EMERALD NEWS

Edition #61- emeraldvillagenews.com.au - Reg. #A01047531
Hills Hub - 400A Belgrave-Gembrook Road, Emerald Vic. 3782
AUGUST 2025

EMERALD VILLAGE ASSOCIATION INC. AND COMMUNITY GROUP NEWS



'Eyes on the Prize'

Pauline van de Pavoordt won a Commended award at Hills Photographic Society with the above photo. To get the shot she set up a tripod in her carport pointing at the hollow, then every time one flew in and out, she pressed a remote shutter and took a burst of shots. Pauline loves this photo because she looks as though she's smiling. She's small with no visible blue on the wings, so thinks she's female.

A REVIEW OF THE JOHN DUDLEY PORTRAIT PRIZE 2025

This year's exhibition continued the tradition with an outstanding display of artwork. Our judge this year was Antoinette Blyth who had the unenviable task of choosing the top 10 artworks within such a wide range of styles and mediums. We are grateful to Antoinette for her informed and in depth analysis on the judging methods required when assessing the merits of each artwork.

We would like to extend our thanks to Cardinia Shire for continuing to sponsor this event and to the Dudley family for their continued support, and for providing the $2000 prize money. We are very grateful that our Ranges Ward Councillor David Nickell agreed to open the Exhibition and it was a pleasure to see so many artists attending the opening together with family and friends.

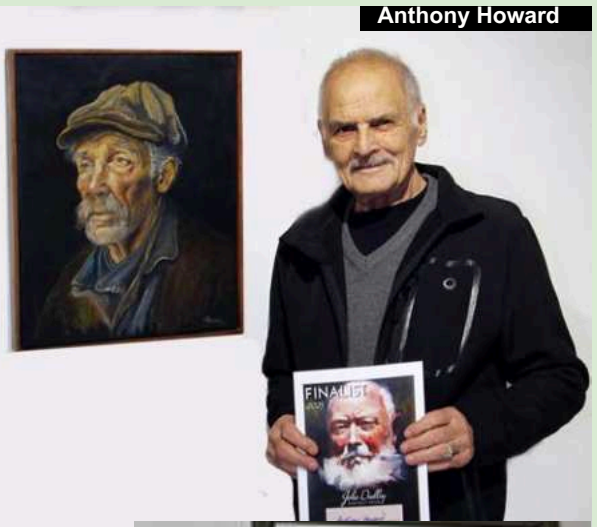


Brigitte Dawson (winner) & Antoinette Blythe (judge)

Photos on opening night Friday the 18th July at the Hills Hub, Emerald


1. Merryn Emms is Peoples Choice winner
2. Title : The Musician
Her sitter is Garry Simmons


Ranges Ward Cr David Nickell Opening the Exhibition



Anthony Howard





Wendy Lindrea



Lois Bannister

Emerald Village Association - A Message from the President

Peter Maloney



Welcome to the August edition of Emerald News. The EVA newsletter continues to grow and prosper. This month's editor, Heather Bishop, has compiled a brilliant newsy "magazine" following on what her co-editor, Dona Martin, produced last month - that focused on safety hints in your home.

Many things happen in a month in our happy, cozy little town of Emerald, but we must not take that for granted.

EVA focusses on being the Voice of Emerald, but to do that we need to give you a "Voice" to inform us of things that are important to you.

Next month the AGM of the EVA will be held. See poster page 18. This is an opportunity for you to come and see how we operate. There is a vacancy on our committee. If this piques your interest, make contact with me please. We also have on the horizon the annual Emerald Citizen of the Year Awards.

If you know of someone who deserves to be recognised for their community contribution - simply nominate. See the poster in this edition. During the past few weeks we have wit-nessed intrusions into our peaceful, one could say, "innocent" township, where local businesses have suffered damage that shouldn't happen. It wasn't just Emerald but other neighbouring townships as well. Talking from personal experience, this outcome is a disturbing and scary experience. It causes trauma and fear. And that is not healthy.

It is one reason we, the EVA, has initiated the start of Neighbourhood Watch in our Eastern Ranges. It is time we watched out for our neighbour.

Simple things like noting unusual events, people or vehicles that are not a usual part of your landscape. Don't hesitate - report the incident to the Police or Crimestoppers.

There are many hints in this edition of Emerald News. And this will continue into the future.

EVA is now upgrading its presence in the digital world. Soon we will have a brand new website and social media presence. Thanks to Online Lifestyle for joining our ranks and managing this change.

We also welcome Lisa Bloore and Julia Litera to our committee and thank Non Blair, Claude Cullino & Denis Alexander Hale for their contributions to the EVA Committee over the years. One position remains to be filled at our AGM. Think about it.

The EVA promotes its connection and interaction with the Cardinia Shire Council. We make every effort to keep the lines of communication open. Our committee members attend meetings with Council operatives continually and encourage discussion on all those issues that matter - rates, roads and rubbish plus much, much more, including planning strategies for the future.



Till next month....

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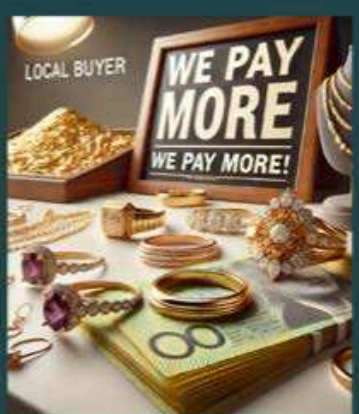
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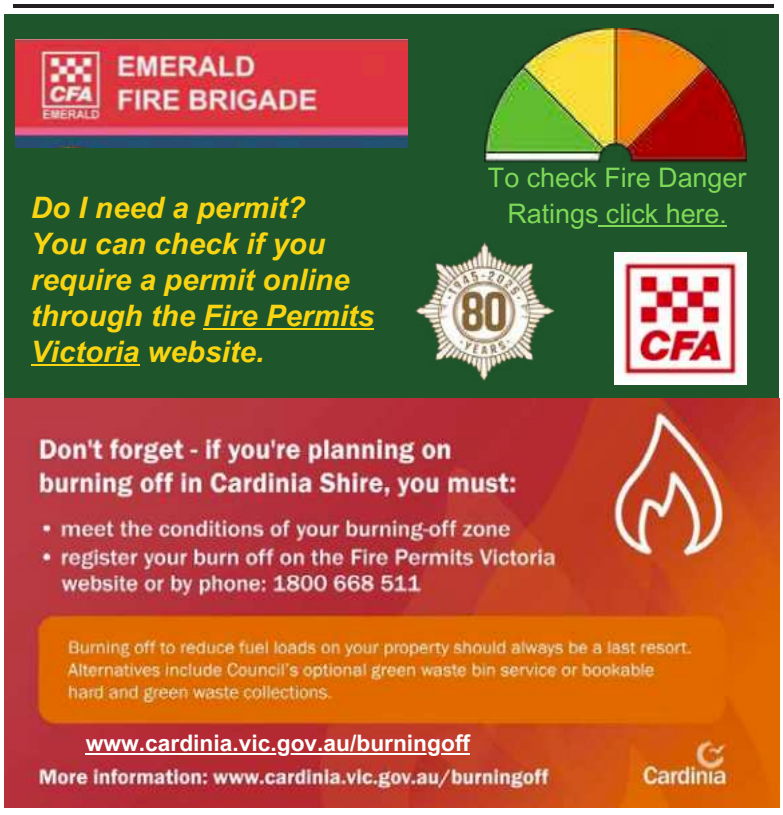
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MEMBER 2025

Emerald News is a member publication of Community Newspaper Association of Victoria (CNAV). CANAV is the peak body for commun-ity, not-for-profit newspapers in Victoria.



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.

Input / Feedback / Contribute
Please, if you have any ideas for us or would like to contribute or support us please make contact.

EVA Sponsors
We thank you to all our valued financial supporters.
As a not-for-profit newsletter we rely on such sponsorship.
Emerald News now provides opportunity for local residents and businesses to participate in ad hoc advertising. If you want to sell or promote something please refer to page 2 of this newsletter for prices of the various sizes of advertisements.

CARDINIA SHIRE COUNCIL
Report any issue to the Council relating to the services they provide that requires their attention. E: mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au

EVA acknowledges the financial support of the Cardinia Shire Council in making the publication of this Newsletter possible.

