more community access to our management meetings which are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Hills Hub at 7.30.

You can tune in from your home. Contact details will be circulated.
Please contact us if you intend using this service.

Student leaders from Emerald Secondary College are currently attending our meetings and providing valuable input.

Thanks to everyone who have given us feedback on the EVA newsletter.Overall it great to see how well it is accepted in the Community.



Where are we?

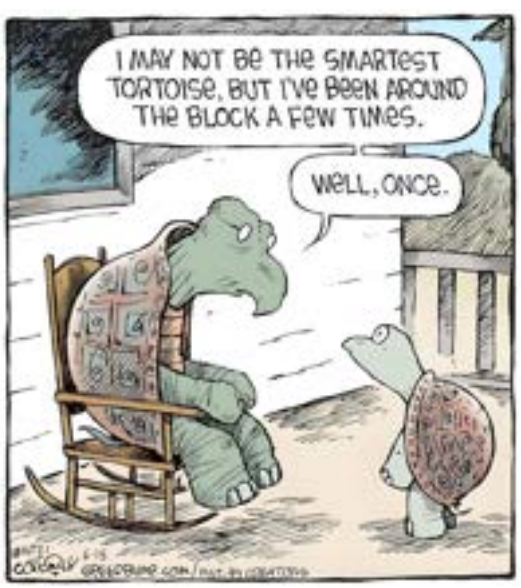
This month we are a prominent place in Emerald. FIrst correct answer has an opportunity to some Asian food from the Flavour Bomb.
Last month we were at the recently updated bike activity area.
No responses received.

Email to: dickbartley08@gmail.com

Dick Bartley - President EVA Inc.







Rotary Club of Emerald & District

Whilst we are approaching the end of the 2024/25 Rotary year under the guidance of President Sangeeta Bajaj, we are not slacking off in our attempts to involve ourselves in the Community.

A first for the Club. On Friday 3rd May we formally launched an EarlyAct Club at the at Emerald Primary School's morning Assembly. Formed in March this year, this is a Service Club, open to students in Years 5 and 6 with the idea being that students work together to make positive change in the community. The EarlyAct Club is coordinated by Rotarians Kerith Cummins and Paula Jones, with Rotary Youth Chair Marcus Adams supporting and from Emerald Primary School Mr Ben Kolb and Ms Hollie Boniface are also important members of the team.

23 students have already become involved in the club which is divided into four groups - which are: Emerald Primary School; the Emerald community; the international community; and the environment. Each group oversees a different project.

To celebrate the launch President Sangeeta Bajaj supported by several Rotarians presented all members with a certificate, badge, and cap. Whilst still in its early stages, the students have come up with some wonderful community ideas and we look forward to seeing these implemented throughout the year.

On Tuesday of 5th May we held a social evening at The Hub. A cheese and Wine event developed into Pizza, pies, sausage rolls, fruit plus the cheese and wine. And an Introduction to "Bridge." Guest speaker extraordinaire Anna St Clair spoke on the merits of the card game Bridge. Apparently, you do not have any players suffering with Dementia or Alzheimer's. A good reason to take up the game!

This year we again supported the Red Shield Appeal on Saturday, 25 May with members Carol Cain, Kerith Cummins, Chris Mcleod and Vicki Van Den Bergen collecting funds outside the Emerald Bakery from 9 am to 12 noon. Thank you to all those members of the public who were very generous with their donations.

Training sessions for this year's Debutante Ball are well under way and the 27 couples are having fun and are quickly learning all the formal dances, which are set to modern day music. It is less than 2 weeks until the event takes place on Saturday 15th June. Feedback each year is that this is one of the best events that the participants have ever been to. The norm is that as soon as the formal part of the evening is over everyone is up on the dance floor – we are looking forward to the evening.







Having just checked the Trybooking web site I am pleased to advise that there in great interest being shown in our "Talkin it up" Mental Health Wellbeing Forum for Youth being held at St Marks Church Emerald on Thursday 25th July. It is aimed at supporting Youth in our local community, their parents, and carers.

The event will feature a keynote speaker followed by a young speaker who will share their personal experience. An Open Forum led by a Panel of experts will be available to answer questions from attendees. Time: 6:15pm for a 6:30pm start. Live or zoom tickets are now available https://emeraldrotary.org.au/page/talkin-it-up/

NB. There is a limited number of live seats "so first in best dressed." If you do miss out on a live ticket you can book in for a zoom link.

Our final 2023/2024 year Speakers are: 4th June Pat Armstong, 18th June Samantah-Jane Potter talking about Extended families and 25th June Nicole Lane from ECHO. We would love you to join us at either an event or meeting (held every Tuesday 6.45pm for 7pm at The Paradise Hotel). To find out more please call 0408 769 491 or 0417 038 707

Visit our website: www.emeraldrotary.org.au There is so much information of interest there.

Shalini Penny, Publicity

Puffing Billy Toy Library



Puffing Billy Toy Library is thrilled to announce that we were successful with a very generous $3,000 grant from The Cardinia Foundation. We have so much planned for this grant and feel incredibly lucky to have received it. Stay tuned over the next few months as we reveal what we have in store!
We have welcomed some new members to our toy library family with the birth of some beautiful babies. A big congratulations to those families, we can't wait to share all the toys we have to offer with them as they grow!
We have added a huge array of new costumes from Disney Princesses to Marvel Superheroes to our collection and have installed new storage for them so that they are easy to access and see.
Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who have been signing up for their duties and coming in to help label and catalogue all our fabulous new purchases as well as continue the long task of auditing our current toys. We couldn't run without our wonderful community of members!

Katie Holmes - President

Get the latest updates on new toys, opening times, events and activities
Sign up for your duty shift: **www.puffingbillytoylibrary.com.au**

Follow us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/puffingbillytoylibrary/
Instagram: www.instagram.com/puffingbillytoylibrary/



Cardinia Shire Mayor Jack Kowarzik with 2024 Stan Henwood Award winner Dot Griffin and Bev Henwood.



Stan Henwood Award 2024

Dot Griffin

Congratulations Dot Griffin, Cardinia Shire Council's 2024 Stan Henwood Award recipient, rewarding her lifetime of community service! Cockatoo has benefited enormously from Dot's consistent and meaningful work, and is known to some as the beating heart of Cockatoo. One of he biggest acheivements was proposing and working to establish a Bendigo Bank Branch in the town. She notoriously climbed onto the roof of the kindergarten as part of protests in 2011 against a Cardinia Shire decision to demolish the McBride Street kindergarten. She was instrumental in founding the Cockatoo Over 50's Activity Group, and Cockatoo History and Heritage Group.
40 odd years ago after hundreds of buildings were destroyed on Ash Wednesday, historian Dot Griffin decided to preserve a record of Cockatoo's past, and started the long proces that became a collaboration, that resulted in creating a history book called 'Cockatoo - Voices from the Past'. In 2020 it was shortlisted for the prestigious Victorian Premier's Community History Award.

Read more in the full release online.

Emerald St Marks Opportunity Shop Celebrates its Volunteers

Around 25 of the 40 people who staff and operate the Emerald Opp Shop celebrated their volunteerism at a free, three course lunch held at St Mark's on Friday 31 May. The Opp Shop has now been recycling pre-loved goods for more than 30 years.
In welcoming those present, Magda Lane, the President of the Opp Shop Committee, noted the importance of volunteers to the Opp Shop and the community in general; "our shop could not function without our volunteer sales staff and the volunteers who sort and prepare the goods for sale" she said.

Colin Lane, the Treasurer of the Opp Shop, spoke of how the funds raised by the Opp Shop are put to work. "All monies raised by the Opp Shop go back to the community" he said. "We are proud to support the local CFAs (Emerald and Clematis), the SES and youth and children's work in the area. In the last 12 months we have donated some $59,000 to these organisations.

On top of that we have contributed over $11,000 to mitigation of major natural disasters in Australia and overseas and to local causes such as Emerald Carols by the Lake, the Chaplain at Emerald Primary School and to local needy families".

The Guest Speaker at the lunch was Sue Barbieri, the Manager of the local No Interest Loans Scheme (NILS), which is one of ECHO's programs in the region. Sue spoke about how NILS works and how much better, for needy families, a loan from NILS is compared to sourcing funds through the high interest "payday lenders". NILS handles of the order of 100 loans per month.
In all, the lunch was a fine celebration of volunteering. As well as the lunch, the Opp Shop volunteers were also presented with a "Thank you" gift (a Woolworths voucher) – to make sure that each person knew that they were appreciated.



A happy bunch of volunteers

Fireside Chat with acting Senior Sergeant Paul Maher, Emerald Police

Preface - Vic Police provide policing services to the community across 54 areas (PSAs), within 21 divisions and 4 regions. Emerald, Cockatoo Gembrook and surrounds are within the Southern Metro Region which extends east to Bunyip, south to Lang Lang and Koo Wee Rup on the south coast, and up through Pakenham.