Colour version Emerald News

If you think black and white edition of Emerald News is looking a bit shady, go online and read the full colour version. If you prefer a hard copy of Emerald News visit:

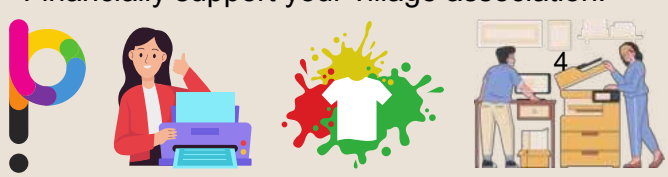
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- Woolworths

Thank you

Thanks Paul Bianco and the Hills Photographic Society for photographs of committee members throughout Emerald News

PRINTING ENQUIRIES

EVA is now in a position to offer printing services to local organisations who may wish to print a booklet like this Newsletter.
Email Peter Maloney for a quote.
Financially support your village association.



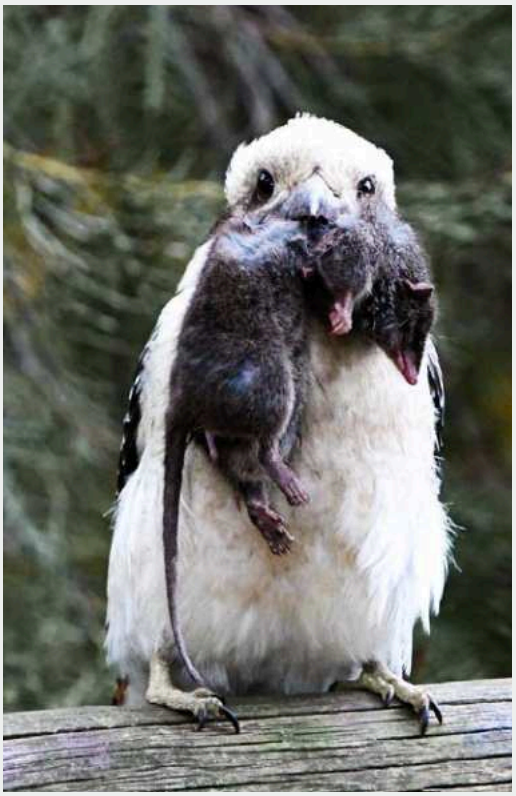
Kookaburra sits on the old gum tree
Merry, merry king of the bush is he
Laugh! Kookaburra laugh
Kookaburra, gay your life must be.

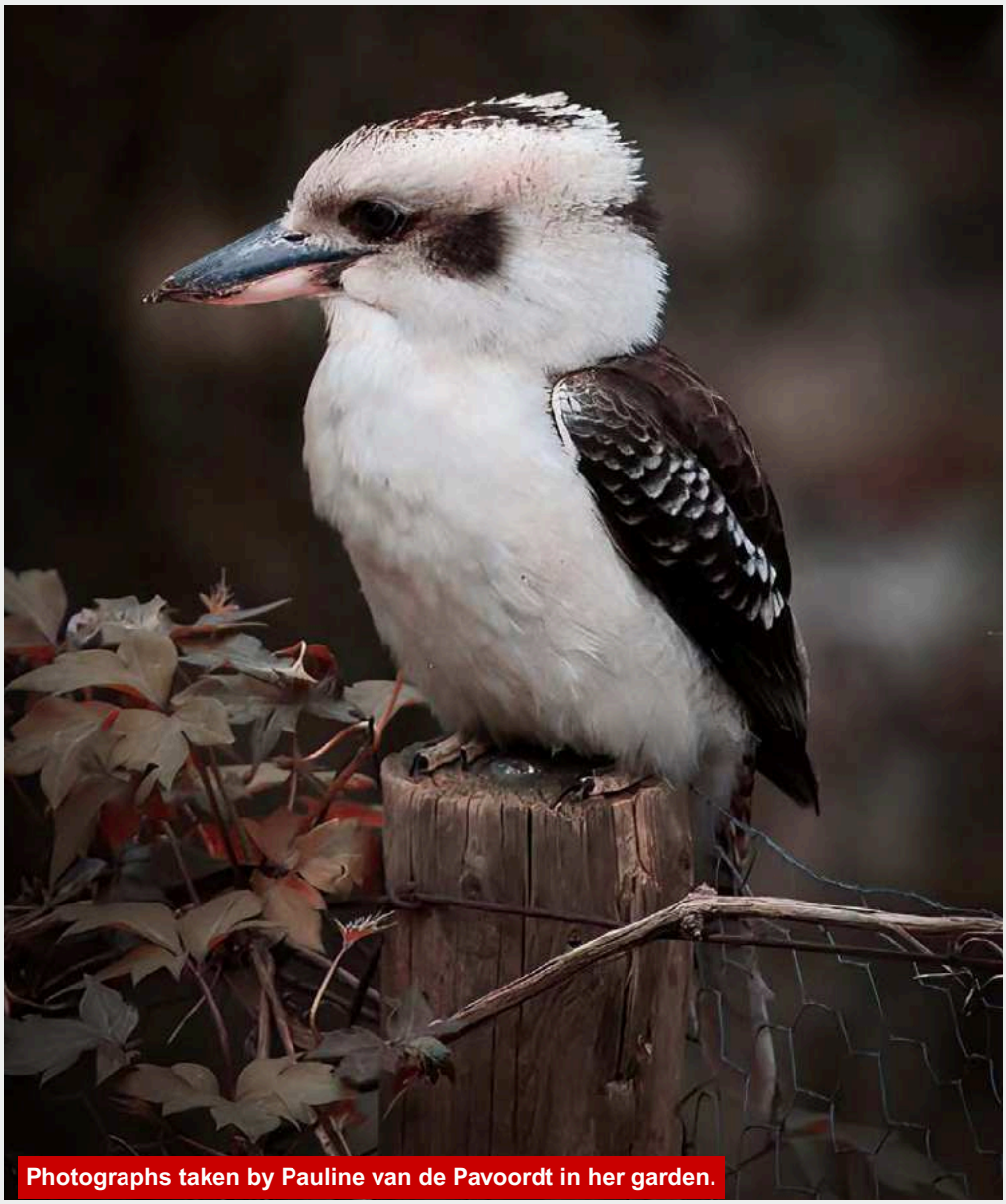
koo-koo-koo-koo-kaa-kaa-kaa-kaa

Kookaburras can reach up to 43cm in length (17 inches) with 8-10 cm long beak (4 inches). They have thick neck and strong neck muscles, probably caused by the way they kill their prey. While not a colourful kingfisher, they do blend in with the environment making it more difficult for the predators to spot them.

Their infectious laughter starts with one kookaburra giving a low chuckle and then throwing its head back in a raucous laugh. The family of kookaburras then join in, laughing together in chorus to mark their territory. The laughter differs from one family to another. They also make 'aerial displays' on their territory boundaries to defend it.

In favourable conditions kookaburras can live for more than 20 yrs and they can mate at the age of 12 mths. Kookaburras are not only monogamous, they also use the same nest each year! They build their nests in tree hollows, or excavate holes in arboreal termite mounds. 1-4 white eggs must be kept warm for 24 days. All members of one family develop brood patches - a bare space on their breasts with lots of blood vessels to keep the eggs warm.





Photographs taken by Pauline van de Pavoordt in her garden.

This Kooka has caught (or found) a male Antechinus which was almost certainly already dead, judging by its poor physical condition. They have a unique breeding cycle with mass male mortality after mating. Once the breeding season ends, all the males die as a result of stress and exhaustion. During the mating window, testosterone and the stress hormone cortisol surge in their bodies. The increase in testosterone prevents them from processing the cortisol, causing organ failure and death.

Antechinus are mostly nocturnal, coming out during the night to prey upon insects, spiders, centipedes and sometimes small reptiles and frogs. During the day they would be in large communal nests in tree hollows, crevices or logs on the ground in bushland.

The photo is still a clear example of why rat poison left in traps outside the house are so dangerous to our environment. Owls in particular are very susceptible to dying this way, which is very sad.

FLORA AND FAUNA INVITATION

Have you taken a photo of a native animal in its environment? You may be feeling intimidated by the quality of the recent images of birds, but a wombat or echidna would be a much easier subject. Slow animals must never be taken advantage of we're sure you agree, so please never stress an animal for the sake of a picture.

Contribute via:
evacommunications3782@gmail.com

EVA Emergency Resilience Hills Kit Project

This project is being completed in collaboration with all the Hills communities, with funding from AusNet. It's been a remarkable team effort by those involved with great support also from the variious town committees.

In the pictures opposite, you can see that Jason Wood's staff contributed with many days of printing material for us. We are all set to have the first big bag-packing session where a procession of people will methodically fill each Ready Get Go BAG with local contacts and advice, brochures, booklets, flyers, fridge magnets and flipcharts. All the First Responder organisations have contributed as well as local, state and federal government.

During the month of September we will be distributing 1,500 bags through Primary Schools mainly. Extra local contacts and advice, a booklet and a flyer will be delivered to Real Estate Agents and Community Houses. There will also be a 'digital version' on EVA's website which is currently under development.