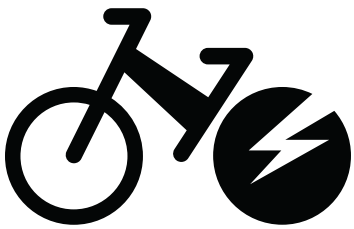
In Emerald Police Station,
Paul Maher is the acting Senior Sergeant; supported by 3 Sergeants and 18 Constables. The station is open to the public on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays and every day there are police working in pairs, out in vehicles being called to incidents and accidents anywhere in the region.
The Emerald Police Station has training facilities are regularly used by officers in the PSA, and Family Violence courses are also held there. There are holding cells where people can be held while evidence is collected. If the person is to remain in police custody, they are moved to a station with Category A cells that are designed and staffed for detentions of 3- 4 days duration. They work closely with their sister station at Pakenham.

Sergeant Maher - Paul joined members of the EVA committee at the Hub one evening during some of his precious 'down-time' to give us a picture of policing in this region. We established that Paul is 56 years old, with 17 years in the service and lives with his family in Lysterfield.

Active Cases – On the evening they had 51 live incidents; 33 of which were in the Emerald area which includes Upper Pakenham, Cockatoo and Avonsleigh).
Most common crimes reported are graffiti, theft from a vehicle, theft of a vehicle and family violence. There were 2 burglaries and 2 petrol drive-offs. Incredibly, of thefts associated with vehicles 65% were not locked. Unfortunately 60% of crime overall, is committed by youth, and the percentage is increasing.

Preventative & Proactive work – In Greater Dandenong, Casey and Cardinia there are many Outreach programs operating to try and catch disadvantaged kids at a time when they can be steered in a different direction, supported by professionals and mentors. Police play an active part in this in identifying them in the first instance
and referring them to programs. There is also the Blue Edge program where a group of 6 or 7 police spend an hour before school with kids just hanging out, listening to their issues in life and playing sport with them. They receive really positive feedback on this program. The police also visit during school hours, talking to classes bringing awareness of the possible outcomes that irresponsible behaviours can bring to themselves, their friends and family.
Last year two young teenagers were killed in Cranbourne and Pakenham in accidents while illegally driving motor vehicles. The police definition of a MV is anything >2,000 watts (2.68hp).

NB. An EVA member informed us E-bikes are available online in kit form with 11,500 watts which enables speeds of 100kph. (They should only have 500-750 watts).
Parents are enabling the purchases (cost is $9,000) and they must know it's illegal.



There is the "9 is Time" program aimed at reducing vehicle related crimes by encouraging everyone to start the habit of checking your vehicle is locked every night at 9pm. On the Vic Police website under 'Focus area: People' there is an abundance of information on how everyone can better protect themselves.



Paul Maher -- continued

The 13th Feb storm from a police perspective

Obviously the police have a process they follow at such times. When the storm hit, Paul happened to be in Emerald and on the phone to the Cardinia Police Emergency Support. That officer co-ordinates the emergency management response through SES, CFA, Ambulance and Vic Police. The station's generator kicked in when the power went off and communications continued. Of immediate concern was the protection of businesses in the main street such as the bank, jeweller and various automatic doors that default to the open position. Extra staff were immediately called up to guard those premises, do traffic control; they organised for the generator at the petrol station, and also for a mobile phone tower until it was diverted to Cowes (Phillip Island population 14,000+).

The police are also responsible for the Vulnerable Persons register, and immediately commenced contacting 120+ persons/premises. They didn't have enough police to carry out 24hr patrols and contact vulnerable persons immediately, even with the additional support called in, and the long hours they all worked. Nearly all police in the area also live here, and many were personally impacted as well. Despite this they all prioritised the community and came to work. No one died here; one person in Mirboo North did. Those personally impacted were supported by having use of the showers and generator in the building. It would be difficult to obtain approval to give the general public access to the building as an emergency hub due to what is held in the building (Police equipment, firearms, confiscated drugs, data).

Important takeaway – If you want to help reduce crime in our area, you have to report incidents or observations to police. Even seemingly minor or possibly irrelevant information is worthwhile because it helps build profiles and trends that can then be appropriately resourced. If the police don't know about something, how can they try to address it? Online reporting is easily done or you can phone the station.

Heather Bishop, EVA

Help build our community

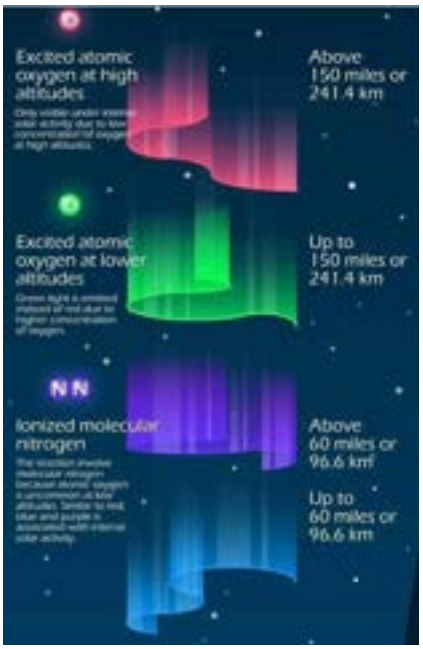
Emerald police and Cardinia council are hosting another 'Coffee with a cop' (free coffee) outside the IGA Emerald on 27th June from 3 to 5pm. Maybe you have an idea that could help reduce any crimes that you could share with police. They also intend to hold an Open Day later in the year when members of the public will be given the opportunity to go on a tour inside our station.

Emerald RSL

The next music gig at the RSL on June 28th features that popular muso Sammy Owen, returning by public demand.







Ceres Science



Night sky from Pepi's land D. Martin



Southern lights – Geomagnetic storm - Emerald

On advice from a planetary scientist, which was to use a camera on long exposure (around 5 seconds), my grandchildren, Struan and Cora, were taken down to Pepi's land Emerald at around 8:30pm Saturday May 11, 2024.

While they could see a pink line to the dark sky, they followed instruction and could hardly believe their eyes at resultant photographs.

Cora: 'Aurora Australis. When we got to Pepi's land I saw a hint of pink in the sky. When I saw the photographs I could not believe it. As I left Pepi's land, I could not stop thinking about it all because it was such an incredible experience.

Struan: 'As I first looked up into the pink tinted sky, I think "Wow. This is overrated!'" But as I step back into the car and look at the photos, I can't help but be amazed at the difference between what I saw and the pictures taken.'.

As it turned out, the near cloud-free sky, combined with a bit of knowledge about how best to use the camera, we were offered an amazing light show, a wonderful view of the aurora - southern lights right here at our very doorstep.

Wednesday May 15, ABC Science reporter Belinda Smith explained that the phone's camera is able to capture colourful auroras when our eyes might only see faint smudges, due to the two types of light-sensing cells in our eyes: cones and rods. The cone cells are colour-sensitive, but need plenty of light to work. At night, they don't function very well, that's when we rely on rod cells, which let us see in shades of grey. However, in a dark environment, digital cameras are able to collect light for longer, and can therefore create vibrant, multi-hued images.

D. Martin





Emerald Lake Park

Second in our series on the history of Emerald

Mention Emerald and most people know Emerald Lake and Park. It's been a much-loved icon of Emerald for over 80 years. This article explores the interesting connection between Emerald Lake, two well-known Australians - one a famous swimmer and the other a famous racing car driver and what was until recently Australia's largest retail tyre business.

Officially the lake is named Lake Treganowan, after William Treganowan, who with Bertie Sellars Stilwell had a vision for a lake and were founders along with others of the Emerald Country Club in the early 1920s. But where do the famous racing car driver and swimmer come in? Bertie Stilwell was the father of Bermar Sellars Stillwell, always known as 'Bib' Stillwell who won the Australian Drivers Championship four times 1962 – 1965. Bib Stilwell Motors became a Melbourne landmark.

In 1941 Emerald Lake Park was officially opened by Sir Frank Beaurepaire, who was at the time Lord Mayor of the City of Melbourne. Frank Beaurepaire was a champion swimmer in his youth having held fifteen world records and winning three silver and three bronze medals in three successive Olympic Games held either side of World War 1. It must have seemed fitting to invite a former swimming champion to open a lake which included a swimming pool.

Beaurepaire had fought in WWI. On returning to Melbourne, he co-founded the Beaurepaire Tyre Service, which ultimately became Australia largest retail tyre business, but closed early this year. Beaurepaire was very active in support of the Herald Learn-to-Swim campaign, which he helped to found in 1929 and which he served as president for twenty-four years. He fostered the installation of municipal swimming pools. While Beaurepaire was an ideal selection to officially open the Emerald Lake and swimming pool, the author suspects that he and B.S. Stillwell (Snr) knew each other, with Stillwell being on the Fern Tree Gully Shire Council at the time and with a history of being a manufacturer in Melbourne and well connected in business circles.



The Emerald Lake Park area was originally part of the famous Nobelius Gembrook Nurseries that was bought by Treganowan who was encouraged to develop the land as a public park. The Emerald Progress Association lobbied for the project and in a far-sighted move in 1938-39 the Shire of Fern Tree Gully compulsorily acquired land which included a small dam which had been used for flax treatment. Emerald Lake is an artificial lake formed at the junction of Wattle Creek to the south and a tributary beside the Wishing Well Track known as Stilwell Valley which is piped under the car park. The Park was developed with rubble stone picnic shelters and tree planting. The park was designed to serve as a public recreation area centred on the new lake, with a diving tower, springboard, central pontoon and a wading pool.