George Trojan will also take a few bags to the September meeting of AusNet's Community Consultation Committee. We will also make 140 Handouts in clear plastic envelopes, for distribution at the Council's Community Safety Expo on 11th October. These will contain the SES flipchart, the Local Information document and Power Outages booklet.

I think everyone involved has learned something about project work and when we've all recovered from this one, we will probably tackle another one! It would seem like a waste of our experience not to.

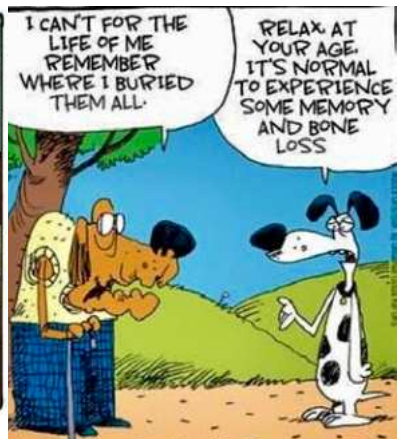
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With support from the Victorian Government, we're developing a new Key Area Plan that will guide improvements to infrastructure, access, safety and the overall visitor experience and we want you, our network to be part of shaping it.

Whether you've been bringing friends and family for decades, walk past the station every day, or have never quite made it on board – your voice matters!

How to get involved:

- Share your thoughts via the online survey
- Come along to a community workshop
- Register to attend an industry or trader workshop
- Request a printed survey if that's easier

Consultation is open from Friday 9 August to Sunday 31 August 2025.
Have your say and help future-proof this much-loved community icon.

LEARN MORE AND HAVE YOUR SAY HERE!

The Puffing Billy Railway Board, operators of Puffing Billy Railway, uses your personal information for the purposes of communicating special offers and providing you with information about other events, programs and activities involving the Puffing Billy Railway that may benefit you or be of interest to you.

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NB: Although this survey is about Belgrave, it is an opportunity to give PBR your view on the PBR park & playground at Emerald (our town square) and the ONLY heritage listed station on the line - Emerald.



Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogogoch.....name of a Welsh village - yeah yeah, not allowed in Scrabble, but to make a point,



FAREWELL CLAUDE CULLINO



During the almost 4 years that Claude was on the EVA committee he made an outstanding contribution, was very generous with his time, wisdom and energy. Claude has left his mark and made a very positive difference in our organisation as well as our community. His friendly but professional manner will be truly missed, as he moves on to another chapter in the city, close to family.

AusNet Customer Consultative Committee

A brief update from the latest AusNet Customer Consultative Committee (CCC) meeting held on 16 June 2025. This forum brings together community voices and AusNet representatives to discuss customer concerns, energy trends, and network updates.

Key Highlights:

Customer Experiences & Feedback:
Members shared community concerns, especially around the suitability of controlled load tariffs for solar users.

Vegetation Management:
AusNet outlined new options for reporting vegetation hazards near power infrastructure. The CCC supported tools like Snap, Send, Solve www.snapsendsolve.com and recommended clearer guidance for the public on who to contact and encourage the involvement of Councils on who to contact.

Energy Charter – Regional Energy Accord:
The CCC discussed the rollout of new energy infrastructure and the importance of aligning it with community benefits, guided by insights from the Energy Charter's CEO.

Improved Outage Communications:
AusNet has enhanced SMS updates during unplanned outages (subject of my July report) incorporating previous CCC feedback.
The committee welcomed these improvements.

Victorian Transmission Plan:
AusNet presented an overview of VicGrid's draft transmission plan relevant to local communities.

Gas Network Trends:
The CCC reviewed data showing reduced residential gas usage and the transition to electric appliances.

Dormant Gas Customers:
Research findings on properties with unused gas connections were shared, as well as costs and future policy directions.

George Trojan
Local Representative on the Customer Consultative Committee



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Cr David Nickell report



David Nickell attended the EVA Committee Meeting on 23rd July and shared the following news with us:

· Sealing the Hills is again in progress; Old Gembrook Rd to start construction soon, and will be finished by summer, subject to weather conditions

· Council had a community session with Ambrose St residents in July to finalise their drainage issues.

· On the Cardinia website, you will find there are several matters in the pipeline that they are seeking community feedback on… the Draft Council Plan 2025-2029; Liveability Plan; and Road Management Plan. These are important strategic documents now open for community feedback. In addition, Cardinia is seeking community feedback on Waste Water Management - especially hearing about peoples' experiences with septic systems. It's vital that Hills people please provide feedback to these documents, if you can, to help ensure Hills' perspectives are heard at Council.

· Green Wedge Management Planning for the Hills is planned to start this financial year and will be a big (and long overdue) undertaking.

· Discussions continue with Lost Woods Market operators and affected groups. The next stage will be to continue work to find improved Event Parking solutions. For the Lost Woods Market in July, a shuttle bus ran from the Clematis Hotel car park to the market.

.....

I was pleased to attend the first Emerald Lake Precinct Stakeholders meeting for a while tonight, with the team from Cardinia Shire. Meetings stopped last year and its good to get them going with community reps again. There's a lot going on at ELP and Nobelius Heritage Park. I'm looking forward to other stakeholder reps joining as well, as we look at sharing ideas and experience, while planning for this very special community asset for the Region, where history and nature, locals and visitors all come together...and then look at that lakeside sunset tonight...its a beautiful spot, for sure! **David Nickell**

Community Safety Expo
400A Belgrave-Gembrook Rd, Emerald
Sat. 11 Oct, 1:30 – 4:30pm

Victoria Police, Cardinia Shire Council and the Cardinia Shire Safer Communities Partnership Committee are partnering with Neighbourhood Watch - Eastern Ranges to host a 'Community Safety Expo' to celebrate October Community Safety Month!

Come down for a free coffee and light snacks and talk to us about how we can all work together to make a safer community. Free anti-theft screws for your motor vehicle will also be available.

This free community event is a great opportunity for you to talk to representatives from Victoria Police, Council, and other community safety partners about working together to make a safer community.



"Before we address your drain problems, would I be correct in guessing you installed this shower yourself?"





Just visable in the fading light is the fence where the paddle boats used to be.



New tourism partnership endorsed -

Cardinia Shire Mayor Cr Jack Kowarzik (centre) pictured above with Yarra Ranges Mayor Cr Jim Child (left) and Nillumbik Mayor John Dumaresq at one of the many tourist destinations across the region.

EDRA is thrilled to advise that Lynne Trensky has been nominated to the forth-coming Tourism East Board as the Industry Partner Member representing Cardinia Shire.

A Special General Meeting was held in May, to adopt amendments to the Yarra Ranges Tourism constitution, including transitional arrangements to establish a new Board inclusive of Cardinia representation, and to ensure continuity of service delivery for the existing entity, its partners and commitments.

Effective from July 1, 2025, Lynne will support crucial initiatives such as reviewing the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Destination Management Plan to ensure Cardinia is well represented in the strategic objectives to grow the tourism region.

Congratulations Lynne



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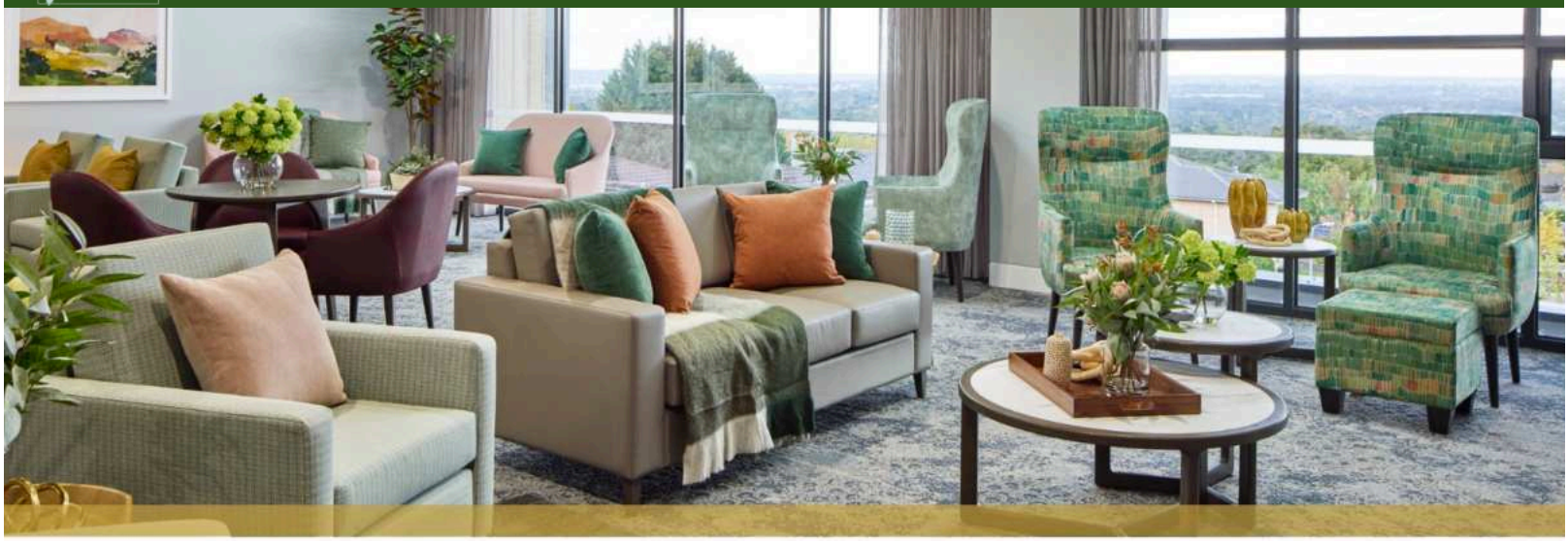
hello@edrabase.org.au
0419 584 498
EasternDandenongRangesBASE

Lynne Trensky, EDRA

Yarra Ranges, Cardinia and Nillumbik councils have together created a new Visitor Economy Partnership, spreading tourism funding & initiatives across the outer-east. The change should bring better opportunities to access State and Federal funding and increased tourism support for the wider region. **This is a great opportunity for local businesses to "get on the map".**

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Or book online at:
www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/bookingcardinia

Cardinia

Media Release: Power Up Your Savings with Home Energy and Water Efficiency Kits

Residents of Cardinia Shire can now take practical steps towards reducing household energy costs and environmental impacts with the help of free Home Energy and Water Efficiency Kits.

To borrow the Home Energy and Water Efficiency Kits, you will need to place a hold and go on the waiting list. You also need to be a Library of Things member. You can upgrade your exisiting membership to a Library of Things membership for free at your local library branch.

Click here to read the full release online.

On behalf of Cardinia Shire Council



3MDR 97.1 fm

Ben here. I'm a local Dandenong Ranges musician and President of 3MDR. I'm reaching out to share an event I'm organising that will be of interest to some of your readership. This August we're holding two free, practical professional development panels designed to support local musicians and strengthen our regional music ecosystem in the Dandenong Ranges.These events focus on industry insights, skill-building, and community connection. The two sessions are as below:

Radio & Media: How to Get Played
Tuesday 19 August, 7–9pm
3MDR Homestead, Upwey
Learn how to pitch to radio, get on playlists, and connect with media.

Gigs & Festivals: How to Get Booked Tuesday 26 August, 7–9pm
Sooki Lounge, Belgrave
How to build a strong EPK, approach promoters, and land gigs.
Free entry, registration encouraged: 3mdr.com/drm
We would love any support that you can offer by way of sharing, forwarding, spruiking through your networks. We really hope that we can continue to do this into the future.

Ben Langdon





EVA Planning, Tourism & Environment subcommittee

Priority Roads for Upgrading in Emerald

Recently Cr David Nickell asked the EVA to give him a priority list of gravel roads for upgrading and gave us only a few days to put it together. He is trying to get Council to make some commitments to kick start works. We thought about the issues that seemed to be critical in setting up a list: drainage Issues – relate to consistent problems, steep sections more likely to result in drainage issues. higher volumes and/or long length of road – directly serves many residents, high dust levels due to excessive speed, essential for connections - road serves as the key access/main access/only access for a number of other roads many of which are dead end roads – i.e. in an emergency these roads are critical – their maintenance has critical issues like drainage and excessive pot holes, inadequate width in sections is likely to increase issues in a storm event, bushfire. The more of these factors that a road can tick off the higher the priority. Of course, we know that everyone living on a gravel road thinks their road is a priority, but there is no point giving every road the same status – that achieves nothing. Set out below is the table we came up with. We know it's probably not perfect, but we had to start somewhere. **Send in your thoughts and reactions to the EVA – we will keep refining the list.** **Trevor Budge**

Road *Note the list is not in priority order*	Drainage Issues, some Steep Sections1	Higher Volumes, Properties Served Length of Road2	Essential for Connections3
Fairway Road	X	X	X
Ferres – Barnshaw	x		X
Nobelius	x	X	X
Station to Williams – Ambrose Intersection	X	X	X
Pinnocks (gravel section) to Cross to Edenmont Intersection		X	X
Emerald Lake Road – footpath and bicycle lane		X	X only access road for LVC
Nolan – Curtis - Legg – Boundary Road East	X	X	X
Madigan Way	X	X	Linked to Commercial development
Clematis Park Road	X		X
Sydney, Alexander	X	X	X
Florence, Phillip	X		X
	X		X
	X	X	X





Come in and explore Tinkars winter delights



Award winning team Emerald Psychology

Emerald in focus

EMERALD PSYCHOLOGY

This month we talk with the Director and Psychologist at Emerald psychology, Hita Mistry.

After moving to the hills over 13 years ago and beginning her own family, Hita decided that a good way to engage within the community was to offer her services as a psychologist. Hita began in a small way, renting a room at the Emerald Medical Centre, for a few hours per week. As is often the way, that business model soon changed.

The few hours she had set aside to work were inadequate to meet demand. It soon became apparent that there was a shortage of mental health support in the hills and this prompted her to think about how to provide a much needed service to the local community. Hita began by renting a room in Emerald and setting up a business 'Emerald Psychology Practice'.

One of the biggest challenges working as a professional in the hills is recruitment. Hita spoke about the difficulties this has presented over the years. To meet demand Hita expanded her business by opening rooms in Rowville. This option both attracted staff and gave hill's residents a close to home service. While it was expected that the business would grow organically, no one could have predicted COVID. Hita spoke about the struggles many faced during this difficult time. Living in the hills also has it's own problems. More recently the storms and tragic events has led to the people needing care to manage loss of homes, grief and trauma.

Today, Hita manages two practices in Rowville and another two in Emerald. Being part of the community is important to Hita and her service now offers psychological care at 4 local schools (Emerald Primary and Secondary schools, Gembrook Primary School Monbulk Secondary school).

Hita is proud to be part of the Emerald community. Emerald has given her the opportunity to engage and provide a valuable service. Her pride in being part of the community is reflected in her being a member of the Rotary Club of Emerald & District as well as a sponsor of the Emerald Football Club, and Emerald News.

Everyone at Emerald Psychology works hard to reduce stigma around mental health. It is a vital component for our overall well-being. Mental health impacts how people think, feel, and act. It is integral to life. Hita warmly spoke about her passion for working as a psychologist and the importance of taking care of ourselves and each other. Everyone will experience adversity at some point in their life – it is part of being 'human'. By reaching out for help during these times, means you are well placed to cope with stress, build strong relationships, and have positive social connections.



Communications team:
Keilah, Mitch & Dona

Lions Emerald and District

July 2025 had Lions Emerald and District Celebrate an Historic 50th Anniversary.

Lions Emerald and District proudly celebrates 50 years of service, marking five decades of service to Emerald and surrounding communities.

Founded in 1975 by charter members including current member Pieter Castricum, whose shared vision established a cornerstone of community service, the Lions Emerald and District Club has become a reliable and valued component of help, support, and community service in the district.



Pieter Castricum









Above: Daniela De Martino, Dave Jordan, Pieter and Henni Castricum, and Ray Spencer

At the 50th anniversary celebration Lions members offered a huge thank you to outgoing President Ray Spencer for his dedication to Lions and hard work before sharing in a heartfelt welcome ceremony installing the club's 50th President Dave Jordan. Dave shared his plans to guide the club into its next chapter. 'It is an immense honour to serve as the 50th president of the Lions Emerald and District Club stepping into the role after Ray Spencer is daunting, yet I am inspired to lead our continued mission of making a lasting impact in our district communities, particularly as I reflect on Pieter Castricum's remarkable vision, commitment and club achievements.'.

The Lions Emerald and District changeover, chaired by local MP Daniela De Martino, also included in the distinguished crowd current and past members, as well as representatives from Lions Clubs across Victoria.

About Lions Emerald and District

Chartered in 1975, the Lions Emerald and District club is part of Lions International, the world's largest service club organization, with over 1.4 million members in more than 46,000 clubs worldwide. Lions Emerald and District is dedicated to serving community through programs focused on vision care, youth development, health, and disaster relief.

With fifty years under the belt, we continue to invite interested members of the public to learn more about the Club and to explore opportunities to get involved. For details, contact Elaine Spencer at emeraldlionsclubvic@gmail.com and check out Lions Emerald and District Face Book

Dave Jordan





What did Spartacus say when the lion ate his wife?

Nothing, he was gladiator.