Subsequent developments saw Lakeside railway station opened in 1944. In 1985 Premier John Cain turned earth for the Gus Ryberg Amphitheatre, one of four developed between 1984 and 1986 by local artist Jenny Saulwick. The project also included the six mural walls in the Gus Ryberg arboretum. In 1989-1990 Lake Treganowan was drained and extended to the east with a new dam wall and a new pedestrian bridge constructed on the site of the original dam wall.

Some early scenes of the Lake and surrounds.

Trevor Budge

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Lions Clubs International FOUNDATION

Our Global Causes



Emerald Lions Club News

Saturday May 18, the Emerald Lions Club proudly added $1,000 to the funds of Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF).

The funds collected by Lions Clubs International Foundation, of over $300,000,000 is drawn upon to support many different global causes, as outlined in the graphic here. The fund is especially useful in times of disaster as a Lions Club can receive funds within a matter of hours.

If you are interested in coming along to a meeting to find out what the Emerald Lions club can offer you, our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month, 7:30 at the Emerald RSL.

Lions are a global family of volunteers.

Emerald Lions enjoy contributing to our community.

Ray Spencer

Connected Communities Update

Stan Henwood Award Winner Announced!

The Stan Henwood Award honours lifetime achievements in community service and volunteering. This year, it was awarded to Dot Griffin.

Congratualtions to all nominees: Jagtar Singh, Binita Maskey, Dr. Mary Cole, Rachelle Mechielsen and Margaret Gemmel.



Cardinia Community Leadership Program

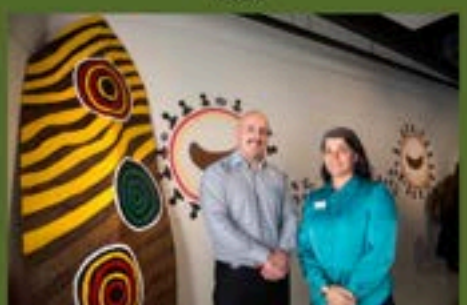
We have official launched our 2024 program. We have an amazing bunch of participants from across the shire who are ready to put their skills to the test and grow as leaders in our local community.



HILLS HUB

Reconciliation Week:

We were pleased to host some of this year's Reconciliation Week activities at the Hills Hub.



Pictured above Mayor, Cr Kowarzik with Yarra Ranges Shire Mayor, Cr Todorov at the Dacing Between Echoes exhibition

Storm Relief Assistance

Council staff will be stationed at the Hills Hub in Emerald until Tuesday 28 June to chat with residents affected by the February 13 storms.

Staff will be available Monday to Friday from 9:30am to 2pm to discuss recovery activities including cleanup, council services and support available for residents.

For storm recovery information, visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/stormrecovery

Cardinia HILLS HUB

Coming up at the Hub

Dancing Between the Echoes: Emmy Webbers

Friday 24 May - Wednesday 12 July
9:30am - 2:30pm weekdays
Hills Hub Art Space



Step into the vibrant tapestry of creativity with our First Nations art exhibition, a celebration of rich cultural heritage and contemporary expression. Anchored by a mesmerising display by artist Emmy Webbers, aka Wurruck Yambo, whose artwork serves as a visual symphony of tradition and innovation, the exhibition transcends individual narratives to weave a collective masterpiece.

EMERALD LADIES PROBUS CLUB



Emerald Ladies Probus Club members are looking forward to an active and enjoyable month starting with the Biggest Morning Tea for the Cancer Council and a visit to The Johnston Collection “Fit for a King” exhibition in East Melbourne.

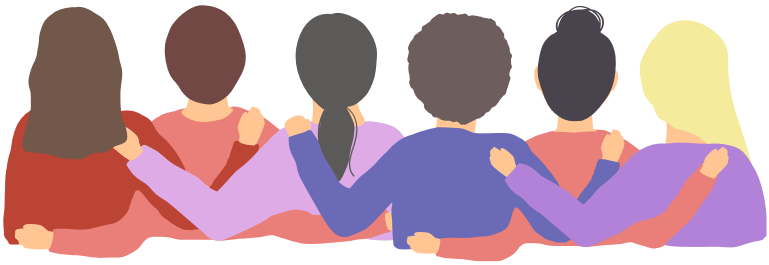
Our “Let’s Walk” group members will walk at their own pace around Wilson Botanic Park and then have lunch at a local hotel, and our regular monthly coffee morning will be at Cloudehill in Olinda.

We’ve also got a Board Games morning and our craft group will be making decoupage cards later in the month.
Other creative members continue to knit or crochet poppies for the RSL, and the writing group is completing their “Creating Memories” project ready for presentation. The month is rounded off with a tour of the RSPCA in Burwood.

As you can see there’s plenty keeping us busy and if you’re a retired or semi-retired lady wanting to socialise with like-minded ladies please join us. You’re invited to come along to our next monthly meeting on Monday June 17th.
We meet at the Emerald RSL at 10am where you’ll be assured a warm welcome and a cuppa. Our guest speaker at this meeting will be Dr Dean Brandum reminiscing about the rise and fall of Melbourne’s old picture palaces.

Enquiries: Michele Bowmaker on 0409 867 678.





Gather and Grow

Last year, in the special gardens at the back of the Emerald Primary School, something wonderful flourished.
A gathering of senior volunteers and primary school age children walked, talked, tilled, seeded and weeded the native gardens and vegetable beds.



They grew lettuce, tomatoes, brightly coloured spinach, potatoes and lemon myrtle. They cooked a marvellous Italian meal with freshly made pasta and garden grown herbs. They planted more native plants and fruit trees and watched and tended them as they grew, all the while developing their love of nature, their understanding of the seasons and their abilities to understand and communicate with each other, sharing wisdom.They celebrated all their wonderful work at the end of the year.

The best news is that this year the program is running again, under the wise tutelage of Ms Eden Byron-Thomsen (Grade Three Teacher) Teacher and Adam.
Gather and Grow runs every Thursday afternoon from 2.15pm until 3.30pm and a lot of enjoyment is promised. A Working with Children Check is necessary, but we can help you apply for or update one.

Interested? Want to find out more and join our friendly bunch?
Please contact Shelley Beardshaw, EVA ph 0427 465 972 or shelleybeardshaw@bigpond.com
or Emerald Primary School ph 03 5968 4311

Shelley Beardshaw - EVA

FERNLEA community care

A Day at Fernlea

Some of you might have noticed that Fernlea has been a little more in the news over the last few months. We've received a large amount of community support and have enjoyed making deeper connections with other community groups. Amongst the conversation I've had, I've been asked a few times what Fernlea really does. A few people have mentioned they know something about us doing some kind of aged care, while others saw us a kind of day care facility. I want to give you a snapshot into a day at Fernlea, what services we provide and what our purpose is.

Fernlea was ultimately set up as a palliative care centre with the intention of helping people navigate their way through the end of life process and offering people more autonomy over their end of life choices. As the aged care and palliative landscapes have changed, Fernlea has evolved. Our focus now is on helping people with life-limiting illnesses, including terminal illness, to connect with others, maintain independence as long as possible and enjoy life fully, all while providing a warm and friendly space with exceptional care. The other side of this coin is allowing carers to take some time to recharge and focus on themselves while knowing their loved one is in safe hands. Carers fatigue affects many people and we strive to lessen that burden. So here's how we go about a day with our guests….

Our nurse and carers turn up early to prepare for the day. The cook is often the first in the door because she spends her day planning and cooking to ensure a wholesome, nutritious meal is provided. We often have guests to pick up so our carers will do the rounds to collect anyone who needs transport. Once we have all of our guests in at 10am, we spend some time chatting and connecting for the morning over a delicious morning tea. The mornings and afternoons are spent doing activities tailored to our guests. These include tasks that help our guests stay independent for as long as possible. They are focused on things like maintaining memory, cognitive exercises, movement sessions and games to maintain connection. By 12:30 the house is full of the aroma of the delicious lunch that awaits and everyone is eager to get to the dining room. The menu changes daily and could be anything from a home cooked roast to a childhood favourite of one of our guests. It's always packed with nutrients and followed up with dessert. On many days we are lucky enough to listen to our very talented nurse, Pat, play his clarinet or keyboard while we dine. Afternoons can be a little slower sometimes as we allow ourselves to digest and savour lunch. If it's a nice day we might sit out in the sun or potter in the garden while reminiscing and learning about the lives of each other.

On a winter day you'll find us inside playing uno, travelling the world via VR or coming up with an activity that brings us together. Throughout the day our guests will be whisked off into the Reiki room to receive a session from one of our amazing volunteers, have a manicure and hand massage or spend some time in engaging conversation. At three o'clock our guests are picked up or driven home having spent their day amongst what has become a special family. Our nurses, carers and volunteers end their day by cleaning and tidying to do it all again the next day, always with a smile and a special feeling of knowing that they have made a difference in the lives of others. Fernlea is a special place where relationships develop and people feel safe, supported and seen beyond any illness they might be experiencing. We also offer in-home care, social support and a respite ready service for those who need support to get ready for the day.