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Hills Photographic Society

Hills Photographic Society continues to enjoy a full program of fun, sharing and learning. At our last meeting on the 24th July, 19 members and a guest were treated to an excellent presentation on wildlife and bird photography by Joseph Bailouni from Cranbourne.

Operating on a financial year basis HPS will hold its AGM on 14th August. An AGM is an opportunity for review, for reporting on the year's activities, for asking questions and offering suggestions for the future. It's also a time of renewal, an opportunity for members to consider becoming a little more active by joining the management committee. HPS will see changes at the executive level with new blood to take the club on to better and brighter things.

We have had several new members in recent months. If you are a budding or an experienced photographer, interested in what we do, come along as a guest any 2nd or 4th Thursday evening from 7:30 pm at the Hills Hub, diagonally opposite Woollies in Emerald.
www.hillsphotographicsociety.org.au

Paul Bianco
Out-going President



Bob helping Cookie 'tie a bow'



Emerald Men's Shed Inc.



The Emerald Men's Shed was initially set up to address men's health and wellbeing, such as when they transition from retirement or experience changes in their family or environment. We have expanded to open our doors to any person over the age of 18 years.Our Men's Shed works mainly in the manufacture of wooden items for sale, repairing household equipment and making community related projects.
A current community project is to make a temporary stage for the Monbulk Secondary College.

Cookie is making stylish coffee tables from Myrtle with astreak of resin, and angled leg. One of these can be yours for only $220.

We operate daily on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays plus Saturday mornings and are located in the Cardinia Hub complex.
Visit us on any of these days to see if this is the activity that meets your needs.

Stuart Allen





Joseph Bailouni speaking about wildlife photography

Media release: Delivered 'Differently': Building more sustainable local roads

More than 400 trees and over $1m of ratepayers' money has been saved due to the innovative design, construction strategy, investigations and survey practices used on two recent road sealing projects.
While the main objective of the Strategic Sealed Roads program is to create sealed connections within our local road network, the program also focuses on using sustainable road construction methods to reduce environmental impacts and protect native vegetation and wildlife.
Read more in full release online.

On behalf of Cardinia Shire Council

Music Notes

The Lyrebirds Community Choir

To ALL of our new members who joined us in Term 2, we thank you for joining us, we are so glad you did and really glad you decided to stay.

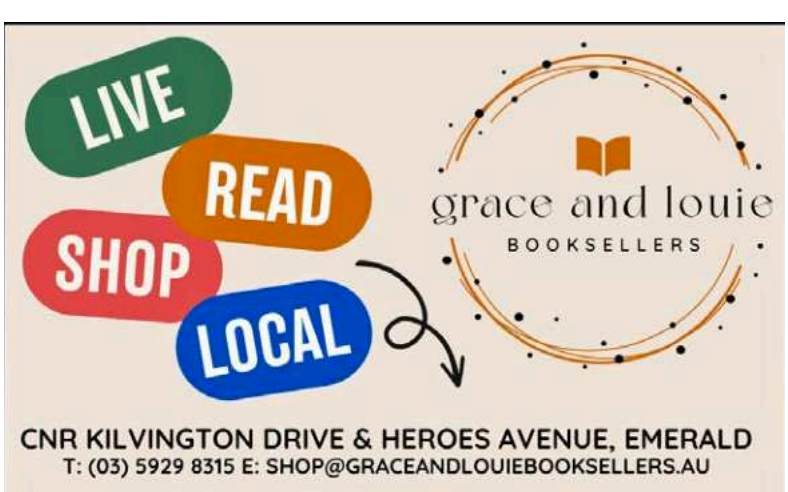
During this term we performed at Belgrave Big Dreams Market for Mother's day; what a wonderful event this is. If you haven't been to this market, you really need to visit sometime, and who knows, maybe you'll see us! We were thrilled to be able to also perform at the iconic Belgrave Lantern Festival, what a joyous (chilly) huge (chilly) heart-warming (not chilly) evening it was. We really are just one big happy singing family.

Being in our choir isn't just about the public performance opportunities though, and a great example of this was being involved in the Listening to The Mountain Body ngurrak-al marrum-u/Body of The Mountain exhibition which was showing at Burrinja Cultural Centre in Upwey. We must really offer huge thanks to our member Gulsen for opening up this opportunity for us, and of course our amazing director Dalys for composing the music and allowing us to play a part in her wonderful work.

We have some HUGE, exciting things coming up in Term 3:
- A daytime "mini tour" of shopping centres in Officer & Pakenahm; and
- Our very own concert at The Hills Hub in September. More about this wonderful event next month.

Term 3 commenced on 21st of July, but you can come along for a free trial anytime. Don't forget to like and follow our page, and share it with your friends. If they like to sing in the shower....maybe it's time they stepped out from behind the glass? Please ensure they get dressed before they come along though.! We meet Monday evenings during school terms 7.15pm-9.00pm at St Lukes Church in Cockatoo.

The Lyrebirds Community Choir. Regards ~ Elise





COCKATOO AND DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

is a local, member driven club in Cockatoo. The Club is committed to providing a healthy, family friendly environment for local residents to enjoy playing Lawn Bowls.

There are several ways you can become involved with this great game:

- We partner with U3A Emerald to run a Social Bowls afternoon on Mondays.
- For the family we have Barefoot Bowls on Friday evenings during Daylight Savings.
- Thursday afternoon for Social and Pennant practice, coaching available.
- For those keen on playing competitively we enter teams in both Saturday and Tuesday competitions, organised by Bowls Victoria. Pennant season begins mid October and ends mid February, with a months break over Christmas.
- Looking for a venue for a birthday, fundraising event or Christmas party? We have a Function room (capacity 70), kitchen and a staffed Licensed Bar with the added attraction of a Bowls green and Club Members to show your guests the basics of the game.

At Cockatoo Bowls Club we pride ourselves on the open and friendly atmosphere created by our members, and encourage anyone with an interest in Bowls to contact the Club.

Email cockatoobowlsclub@outlook.com
ph. 0439 151 006

Robert Whimpey

EVA Community Wellbeing Report

EDRA BASE

The four Community Groups that form the Management Sub-Committee for the BASE have been hard at work to set it up and make it operational for its launch at the EDRA AGM on Mon 4th August. The management committee is made up of representatives from:

- Eastern Dandenong Ranges Assn
- Emerald and District Lions
- Hills Arts Alliance
- Hills Community Gardens

On the first night of the Train of Lights, members of the four groups came along to the BASE to see what work had been done and enjoy a glass of Emersleigh Wine, while taking front row seats to watch the train go by. It was a fun way to watch.

Fernlea Community House

The Term 3 program is out and has a broad selection of courses & activities based on feedback from the community. The important thing to do now is sign up! Kerry has worked really hard to come up with an interesting program and something for everyone, so it would be great if the community could get behind the new community house and repay the love they are showing for our community. Early enrolments will ensure the courses can run.

Gemco Players

The production of Welcome to Little Grimley in July received great reviews from audiences. Gemco Players will once again be hosting the friendly Dandenong Ranges One Act Play Festival. Sessions will be held at The Gem on the weekend of Aug 15, 16 & 17th. W: gemcoplayers.org/droapf-entry We are also in rehersal for our major musical production of Charlie & the Chocolate Factory in September.

Woorilla Poetry Prize

The 2025 prize opened on 1st June and closes on 30th September. Entries are trickling in but normally there's a flood at the last minute. Local entries are always encouraged. It would be great to have a local winner of the $3,000 first prize!! **Non Blair**

Puffing Billy "Train of Lights' viewed from the BASE, Cockatoo on 4th July



Photo by Heather Bishop

Cardinia Shire Council Festivals and Events Grants

There were many local events and festival volunteer committees eagerly awaiting the outcome of Monday 21st July's Council Meeting, where council voted on a recommendation by council officers to re-open funding opportunities for these grants, after only 13 out of 39 applications were deemed successful according to the new guidelines and criteria.

Council has now reopened the 2025/26 Festival and Events Grants as a rolling program to support continuous access to funding and improve responsiveness to community needs. The Festival and Events Grant program will remain open on a rolling basis until 30 June 2026, or until total funds, $193,162 are exhausted.

Cardinia Shire Mayor, Councillor Jack Kowarzik, acknowledged the teething problems from the first grant round that resulted from the updated assessment criteria for these grants, and encourages all community groups and organisations looking to host a festival or event to reapply for grant funding. "Council is committed to working with both past and new grant applicants to ensure their submissions meet the eligibility criteria and are set up for success."

We appreciate the support of Cr. Nickell in supporting a review of the way these events are funded and supported.



Cardinia Community Foundation

Cardinia Casey BIGGEST EVER BLOKES LUNCH

Since 2003 the Cardinia Community Foundation exists to unite the community to create change, so everyone has a chance of getting ahead. We help people and places in our region thrive now, and into the future. We do this through the power of collective giving, and partnering with local businesses too - connecting causes in our community with the funds they need to do good.