If you would like to support this wonderful initiative, there are many ways you can be involved, from donating and shopping at our Shop of Opportunities, volunteering at one of our centres or volunteering at our shop. If you're a carer and would like to talk about how we can support you, please reach out. We're here to help. Fernlea is a not for profit organisation where our focus is primarily on how we can support those who need it most. The Shop of Opportunities is our main fundraiser and, under new management, has new initiatives in the pipeline. Check out our socials for what's new. We have new Facebook pages so if you're following us on Facebook, please click through to our new pages and give us a like so we can keep you in the loop.

Sarah Cole
CEO



Hills Photographic Society

DID YOU KNOW THERE'S A CAMERA CLUB IN TOWN?

In 2016 a group of like-minded locals got together to form the Hills Photographic Society, a camera club for the Dandenong Ranges.

Our purpose is to provide an opportunity for photography buffs of all experiences and skill levels to get together, share ideas, to learn from each other, and from visiting speakers, to go on field trips, to participate in club competitions and generally enjoy each other's company.

Membership, which is open to all ages and experience, currently stands at 33. Our youngest member is yet to become teenager. We have people from Upper Beaconsfield , Belgrave South, Tecoma and Upwey, from Cockatoo and Gembrook and even from here in Emerald.

The club meets twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays, at the Emerald Hills Hub at 7:30pm. If you would like to visit to see what we are up to, just turn up at a meeting. You'll be welcomed with open arms.

Check out our FB page (Friends of Hills Photographic Society) and visit the website – hillsphotographicsociety.org.au – for more.

No matter what your main interest in photography is, be it birds, street photography, landscapes, macro work, the night sky, whatever, you'll probably find an ally in the group .

So, come join us – you'll be so glad you did!

Paul Bianco
President







Photos supplied

Autumn scene- Alfred Nicholas Gardens. Paul Bianco

Bird image– New Holland Honeyeater. Michael Wharton

Forest scene – Dandenong Ranges Botanic Gardens. Pauline van de Pavoordt







Courtesy - Leunig

Emerald new Branch to open!

May 2024: Dandenong Ranges Community Finance Limited, which operates Bendigo Bank Community Bank Upwey, Belgrave and Cockatoo-Gembrook branches, has made the decision to move its Cockatoo branch to Emerald to fill the hole left by one of the big four who recently closed there.

Company Chair, Deb Weber advised “it is an opportunity that we couldn’t pass up and we are very excited. The transition to Emerald from Cockatoo will happen in a couple of months once the building (the old NAB site at 344 Belgrave-Gembrook Road) has been fitted out to our requirements. We anticipate that this will be in August/September. The Emerald Bendigo Bank Agency will continue to operate until that time. We are so grateful to the Emerald & District Co-Operative for their support in this process. They too wish to see better banking options for the people of the area. This move is a big commitment by our Company. We have been huge supporters of the Emerald district since our Cockatoo branch opened in 2005. During this time, we have contributed to many projects, including $250,000 towards the Hills Hub building, $50,000 towards the Emerald Football Netball Club building rebuild at Chandler Reserve and many other worthy projects. More than $750,000 has been given.”

“We hope that this new branch will help support the businesses and residents of the region. Part of the community bank model is to put money back into the community and this is only possible when the business comes in the door. We already have a great connection with community groups, businesses and residents, and we are hoping to build on that,” bank Chair Deb Weber said.

Emerald and District Co-Operative Chair, Ric Holland said “we are delighted that there will be a Bendigo Bank full-service branch in Emerald. We have been running the Agency since 2009 and we are so pleased that the people of the Emerald area and beyond will have this new facility right on their doorstep.”

Dandenong Ranges Community Finance Limited Company Chair Deb Weber advised, “as with all things in business, there are challenges and sometimes changes have to be made. We are taking the opportunity to update our business model and consolidate our Upwey and Belgrave operations. The two sites are only 2.4 km apart. The Belgrave branch will cease operations once the new branch is established in Emerald. This will enable us to relocate staff from both Cockatoo and Belgrave to either the new branch in Emerald or to our flagship branch in Upwey. ATM’s at Cockatoo and Belgrave will remain for the time being. We are certainly not walking away from the Belgrave area with our commitment to contributing to community groups in the area. We will still be providing support, both banking and through sponsorships. Hundreds of grants and sponsorships have benefitted groups in the Belgrave area also, and this will continue,” she said.



The site of the new
Bendigo Bank Community Bank Emerald & District.
Media enquiries: Melisa Hepworth 0400110385

MND

Pete said “When tapped on the shoulder to slide into the ice at the Paradise Hotel on June 2nd for MND for local bloke, Matt Stickland. I accepted the challenge immediately.”
...and “When I started the program for Matt Stickland, my mate, Garry McGough suggested we raffle the signed print of the 4 Daniher brothers. We have raised over $3000.
Drawn on the day.”



Pete Maloney with Glenn Hambledon at Bunnings with the Daniher print we were raffling



Louisa Lammers from Emerald Pharmacy aka as Elsa from “ Frozen”.



Matt Stickland and his children

The Probus ladies must have passed the hat around for Pete:

Pete must also be a good neighbour (of course!): “BIG thanks to amazing neighbour Mary Price. Her daughters Joy and Julie donated to the cause.”; and this one from Liz next door to RSL ”Good on you Peter. Love what you are doing for a great cause.”; “Dave and Mary Price - your neighbours down the road.”







He received many messages of witty encouragement: “Freeze a jolly good fellow”; “Cool effort”; “Go you good thing ”; “Pop up smiling Pete, knowing you and your brave colleagues have done a grand job, for such a worthy cause. Cheers. Yvonne & Philip ”; “Onya Pete you bloody legend. Hexty”; “The only time I like ice is in my drink... not me being in the ice...Good luck & keep up all the good work Peter.”; “You're doing a good thing, Pete. All the very best to you. Stay warm! LOL”





MND




…and advice: “Don’t forget to practice with cold showers.”; “Keep warm, Pete!”
…and thanks: “Good luck Peter. Thanks for all you do for the Emerald community.”
“Rock on Pete. It's a foul disease. Thank you.”
“Good on you Pete. I’m really impressed with your generous work in your community.”
…and maybe these sum it up: “You are an inspiration Peter”; “Go Pete. You are a hero”;
“You're a brave man Pete. But a very worthy cause. Great to see the support you're getting.” “You’re a legend Pete”; and “Wishing you a safe slide and good for you Peter. You’re such an inspiration to so many people.”



Many people donated to Pete by thrusting fistfuls of cash into his hands. Pete wanted to make sure all donors were acknowledged and thanked. Take this message on his page for example: **“Thanks to my friends at the Emerald RSL - Gary Williams, Betty A'Vard, Gre Wilder, Joe Mann, Ralph & Dee Nunez”**… and various others:
“Members of Emerald RSL –Terry and Judi Geddes, Alec and Kerri Greig. Plus Carl at the Emerald Newsagency and Barb at the Emerald Art class this morning. Thanks to you all for your donations”;

“Thanks to a few more of my early morning crew at the Newsagency - Shaun Moloney (Cellarbrations), Pete Forbes and Lance Gardiner. Much appreciated fellas.”

…or this one after he was stopped in the street and handed a cheque for $1,000: “Huge shout out to Graham and Sandra Bell and family for the donation in memory of their friend and neighbour John (Wally) Birch”.

Motor Neurone Disease (MND) brings with it an average life expectancy of just 27 months from diagnosis. Whilst still incurable, it’s not untreatable – many symptoms can be managed, and new treatments continue to be trialled.
A further 3 drugs are expected to be added to the trial in 2024/2025.
Pete’s motivation in this - Matt Stickland, has responded to his trial drug and continues to defy the odds 7 years on from his diagnosis.

We all wish you strength Matt.

U3A President's Reflections

We have settled very comfortably into our home at the Hub and continue to recover from the often subtle and deep disruptions of COVID and our U3A has continued to grow.

Our growth has not just been in the number of members. The number of courses and activities has increased thanks to the expertise and generosity of our volunteer tutors. We have also increased the variety of sessions, from long-term fortnightly courses, to short courses and one-off two-hour sessions.

While we seek to provide stimulation for our minds and activities for our bodies, we do not forget the profound importance of social connection. Our group of volunteers led by Pauline Leonard has provided some sumptuous morning teas, which increasingly tempt members to attend our growing number of get-togethers.
We have demonstrated our ability to deal with difficult issues in a spirit of respectful sharing of information. Our special sessions with Aunty Esme Bamblett just before the Referendum and the information session on Palestine presented by our member Prue Licht, we both informative and gave our members an opportunity to listen to the experiences and views of others.

There are many reasons why our U3A has prospered. The readiness of people to volunteer is
foundational. No one is paid a cent, and yet we flourish. Hold onto that thought.