The Casey Cardinia Biggest Ever Blokes lunch in partnership with the Cardinia Community Foundation have their grants open for the Cardinia Men's Health Grant. Projects that assist with Men's Health that will benefit Cardinia residents can apply for this grant.

Click on the link below to find out more or start your application or contact Kara for further details at admin@cardiniafoundation.org or call us 5945 0766.

https://cardiniafoundation.org/grants/

emerald psychology practice
emeraldpsych.com.au
admin@emeraldpsych.com.au

EMERALD

2025 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

AWARDS NIGHT

- EMERALD CITIZEN OF THE YEAR
- YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR
- GROUP/EVENT OF THE YEAR

Please help us celebrate Emerald's community groups who will each briefly present to tell of the years highlights and their plans for the future.



Emerald Village Association Inc.

Invites you to attend our upcoming

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



August 27th from **7 p.m.** to **8 p.m.**
at the Hills Hub
EMERALD

EMERALD Village Association Inc.

Rotary Club of Emerald and District

Students at Emerald PS in the Rotary EarlyAct Club have been fundraising for a new tap on the school oval for nearly 12 months and have finally reached their goal. This last term, all classes undertook a Small Change for a Big Change initiative for their Quadtrail project, with students donating coins throughout the term. On Tuesday 1 July, the classes made coin trails with their collected coins, a fun activity that involved the whole school and raised the amount of $479.05. When the new tap when it is installed, Rotary will provide a plaque to be placed on the oval to acknowledge the efforts and assistance of the EarlyAct club. Through these initiatives Rotary hopes to pass on life skills to our younger members of the community.

Two days later, on Thursday night 3rd July our first group of volunteers braved the cold at Gembrook Puffing Billy station to commence yet another Marathon BBQ event, cooking sausages for the travellers on the **Puffing Billy 'Train of Lights.'** This was the first of eighteen consecutive nights to end on Sunday 29th July.



Last year the event was one week longer and over 25 days. The Roster covered 8 volunteers each night and roles of collecting the sausages from Emerald Meats, bread from Cockatoo bakery, sauces & gas bottles from Gembrook IGA. I won't say we are competitive, however each nightly team wanted their takings to be the highest. However, a train group booking by Metro Transport saw the team on Thursday 17th July cooking up and serving 400 sausages.

The high volume required in a short period of time did pose logistical issues however with a bit of thought we came up with how to deal with "opportunity" and going forward we will probably use these solutions. The funds raised will be channelled to the Community as & when required.

Emerald Rotary participate in projects and activities that benefit members of our community. Many of these involve and benefit our youth. One such Program is the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards **(RYLA)**, a program that aims to help young adults enhance their leadership skills, build self-confidence in what they can achieve and foster a commitment to community service. It's targeted at young adults 18 to 30 years old and our club was delighted to sponsor a candidate to participate in this worthwhile event which occurred from July 14th to the 19th at the Phillip Island Adventure Resort. Four Rotarians took the opportunity to be part of the RYLA experience and connect with our sponsored participant, attending their dinner. Another member attended the Closing Ceremony and lunch on the Saturday to see our Rylarian receive his Certificate before everyone headed home.

Shalini Penny, Publicity



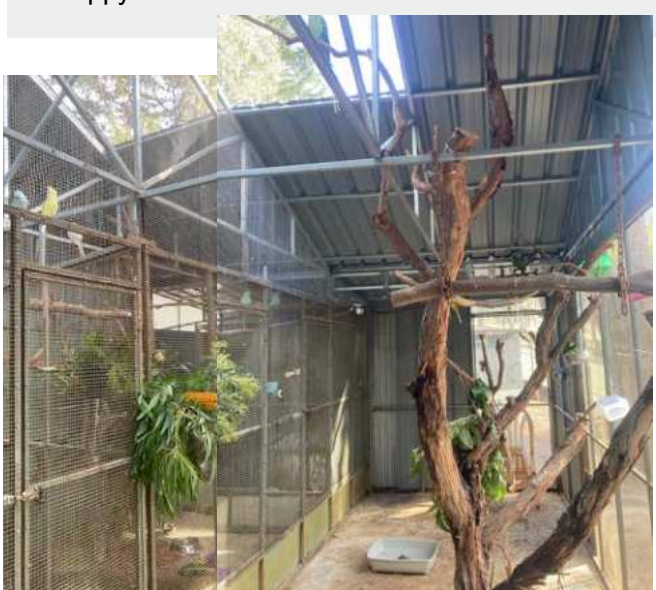
This Rotary year we have a Fellowship team who ensure that once a month we hold a social event. First off, was a Christmas in July evening at a member's home, with members dressing in festive wear hoping to win the coveted best dressed award, themed games and trivia; not to forget the Christmas fare and mulled wine. It was a fun evening with plenty of laughs, fellowship & holiday cheer. Roll on next month' event.

Whilst mentioning The Paradise Valley Hotel, a shout out of thanks to them for supporting the Club. We have held meetings at this venue for many many years now and they have continued to assist us with a variety of requests and cope with varying attendance numbers for our Tuesday meetings.

Last month I mentioned that we had held a free and successful "Rotary Revealed" Open House at Paradise Valley Hotel on Tuesday 24th June. Since that evening, we have had quite a few people who were really interested in what Rotary has to offer and who have since attended our weekly meetings. Our first Inductee occurred on Tuesday 15th July and we are currently processing 4 additional applications. If you missed that evening and are interested to see what we do feel free to contact or join us at an event or meeting (every Tuesday 6.45pm for 7pm at The Paradise Hotel).
Call 0408 769 491 or 0417 038 707
website: www.emeraldrotary.org.au

Feedback from the young participants was they thoroughly enjoyed the experience, challenged them selves to step out of their comfort zone, made life-long friends and obtained a new level of confidence.

Emerald Monbulk Wildlife Shelter now has a new bird enclosure thanks to the funding by Emerald and Belgrave Rotary Clubs. The two clubs became aware of the need for support in February 2025 when the base was installed. The Shelter needed funds to complete it in steel instead of timber which the birds eat. Steel supplier, Robot Building Supplies came to the party with an excellent deal once they were aware that it was a community project rescuing wildlife. And we are pleased to report that this project is completed – as no doubt are the birds are happy.





Daniela De Martino
STATE LABOR MP FOR MONBULK
1635 Burwood Hwy, Belgrave, 3160
daniela.demartino@parliament.vic.gov.au
9754 5401 @danieladematinomp



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Emerald Star Bush
I'm a little white flower, beautiful and rare.
My future depends on how much you care.
Talk about me often, so more people know.
So I can keep giving you a pretty show.



Mayor Kowarzik with the 2025 Arts Grant recipients

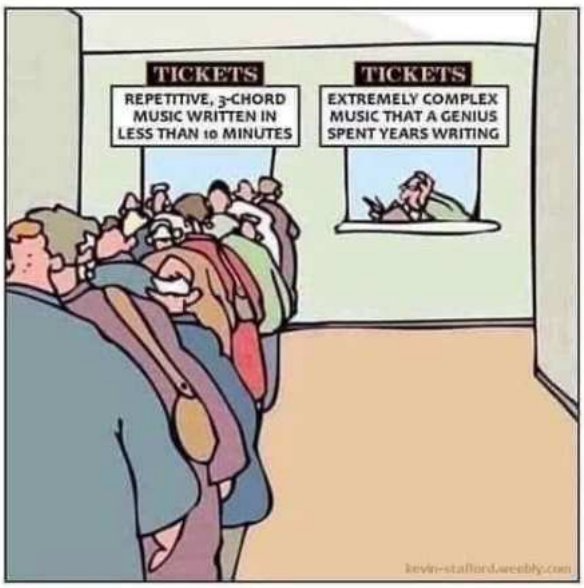
Media release: 2025/26 Arts Grants spark creative possibilities

Council is thrilled to announce the recipients of the 2025/26 Arts Grants, celebrating a diverse array of initiatives that underscore council's commitment to fostering creativity and cultural heritage.

Read more in the full release online.

On behalf of Cardinia Shire Council

RIDGE MEDIA
OSKAR SMETHURST
DIRECTOR
0490 393 244
HELLO@RIDGEMEDIA.AU WWW.RIDGEMEDIA.AU



BEST KNOCK KNOCK JOKE EVER...

Three brothers age 92, 94 and 96 live in a house together.

One night the 96 year old draws a bath, puts his foot in and pauses. He yells down the stairs, "Was I getting in or out of the bath?"

The 94 year old yells back, "I don't know, I'll come up and see." He starts up the stairs and pauses, then he yells, "Was I going up the stairs or coming down?"