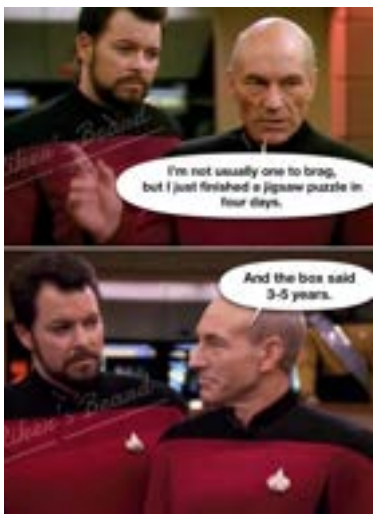
Leadership and direction are provided by your committee. My task is made a delight because of these people. I would also like to thank the Cardinia Council staff under the leadership of Nat Noonan and Hannah Milne for their cooperative relationship with Emerald U3A. They have always done their best to resolve any problems and act as our liaison with the Council.

Pat Buoncristiani

Puffing Billy Railway's Train of Lights!

If you miss out on tickets, seeing the train of lights roll by remains a great attraction.
Take the opportunity to snap a photo of the beautifully illuminated train!
Now in its third year, this much-loved event has become a cherished tradition, enchanting locals and visitors as it turns the Dandenong Ranges into a mesmerising light show.
The train departs at 6 pm daily from 28th June to 21st July. Passengers embark on a return 2.5-hour journey that travels from Lakeside Station to Gembrook.
As dusk falls and the chilly winter air sets in, the train will come to life with a dazzling display of moving lights, colour s, and immersive patterns, captivating not only passengers from the comfort of open-side carriages as the train winds its way along the historic narrow-gauge track, but also those along the way.
Also go to YouTube TRAIN OF LIGHTS





Emerald Cemetery

The Friends and Carers for the Emerald Section FACES) of the Emerald Cemetery in Macclesfield Road are seeking more volunteers from the community to assist in the maintenance of the cemetery.
Time: every Monday from 10am to 12 noon weather permitting. You don't have to commit every week - just when it suits.
BYO gloves and garden tools.

If interested ring Faye Robins- 0429 357 312



June Eastern Dandenong Ranges Business & Tourism News

Eastern Dandenong Ranges Association

Thank you to all businesses and our community for supporting the Hills MND Big Freeze.
Special thanks to Garry McGough, EDRA Committee Member, for his fantastic fundraising efforts.

Join EDRA

Promotion, training, networking, advocacy, visitor information for retail, hospitality, tourism, accommodation, professional, trade businesses, clubs, groups & services.

2024/25 Membership, New Visitor Map & Community Guide

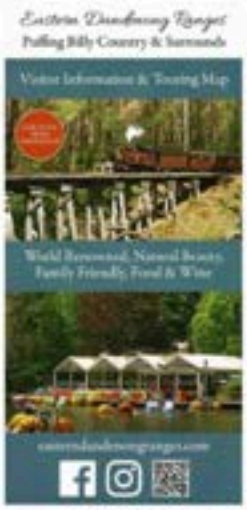
Memberships are from 1st July 2024 to 30th June, 2025. The Visitor Map & Community Guide will proceed in July 2024 providing we get the uptake required making both or either one viable to produce.



Membership & Full Web Page listing.

- List your events free 24/7
- List your special offers free 24/7
- Create multiple free listings
- Meet the Trader blogs
- Links to Visit Victoria & Yarra Ranges Tourism
- Visitor Information Service
- Promotions
- Social Media
- Networking
- Training
- Advocacy

$150 + gst



Visitor Info & Touring Map
65 Listing Spots

A1 (594 x 841 mm, folded to DL)
27mm deep x 90mm wide listing

- Image plus approx 40 word description
- Contact and location details
- Grid reference on the map it
- Facebook/Insta/etc icons
- Print 25,000 (300 to each advertiser) plus distribution
- 2 year lifespan
- Digital version on easterndandenongranges website

$225 + gst (member price) or
$300 + gst (non-member price)



Shopping & Community Guide

A3 folded down to A5
A guide promoting local shops, & community/clubs/sports facilities & annual community events.Includes a Retail street map

- 100 Guides to each advertiser plus distribution to Real Estate Agent
- Single line listings includes Business Name, address & contact number for each advertiser
- *12 image spots available at 65mm x 45mm. Cost $100 in addition to a line listing taken.

$100 + gst
*$100 + gst image spot

Expression of Interest

Business Name:
Contact:
Mobile:
Email:
Membership $150 + gst ☐
Visitor Map Listing $225 + gst (member price) ☐
Visitor Map Listing $300 + gst (non-member price) ☐
Community Guide $100 +gst ☐ (Member & non-member price)
Community Guide Additonal Image spot $100 plus gst ☐

Return your EOI by 15th June to ask@edra.org.au

Call Lynne on 0419 584 498 for any additional details and enquiries.

Emerald CFA proudly unveils the latest addition to the fleet - brand-new Field Command Vehicle (FCV)

This 2024 4WD Ford Ranger XL is set to enhance the brigade's capabilities and support their growing number of volunteers.
Captain Klaus Brodeck expressed his excitement for the new vehicle, highlighting its versatility in various roles such as incident control, storm relief work, strike teams and more.

Funded entirely by the brigade through years of fundraising efforts and a generous donation from a member of the public, the FCV is now ready for action.

With the ability to carry essential gear and equipment, the vehicle will not only support operational needs but also enable members to attend training courses, meetings, and planned burns across the state.

The community of Emerald and Avonsleigh will benefit greatly from the increased capabilities of the brigade, with opportunities to view the FCV at upcoming events or visit the station on Wednesday nights.
The brigade's dedication to serving the community is evident in their commitment to acquiring this new vehicle, ensuring they are well-equipped to respond to emergencies effectively.





Emerald SES Opening Hours for Recyclables

Tuesdays - 5pm - 8pm
Thursdays 11am - 4pm
Other times -
Rear Emerald RSL 24/7









ECHO YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
Celebrating 40 years

Talkin It Up
A Mental Health Wellbeing Forum for Youth
A project of the Rotary Clubs of Emerald & District, Monbulk and Belgrave

Thursday 25 July 2024
6.15pm for 6.30pm
St Mark's Church, Emerald
Registration Free
for further details go to
https://emeraldrotary.org.au/page/talkin-it-up/

SCAN ME

Emerald Centre for Hope and Outreach (ECHO) was founded in 1984 by members of St Mark's Church and began as a church youth group. Over the years ECHO expanded to include a range of programs for all ages and became an independent charity.
Now known as ECHO Youth and Family Services we focus on the Eastern Dandenong Ranges communities providing support to youth and families through a range of programs, including facilitated playgroups, school chaplaincy, after school program, food aid, no interest loans, and a youth leadership program. We are very grateful to the local community for their support and we look forward to continuing our work together in the coming years.

The John Dudley Portrait Prize is coming!

A Tribute to John Burs Dudley
1931 - 2018

John became involved with the Emerald Arts Society in the early 1990's and over the ensuing years served as President, Committee Member and lifelong supporter of the Society.

John instigated the proposal for a print room, applied for grants,

organised exhibitions at the Library and Emerald Lake Park and was a staunch supporter of the Portraits of Emerald initiative.

He was highly engaged with both his local community and the artistic community, making notable contributions in both spheres. He received life memberships in two art societies, including the Emerald Arts Society and completed a long membership with the prestigious 20 Melbourne Painters Society.

John distinguished himself as an eminent artist in his own right. His art evolved throughout his later life and he showed great skill, energy and creative flare. He was eager to share his skills and nurture artists through his many classes and workshops.

With his passing the Dudley family together with the Emerald Arts Society were keen to commemorate his contributions to art and so began the discussions and planning for a new and exciting exhibition. .

The Portraits of Emerald was a highly successful annual event that was initially formulated by past President Mike Maddox.

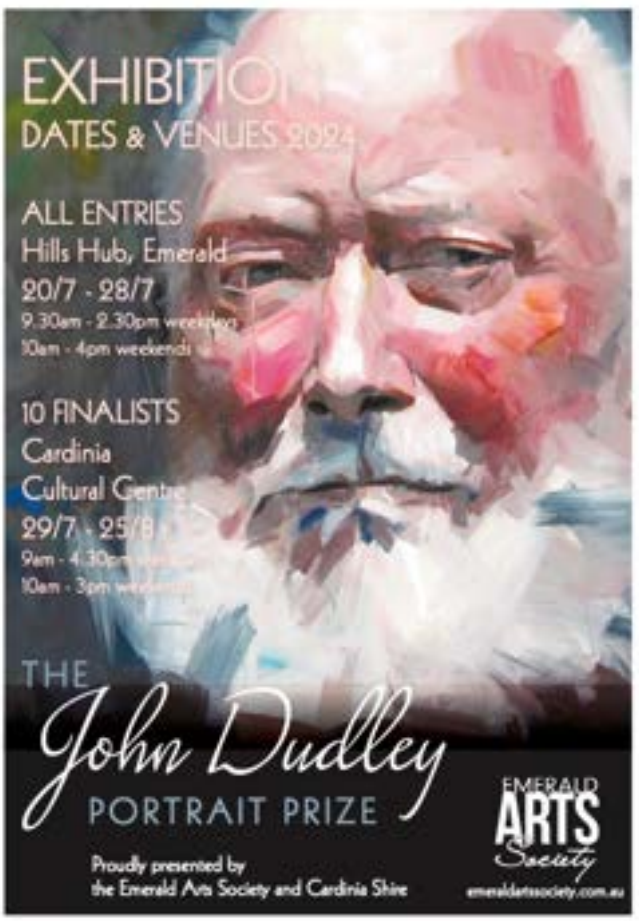
John's wife, June Dudley (Barnett) and members of the arts society built on those foundations and the John Dudley Portrait Prize was born, our first exhibition being held in 2019.

The Dudley family continue to support this exhibition and have contributed $1000 as First Prize and extending it to $2000 in 2024.

The Emerald Arts Society will always be grateful to them for their continued support over many years.

Wendy Lindrea- EAS





Emerald Village Association
- Member of CNAV

CNAV

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION of VICTORIA

the voice of the community

MEMBER 2024



Subtraction Puzzle

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	■
■	7		8	■	9		10
11	■	12		13	■	14	
15	16	■	17		18	■	
19		20	■	21		22	■
■	23		24	■	25		
27	■	28		29	■	30	
31		■	32			■	

Across:

1. 642 – 321
4. 356 - 232
7. 754 – 112
9. 858 – 321
12. 498 – 342
14. 85 – 20
15. 89 – 31
17. 598 – 114
19. 879 – 232
21. 983 – 131
23. 537 – 136
25. 333 – 102
28. 786 – 522
30. 87 – 41
31. 89 – 46
32. 169 – 63

Down:

2. 49 -23
3. 273 - 132
5. 75 – 50
6. 677 – 241
8. 369 - 115
10. 889 - 135
11. 696 - 240
13. 999 - 311
16. 987 - 143
18. 787 - 335
20. 814 - 112
22. 687 - 453
24. 768 - 607
26. 287 - 123
27. 57 - 33
29. 90 – 50

Solutions on back page

FRIENDS OF EMERALD LAKE PARK

Members of Friends of Emerald Lake Park have been volunteering for twenty-three years in Emerald Lake Park. Members have been involved in weed eradication, re-vegetation, gardening, leaf raking and advocacy, to name a few activities. We work in conjunction with Shire of Cardinia staff in all aspects of our work.

Members recently attended the Mayor's Volunteer Dinner and an outing to Herring Island provided by Melbourne Water during Volunteer Week.

Last year an application for a grant for $20,000 from Landcare Victoria was successful and works have been underway removing large Sycamore-Maple and other weedy trees from the Western Forest. Re-vegetation with locally sourced indigenous plants will occur in June and September.

Working Bees for June will be Saturday 1st, Sunday 9th and Thursday 20th. Plenty of leaves to rake. If you have two hours to spare, come along and join us between 9 and 11am.
Meet in Lakeside car park.

Thank you to all those who have donated cans and bottles to us, much appreciated.

Sheila Hampson President

Puffing Billy Toy Library

Toy Library membership giveaway!

The draw closes on Wednesday 31 July.

Community members have the chance to win a FREE 3-month membership to either Pakenham & District Toy Library or Puffing Billy Toy Library.
Cardinia Shire's Toy Libraries allow parents to borrow educational toys, games, and puzzles for their children aged 0-12 years.
Cardinia Shire Mayor, Councillor Jack Kowarzik is excited for two families to be able to trial the Toy Libraries for free with this giveaway. "Toy libraries are a great way for families to provide their children with a variety of toys at a much smaller cost." An estimated nearly 27 million toys are thrown out every year in Australia. Toy libraries help reduce our waste by keeping toys in circulation and reducing the need to buy more".
To go into the draw to win a FREE 3-month membership to either Pakenham & District Toy Library or Puffing Billy Toy Library go to www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/wasteworkshops
The draw closes on Wednesday 31 July.
This giveaway is supported by Cardinia Shire Council and delivered in partnership with Pakenham & District Toy Library and Puffing Billy Toy Library.

Bendigo Bank



Share your Artwork

Community Bank Upwey, Belgrave and Cockatoo are producing a free calendar for their customers and shareholders and invite you* to submit photos of your artwork for consideration. Photos of the selected pieces will be showcased on our 2025 calendar.

With a focus on VISUAL ARTS this year, your piece can encompass a wide range of mediums, styles, and forms. It includes visual arts such as paintings, drawings, sculptures, photography, prints, and digital art etc. Please note that we will only require a photograph of your piece (unless it is photography, in which case we will require a copy), and the original piece will remain your property.

We require thirteen artworks to be photographed for our 2025 calendar and if your piece is chosen you will receive $100 for the image.

Please email calendar@drcbg.com.au for a submission form and return this form with landscape photo of your artwork. We would appreciate high-definition images but if your piece is chosen, we may get it re-photographed professionally.

Submissions must be in by 31st August 2024. We look forward to showcasing work from our talented community members in our next calendar.

*Open to all who live, work or attends school in the Dandenong Ranges

Suzan Prass





EVA Resilience Working Group

Beginnings

This sub-committee of the EVA (the group) arose out of the 13th February storm and community meeting' on 6th March. Initially fifteen people indicated interest in participating including two from Council's Emergency Management team. Our priority is "Plan A;" that is, having power & communications always functioning. "Plan B" - has not been the focus but we support organisations like Repower the Dandenongs provide a backup plan.

What has been achieved:

- From the Emerald & Surrounds Demographic Report we note that some 5% of our community do not have motor vehicles', and a Hills Preparedness checklist personal plan etc.
- That the Police have some 140 persons on their vulnerable people list.
- Obtained information from technical people working in relevant power and communications industries.
- Commenced gathering information of the costs of undergrounding power, installation of microgrids and individual business/domestic backup proposals.
- Awareness of the consequential impact of power outages on water supply, sewerage/septic tanks. And natural environment.
- A need for a Hills specific Information Pack for new residents.
- Presented our own findings in a Narrative, Executive Summary and Action Plan to the Network Outage Review panel, and our local, State and Federal Representatives (Jeff Springfield, Daniella De Martino, Harriet Shing, and Jason Wood).
- Our documents were presented to AUSNET/DEECA on 4th & 5th May".
- **The independent Network Outage Review** into the system response to the February storms, is scheduled to release its Interim Report in June with the Final Report to be completed in August. *https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/safety/network-outage-review*
- The Resilience Group continues to meet to further gather relevant material to inform DEECA & the Review Panel.
- Through our membership and social media, encouraged attendance at community feedback sessions with DEECA, AUSNET and State Government Committee Representatives involved with the Network Outage Review
- EVA supports the Repower the Dandenongs for its work on informing the community on the private installation of solar panels and batteries.

The Groups efforts are designed to lend support to the Council's advocacy with DEECA to deliver:
1. A Local Response Plan that includes a backup power to all communication sites.
2. A Priority List for Restoration following power outages, including provision of temporary generators
3. Establish more energy hubs; and critical micro-griding around town centres.
4. Effective power strategies for Plug & Play devices.

The EVA Group will continue to advocate strongly for Council to accelerate the remaining storm cleanup.
We are advocating also for a broader liaison between with the Hills Townships and partnerships with the Yarra Ranges and Cardinia Councils.

Claude Cullino

Inquiry into Local Government funding and service delivery

On 3 May 2023, the Victorian Legislative Council (the upper house) passed a motion that the Economy & Infrastructure Committee inquire into, consider and report by 28 November 2024, on local government funding and service delivery in Victoria including but not limited to:
1. the effects of cost shifting from the state and federal governments to local councils in an examination of vertical and horizontal fiscal imbalances;
2. whether local councils are adequately delivering on their core service delivery objectives;
3. the overall revenue structure of local government;
4. whether the existing revenue structure is sustainable and appropriate or if alternative models of funding would be more sustainable and appropriate; and
5. any other related matters.

The EVA will be making a submission to the Committee. If you would like to contribute to ours or submit your own, note that submissions are only being accepted from the public until 28 June 2024. Find out more at - www.parliament.vic.gov.au/localgovernmentfunding

Trevor Budge

The EVA's Resilience Working Group has acquired a clearer understanding of Cardinia Shire's clean-up following the February storm and the delays in completing the work.

Last time (June 2021 storm), the State Government gave the Cardinia Council funding to enable it to carry out the recovery program and debris clean-up. This time (Feb 2024), ERV (Emergency Recovery Victoria) has taken the lead, with the Cardinia Council providing a list of locations/streets that needed clean-up works. As at early May we understand that about 50% of the clean-up was done, with responsibility to complete the balance to be passed onto Council.

Council has advised that about 10 crews should have been allocated for the clean-up after this latest storm event. However, the program was under resourced, and Council has been having high level discussions to take the lead on the program.
Council staff indicated that it may take another 3 months unless some significant and serious funding is provided for the program. We understand that the Council is also concerned that the free tipping of debris at the Waste Disposal Centre will cease, and a cost imposition will be imposed if the clean-up program extends into the new financial year.