The 92 year old was sitting at the kitchen table having coffee listening to his brothers. He shakes his head and says, "I sure hope I never get that forgetful." He knocks on wood for good luck. He then yells, "I'll come up and help both of you as soon as I see who's at the door."



Bendigo Bank - Emerald Community Display Space at our Community Bank

The space can be viewed anytime during business hours 9.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m, Monday to Friday at shops 1-3, 344 Belgrave-Gembrook Road, Emerald. Pop in and say hello to branch manager, Bruce McConnell and his friendly staff, who will be happy to assist with any inquiries.

EVA is participating in the Bank's Dandenong Ranges Community Bonus Program for NFP Community Groups. Please mention us if you go in. Full terms and conditions at: bendigobank.com.au/siteassets

Bendigo Bank



Emerald Village Association Inc. and NHW Eastern Ranges highlight current activities

Reflections from the 2025 RSL Veterans Ball – A Night to Remember

Emerald RSL

On the evening of July 19th, my wife Laura and I had the honour of attending the RSL Veterans Ball at the Sofitel Grand Ballroom in Melbourne. Surrounded by fellow veterans, family members, and supporters, it was a night of camaraderie, reflection, and pride in what it means to be part of Victoria's veteran community.

We were seated with members of the Doreen RSL Sub-Branch, an inspiring group who share their local football club rooms for Friday night gatherings, a reminder that the RSL spirit thrives in both grand halls and humble clubrooms across the state.



One of the key themes of the evening was unity. Dr Mark Schröffel, the newly elected RSL Victoria State President, delivered a powerful address, outlining his vision for a more connected and inclusive future for RSL sub-branches. His words reinforced the importance of standing together, sharing our experiences, supporting one another, and continuing the legacy of those who came before us.

A particularly moving element of the night was presented by military historian David Brown. Every table setting included a card bearing the name of a Victorian veteran who had died on July 19th at some point in our nation's history. These cards included not only the name and age of the soldier, but also where they fell and what they did before going to war. Many of the names belonged to those who were killed during the Battle of Fromelles in 1916—a day of profound loss for Australia. Some cards bore an asterisk, indicating that the soldier's remains have never been recovered and still lie on the Western Front. The youngest listed was just 16; the oldest, 52. It was a sobering and deeply emotional reminder of the sacrifices made by Victorians in service to our country.



This card at Chris' table reads:
4595
Private Denholm Stevenson
A Labourer from Ballarat
58th Battalion AIF
Killed in Action
Aged 20



Another heartfelt moment came when Mr. Doug Baird, father of the late Corporal Cameron Baird VC MG, spoke about his son's legacy. He shared the story of a young man who was shaped by family, friends, and the values instilled in him - a man who always put his mates first, right to the very end. His words were a poignant reminder of the strength found in our families and communities, and the role they play in shaping those who serve.

As the formalities concluded, the night transformed into a celebration of mateship. Old friends reunited, new connections were made, and a sense of pride filled the room. It was a wonderful tribute to the RSL's enduring role in fostering connection, remembrance, and belonging.

I look forward to seeing the Emerald RSL Sub-Branch come together to attend next year's Veterans Ball. Events like these reaffirm why the RSL matters - not just as a place of commemoration, but as a living, breathing community that honours the past while building a strong future for all who have served.

Lest we forget.

Warm regards,

Chris May OAM

Emerald RSL Sub-Branch Member

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vicroads

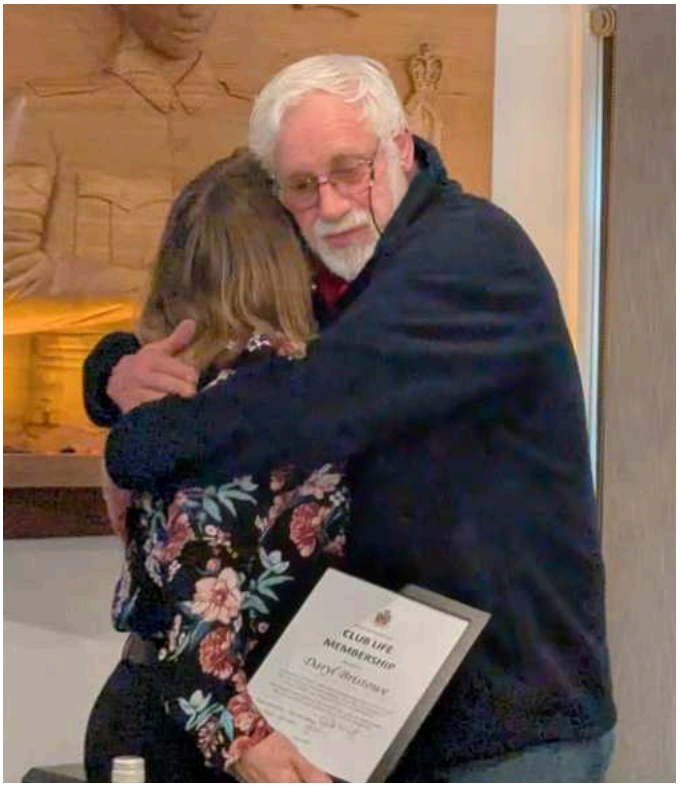
VicRoads Connect

The latest edition of VicRoads Connect is here, packed with helpful tips and updates. In this issue, discover how easy it is to manage your registration and licensing online, explore the handy features of the myVicRoads app and get more clarity on how demerit points work.

We also guide you through three simple steps to *sell your vehicle privately online*, explain how to obtain an official *roadworthy certificate* and share essential advice on *staying safe from scams*.

Stay informed, and Sign up for a myVicRoads account and receive your regular newsletter and never miss an update!









Emerald RSL





The RSL celebrates Xmas in July

This month at Emerald RSL:

July 24th was a very special night at Emerald RSL, 'twas the night of our annual Christmas in July dinner - and in recognition of his dedication, extraordinary and ongoing service to the Club, we had the great pleasure of awarding Club Life Membership to Daryl Bristowe. Daryl is a stalwart of our Club and truly deserves this honour. Daryl's Certificate was presented by Past President Peter Maloney and Secretary Tanya Jogan.

Congratulations Daryl, very well deserved!

Our clubrooms and bar are open for patronage Tuesdays 5 – 7pm and Thursdays 5 – 10pm. The heaters are on, it's warm and everyone is welcome!

Emerald RSL welcomes new members!

We have 3 types of membership available:

Service members - people who have, or are currently serving in the armed services of Australia

Affiliate members - people who are direct descendants of those who were in the armed services PLUS members of Australia's related emergency service organisations - SES, CFA, Police and Ambos

Social members - people who are neither of the above.

All memberships are $40 per calendar year, or $105 for three consecutive calendar years.

Memberships for all current servicemen and servicewomen are free.

All enquiries to membership@emeraldrsl.com.au

Tanya Jogan
secretary@emeraldrsl.com.au
Emerald RSL Sub-branch Inc.



Top tips to protect those furry family members you love.

1. Don't leave your dog alone in public.

Leaving your dog unattended is a main cause of dog theft. Treat your dog like you would your child. Think twice before leaving it tied up outside a shop or alone in your car, even for a few minutes. If you have to take your dog to the shops, take someone with you who can sit with them while you're busy.

2. Secure your yard to keep thieves out and your pets in.

Only leave your pet in your yard if it is well secured, with solid fences that are difficult to climb and strong locks on front and side gates. Cats are best kept indoors or in a secure outdoor enclosure so they don't wander the neighbourhood.

3. Don't overshare information about your pet.

Be extra careful about sharing details like your pet's name or its favourite foods, too freely on social media or with strangers in public, as these could be used to call your pet when you're not around. Have a read on "How to Keep your Pets Safe" from our friends at RACV.

Download our free printable doggie sign

When choosing a home to break into, burglars prefer one without a dog. They don't want to risk attracting attention if the dog starts barking, or getting injured (and caught) if the dog runs at them. So a simple "Beware of the dog" sign hanging on a fence or gate, can be enough to make them think twice about risking it (even if you don't actually own a dog). Download, print & cut out our free "Beware of the dog" sign.

Then laminate it & fix it to your gate or fence.





Neighbourhood Watch Eastern Ranges

We know you'll go to the ends of the earth to love your kids and keep them safe. So we're sharing some of our top tips to protect those you love.

3 things you can do to keep your kids safe

1. Prepare them to travel independently in your neighbourhood

It's important to make sure your child is ready to walk to school, their friend's house or around your neighbourhood without you. We have developed a fun and interactive e-learning journey, called Safer in the Community that you and your child can do together. Start today at Neighbourhood Watch 4 Kids or share with friends and family.