The EVA is advocating through Council and our local MP Daniela De Martino for the work to be completed as soon as possible. We would hope that both Council and the State Government will find the necessary resources to complete the works before June 30th this year.
Associated with the resilience and backup plans for when there are power outages are the provision of 'energy hubs' and micro-grids. Council Officers have been able to provide **approximate costs for creating energy hubs.** This is very useful as it will enable community members to advocate more effectively and with better understanding of the financial pressures that 'plan B' will cost. As an example, one self-sufficient site can cost up to $350K depending on the complexity. A town centre such as Emerald would probably require up to 10 Micro-grids which will cost $10-15M. These costs need to be balanced against the cost of undergrounding cables and there needs to be robust consultation with the community to ensure that the best outcome for the community can be achieved.

Claude Cullino
Hills Power & Communications Resilience
Emerald Village Association Inc.



Claude Cullino - EVA Committee

Emerald Secondary College

Peer Mentoring

Last week, senior students who had volunteered to take part in the peer mentoring program this year attended a training session to improve their skills prior to the program's launch. The launch took place this week on Monday, and it was a success. Senior students were paired with junior students, and they interacted and engaged in fun activities with one another. The Peer Mentoring program is a beneficial initiative that asks senior students to serve as role models for junior students, allowing the transition from primary school to be smoother. This creates the opportunity for Year 7's to be able to recognise a familiar face in the yard and improves the general connection between the seniors and the juniors. Those involved in the program will meet fortnightly at least, giving them the opportunity to use their creativity in activities or engage in one-on-one conversations. This will increase junior students' sense of involvement and give them the chance to approach their mentor whenever they need. We are excited to see the impacts that this year's mentors will have on their mentees and may expand the program for next year's cohort.

Charlotte Scott – Peer Mentor Leader and College Captain, Emerald Secondary College







EMERALD SECONDARY COLLEGE

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www.emeraldsc.vic.edu.au

Access to Excellence

Emerald Village Association, May Committee Meeting

A lot going on... So many issues raised their heads at our last Committee meeting on Wednesday, the 29th of June. The presence of members (Mitchell and Keilah) of the Emerald Secondary College Year 12 Student Leadership team is very heartening in bringing a different perspective to our discussions. We would benefit from having some young families input too. Are you interested in coming along to our next meeting on Wednesday, the 26th of June, 7.30pm in the Hills Hub? Or would “Zooming” our meetings help? Let us know... We talked through the outcomes of our Storm meetings; ways we could improve Community Wellbeing; planning and maintenance issues around town and issues with the use of the Hills Hub. Here is a summary of them... Emergency procedures at the Hills Hub are a continuing concern. We know that there are no smoke alarms prescribed by legislation for this building, but we worry that the emergency procedures as used currently will not seem to help people of all ages with varying mobility who are upstairs and dependent on the lift in a fire situation. We will write to the Fire Brigade and ask for clear directions. The Resilience Working Group, led by the EVA’s Claude Cullino brought together after the February 13th storms and Community Meetings, has put together a ten- point action plan towards having “power and communications functioning at all times”. We are working with the Cardinia Council’s Emergency Management Team and liaising with the local state member, Daniela De Martino. Further information is elsewhere in this Newsletter regarding this, as well as information from Sgt Paul Maher who spoke at our Planning meeting regarding the Emerald Police Station and its work. A continuing issue that we see is the need for Community members to have readily available information on how to prepare for weather events, emergencies and fires; how to make our own households to be self- sufficient for as long as needed during these times and the knowledge of which organisations to reach out to for help when needed.

We also heard of concerns about footpaths in the town being restricted by signs and obstacles, learning that the Cardinia Council needs them to be kerbside of a pavement, not next to buildings, so as to allow people with mobility and sight issues adequate access to shops and services in the town. Street lighting and parking were also mentioned. The crosswalk in Kilvington Drive, Central Emerald, is currently being upgraded with new lighting. Be prepared for some disruptions. More information seeking ahead, on many topics, for many of us in the Emerald Village Association!

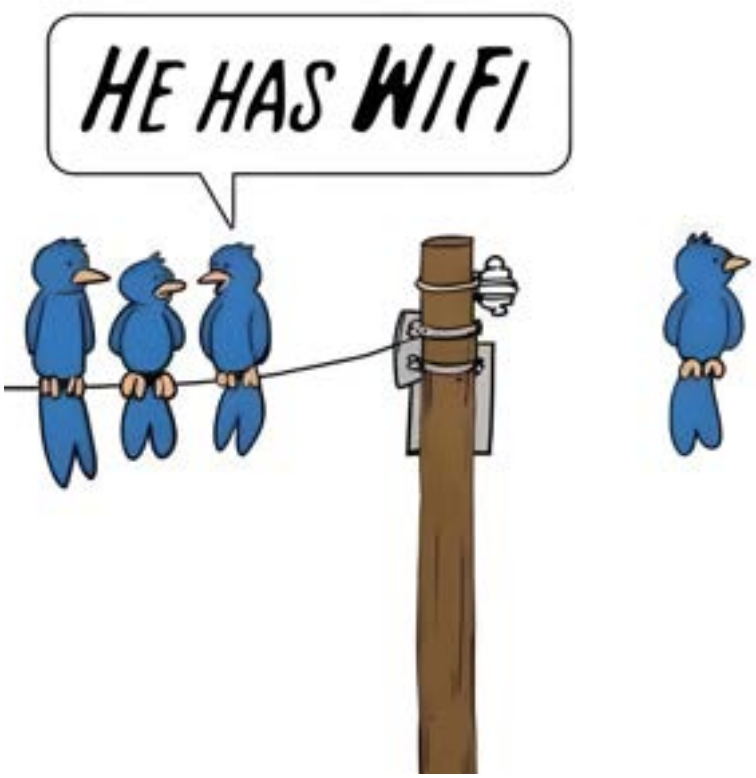
Shelley Beardshaw

Reconciliation Week

a Smoking Ceremony at Worrell Reserve...

As everyone knows, us 'oldies' never learnt anything about indigenous history at school. So, it is wonderful to hear that young people today are now being taught the history we weren't. At the Welcome to Country I attended on Tuesday 28th May, local schools (and a kinder) had lots to say. And they said it with compassion, wisdom and knowledge. It was inspiring. I was beyond impressed.

Chris Lemm, Local resident



Energy Resilience Community Fund Applications

If you receive an energy concession, you can apply for a $300 AusNet hardship grant by 30 June.

If you had no power for more than 72 hours during the severe weather from 13 February to 22 February 2024, you might be eligible

for a financial hardship grant. Small business may also be eligible for compensation up to $5000.

Visit the **AusNet website** for more info.

Learn more



Council Emergency Management and Recovery staff at the Hills Hub, Emerald

They are available to talk to storm affected community members about recovery activities including cleanup, council services and external supports available for residents. As the cleanup continues more complex, individualised needs emerge and they seek to more deeply understand people's particular needs. People's issues may be logged with Council, directly linked to other assistance and/or provided with warm referrals to support outside of Council. They have already made referrals to Windermere and Disaster Legal Help Victoria. The Windermere Recovery Support program is funded by Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) so can provide free support for people who were affected by the June 2021 or February 2024 Victorian storms, floods or bushfires. Eligibility criteria is set out on their website or you can reach out directly to Windermere to understand what supports are available by calling 1800 560 760 - each case will be considered on its merits. Residents unable to attend the Hills Hub Emerald in person, can talk to Council staff on 1300 787 624 or email recovery@cardinia.vic.gov.au Authorised by Mark Carter, Coordinator Community Safety and Inclusion

Your Council Emergency Management and Recovery staff are currently working from the Hills Hub, Emerald until Tuesday 28 June, Monday to Friday 9am – 2pm.

Advertising in the EVA Newsletter

From July businesses and residents of Emerald and district will be able to place ad hoc advertisements in our monthly Newsletter.

Rates and rules will be published in the July edition of the Emerald Village Newsletter.



REPOWER THE DANDENONGS

At a recent Community Forum on **Solar Power & Batteries for the home**, Ron Sawyer demonstrated how it was able to taking control of his own energy resilience, as well as control when he sold power to the grid, to take advantage of peak and off-peak rates. He did this by taking us through his own solar journey. Ron is a retired Project Manager/Systems Engineer who lived in Upper Beaconsfield 1992-2007 and Macclesfield since 2007. He's the President of Macclesfield Landcare Group and Treasurer of Macclesfield Rural Fire Brigade.

Ron's Power Journey

•2011 purchased rooftop solar at random
•January 2012 system commissioned
•March 2012 meter upgraded to count feed-in electricity
•2013 Contacted supplier to buy more panels –no longer in business
•Most years–3or4 poweroutages longer than 7hours some several days
•Replaced all lights with LED under VEUP
•Replaced hot water system with heat pump system
•June 2021 power outage 9 days –decided to get battery
•29 June 2021 ordered more panels and battery
•October 2021 – system installed
•March 2023 –withdrew $900 from electricity account



Terminology

1 volt times one amp = 1 watt
1,000 watts = 1 kw
1kw for 1 hour = 1kwh

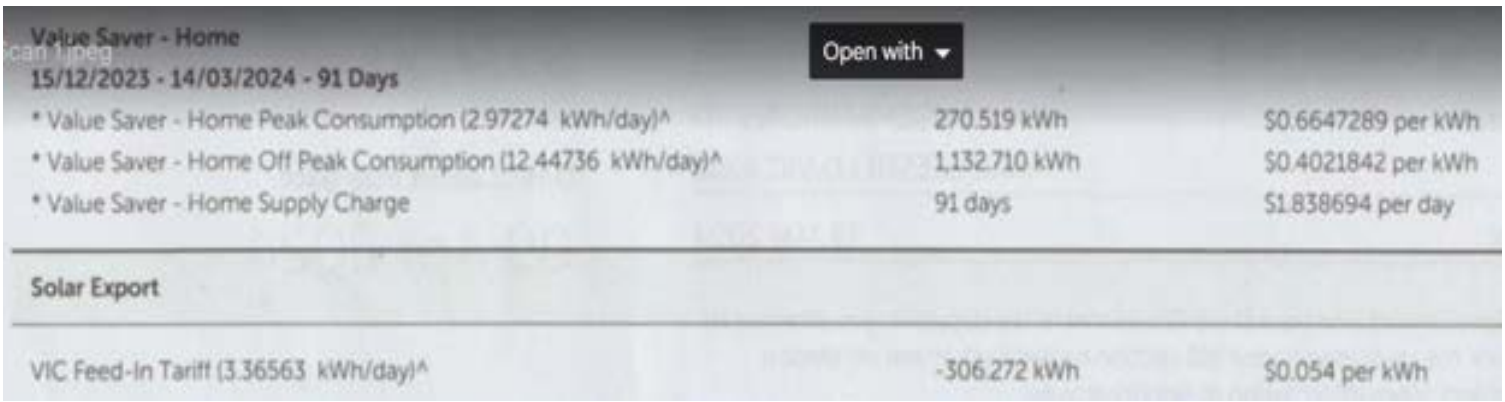
Time of use tariff

Peak - 7am to 11pm weekdays
Off peak (Cheaper) - all other times
NB: Some companies use different times
VPP – Virtual Power Plant
Feed in Tariff – price to sell energy back to the grid
Victorian Default Offer
State Govt Benchmark - Maximum you should be paying Peak –49.32; Off peak 28.69; Supply $1.32 per day

Understanding your electricity bill



Am I paying Too Much?

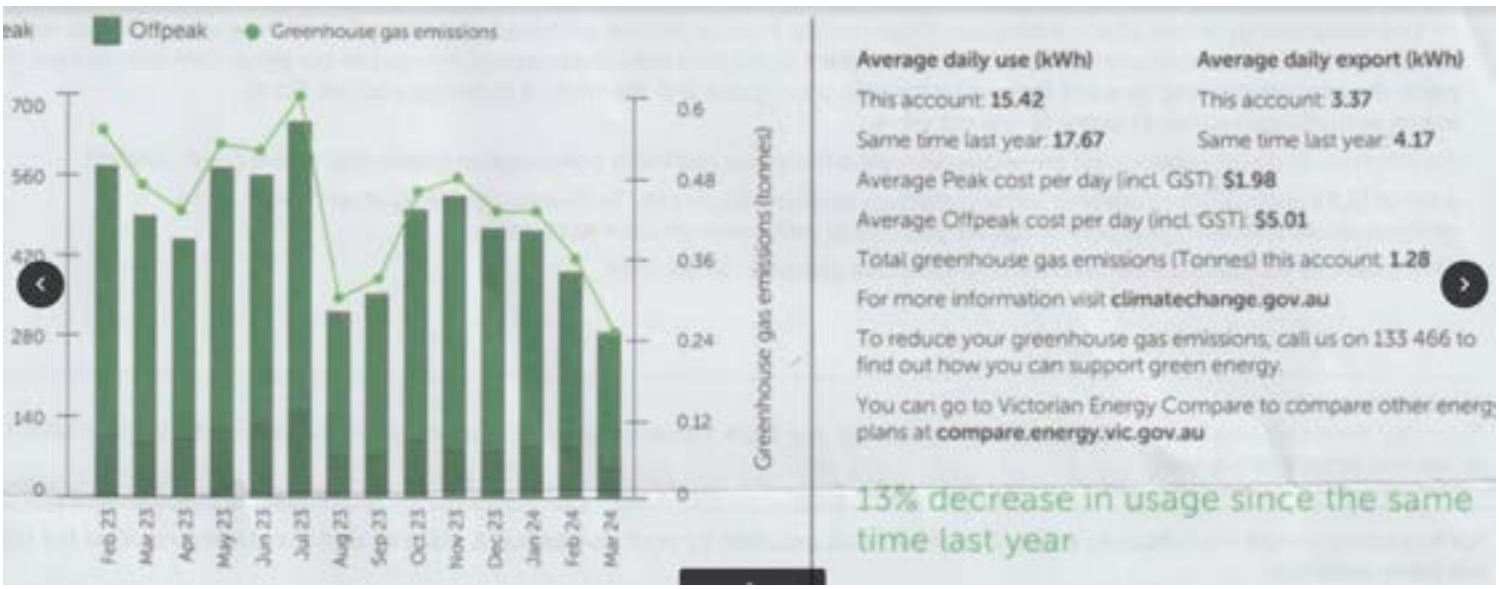


Value Saver - Home
15/12/2023 - 14/03/2024 - 91 Days

Open with

* Value Saver - Home Peak Consumption (2.97274 kWh/day)^	270.519 kWh	$0.6647289 per kWh
* Value Saver - Home Off Peak Consumption (12.44736 kWh/day)^	1,132.710 kWh	$0.4021842 per kWh
* Value Saver - Home Supply Charge	91 days	$1.838694 per day
Solar Export		
VIC Feed-In Tariff (3.36563 kWh/day)^	-306.272 kWh	$0.054 per kWh

Understanding usage



Our Priorities in investing in Solar and Battery

1. Energy resilience
2. Environmental benefit -Reduce greenhouse footprint
3. Save money in the long term
4. Increase property value
5. Automatic cut over
6. Low/no noise
7. Low upfront cost

Battery Functions

VPP- Contribute to stability of the grid

Timeshifting

- Use home grown energy later reducing use of bought energy
- lower environmental footprint and ower energy bill

Backup Reserve - Keep things running when the grid is down

How much is enough?

- Battery capacity > 1 day average consumption
  (For Ron -11kwh ave consumtion,13.5 kwh battery
- Solar panels to easily fill battery & power house in June
- For Ron's house June 2023: 455kwh production 30days
  = 15kwh/day with 9kw panels
- Don't throw away good working solar panels
  (13 year old panels are still producing 90% of when new
- Battery in/out capability able to drive critical appliances
- Wait for kettle to boil before putting toaster on

...to be continued next month

If you can't wait that long, contact Repower the Dandenongs to discuss your own home scenario

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Are you over 65 years old and looking at getting a Shingles vaccination?

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*Roy Morgan Single Source (Australia), May 2023. All loans are subject to the bank's normal lending criteria. Fees, charges, terms and conditions apply. Please consider your situation and read the Terms and Conditions, available online at www.bendigobank.com.au or upon request from any Bendigo Bank branch, before making a decision. Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178 AFSL 237879 (1676698-1734981) (05/22) OUT_30781425, 08/08/2023

Cardinia Shire Council

E-Waste

Notice for Residents

Batteries and e-waste cannot go in your kerbside rubbish bins.
E-waste is any item with a battery, cord or plug at the end of its useful life. This includes household batteries, battery-operated toys, devices, and appliances.
You can correctly dispose of your e-waste for free by:
• booking a hard waste collection
• taking small household items such as batteries, laptops and mobile phones to any Council drop-off locations, major supermarkets or Officeworks*
• dropping items off at a local transfer station.
These small acts make a big impact!
For more information, visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/ewaste
*Please note Officeworks no longer accepts batteries.

Solution

3	2	1	■	1	2	4	■
■	6	4	2	■	5	3	7
4	■	1	5	6	■	6	5
5	8	■	4	8	4	■	4
6	4	7	■	8	5	2	■
■	4	0	1	■	2	3	1
2	■	2	6	4	■	4	6
4	3	■	1	0	6	■	4

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www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/burningoff

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Cardinia Shire Council
Report any issue to the Council relating to the services they provide that requires their attention. Email: mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au
The EVA acknowledges the financial support of the Cardinia Shire Council in making the publication of this Newsletter possible.

READ THIS NEWSLETTER ON THE EMERALD VILLAGE NEWS WEBSITE-
helps reduce our print costs

FEEDBACK
Dick Bartley - dickbartley08@gmail.com
Peter Maloney - evanews3782@gmail.com (Editor)

Supported by Cardinia Shire Council

We respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation, who are the Traditional Owners of the land on which the Emerald Village Association Inc. operates in Emerald, Eastern Dandenong Ranges. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.