2. Set ground rules for your kids online activity

Have kids use their devices in a shared room and make sure they know to get your permission before using online chat rooms or messenger apps, posting or sending photos of themselves, giving out their surname, school or phone number or meeting up with someone they've only chatted with online. Turn off location info and caller ID on their devices and show them how to use the privacy settings on their social media accounts.

Playing it safe is a great website for parents and carers to teach young children how to stay safe online. The eSafety Commissioner also has some fantastic resources and webinars for parents, kids and teens.

3. Teach them to shout loudly when a stranger calls

If your child is home alone and a stranger knocks on the door, tell them to yell loudly, "Mum, there's someone at the door!" Most burglars will knock first, to see if anyone is home and only break in if no one answers. A good way to see if your child is ready to be home alone is to start with a short test run of around 15 to 30 minutes and slowly build up to longer periods.

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Market Dates for the rest of the year 2025

9am to 2pm 4th Sunday of the Month

Gembrook Market
Live - Life - Local

27th April
25th May
22nd June
27th July
24th August
28th September
26th October
23rd November

Save them to your calendar now

Gembrook Market

Nestled in the scenic Dandenong Ranges, the Gembrook Market offers a delightful country experience just an hour's drive from Melbourne. Held on the fourth Sunday of each month (except December), this vibrant community-run market features a diverse array of stalls showcasing local crafts, fresh produce, plants, and gourmet treats.Visitors may be able to enjoy a sausage and a coffee, along with live music from local buskers, and children will love the occasional jumping castle. With both indoor and outdoor stalls, free parking, and a welcoming atmosphere, it's a perfect family outing.

Don't miss the chance to explore the charming town of Gembrook and its historic Puffing Billy Railway precinct.

Contact Details:

Gembrook Community Centre,
4 Gembrook Road, Gembrook VIC
Phone: 0437 664 121
Email: info@gembrookmarket.com.au
Website:www.gembrookmarket.com.au
FB:facebook.com/GembrookMarket



Flashback to COVID

KINDNESS IS CONTAGIOUS

'A minor extension of what the job of Hub Host is all about' he said.

One of the Hills Hub Hosts recently came to the rescue of one of our senior citizens who was dealing with the frustrations of online "conversations" with a Comms IA. The fact that she was using this method of communication shows she was up for a challenge, but when she couldn't get satisfaction, she sought support from a real human at the Hub. Luckily, help was provided by a kind and generous human who said he "was just happy that we were able to sort things out and hopefully we have another happy (U3A) member".

Incidentally word is that within 18 months AI will be making mundane phone calls on our behalf - such as booking a restaurant or enquiring about accommodation. Can you imagine AI in our phones talking to the AI problem solver with a telecommunications operator! What could possibly go wrong!?

Emerald CFA : PART OF NEW LIFESAVING A V AND CFA PROGRAM

Emerald CFA is one of the first twenty-five CFA brigades across the state that are trained and ready to respond to select medical Triple Zero calls as part of a new program that will officially commence on Thursday 21st August.

The new Fire Medical Response program is a joint initiative of CFA and Ambulance Victoria that will see CFA brigades and Ambulance Victoria dispatched simultaneously to cardiac arrests.

The other CFA brigades kicking off the program on this date are Philip Island, Hastings **and Cockatoo** brigades.

Emerald CFA Captain Klaus Brodeck said the decision to join the program was an easy one to make given the benefits it will provide the Emerald and Avonsleigh communities.

"Many brigade members were already active GoodSAM responders independent from their CFA involvement. Now, with a structured process, enhanced training, and better equipment, we're well-positioned to assist ambulance crews and proud to play a role in protecting our community." said Captain Brodeck.

"What this program means is that community members who call for an ambulance may receive both a fire truck and an ambulance. There is no specific order in which the services arrive to the incident."

Emerald CFA has been training with Ambulance Victoria for months, in preparation for the program which will complement the Ambulance Victoria service in the local area.

CFA Deputy Chief Officer Garry Cook said the program was a natural fit for CFA because of the 52,000 volunteers across the state.

"CFA has more than 1,100 volunteer fire stations with more than 52,000 members," Garry said. "This puts CFA in a unique position to complement the Ambulance Victoria response in 50 locations across Victoria to help deliver early intervention to cardiac arrests." Ambulance Victoria Executive Director of Regional Operations, Danielle North, said Victoria's cardiac survival rates are one of the best in the world, thanks to high rates of early intervention.

"The Fire Medical Response program will improve survival rates for people in rural and regional Victoria," Danielle said.

"Quick intervention with CPR and a defibrillator has the greatest impact on improving a patient's chances of surviving a cardiac arrest.

Fernlea Community Care

Fernlea has had a number of changes over the last couple of months with the addition of the new community house and the ongoing services provided through our respite services. There's always something happening here!

Respite Centres

We've welcomed a number of new staff in our respite centres over the last couple of months, allowing us to serve more members of our community. Our new nurse, Tracey, has extensive experience in aged care, dementia care and general nursing. She is a fantastic addition to our already amazing nursing team. We also welcome new PCA's Dave and Sue. Both Dave and Sue are local and looking forward to caring for guests in our centres and in the community. We now have more availability to provide in home care, so if you're in need of some support at home and have had a My Aged Care assessment, give us a call on 5968 6639 to receive local care by local people. After losing a large part of our funding last year, we have appealed the decision and been successful in our endeavours to have our funding returned in it's entirety. This is a huge boost to our organisation and allows us to continue to provide first class service to our guests. Our guests have been enjoying mostly indoor activities over the colder months, but we've enjoyed getting outside when the sun has peeked through the clouds. Our guests from Emerald and Pakenham came together and enjoyed a lovely lunch last month at the community house and spent the afternoon enjoying the beautiful new lounge. One of older guests even remarked that we've done a "bloody beautiful job" on the makeover!

Dementia Friendly Town

We'd like to offer a big thank you to Cardinia Council for providing us with a grant to get our Dementia Friendly Town initiative up and running. We had previously put this on hold to establish the community house and we are now able to start rolling this out as a community wide initiative. We'll be working behind the scenes on this over the next few weeks and you should start seeing some activity in the community by Spring. This is such an important initiative with more people than ever experiencing dementia or cognitive decline. We hope the Emerald community will support us to support others who require assistance. More about this in next month's news.

Aged Care Employee Day

August 7th is Aged Care Employee Day. I'd like to thank all of our wonderful aged care workers for the enormous effort they put into assisting the older people in our community. Whether you work for Fernlea or another organisation, your support is invaluable. You make such a difference to the lives of your clients and to those who care for them daily. It takes a special person to do this work and I hope you know that you're seen, valued, and appreciated.

CARDINIA SHIRE COUNCIL

Volunteer Training Workshops

Throughout the year Council offers a range of free training workshops for volunteers to support our community organisations such as community asset committees, neigh-bourhood houses, sporting clubs, men's sheds, township committees & many more. To see what sessions are coming up, register at: cardinia.vic.gov.au/volunteering. E: connectedcommunities@cardinia.vic.gov.au

Volunteer Learning Bytes

Did you know Council offers a suite of free online training modules for volunteers? These learning modules equip volunteers with key skills to enhance their community impact. Topics include: Conflict of Interest, Financial Records, Successful Meetings, Contractor Management, Difficult Conversations, and Governance &Risk Management. For more information visit: cardinia.vic.gov.au/volunteering



Fernlea Community House

What a great start we've had to the term. Classes in Auslan - Australian Sign Language, Machine Sewing Skills, and the Tune In singing program have all got off to a flying start with great attendance and interest. We have the next classes kicking off this week and next - the Women's Wellness Art Therapy has just a few places left available, and the History and Wine Chat group also has availability. We have had our very first Paint and Sip evening which was a roaring success, with another planned for next month. We also have an amazing Mother and Teen Daughter Self Defence course happening on Sunday August 17th for which a few places are still open. We are incredibly lucky to welcome the Sing and Grow program this week, providing free musical experiences for families with kids aged up to 5 years.

Stay tuned as we offer more workshops, talks and classes to get involved in! More exciting news is that our Food Bank arrange-ments have now been finalised.

We have collected our first order on August 1st and are looking for ongoing volunteers to assist in ensuring the goods are collected and unpacked regularly.

FERNLEA COMMUNITY HOUSE

Fernlea

TERM 3 COURSES & TALKS

Social Discussion and Connection

History chat group (over wine)

Wednesday 7pm – 9pm in the Lounge (7 wks from 6th Aug)

An in-depth view of key historical events and their impact on shaping our lives. Join historian Dale Blair and dive into topics in a way that develops a broader understanding and awareness of competing views. It is important to share differing opinions on controversial topics respectfully. **Tutor: Dale Blair**

Book socialplanet.com.au/activity/view?id=38268

Language

Auslan for beginners

Wednesdays 12.30pm – 2.30pm in the lounge
(7 wks from 23rd July) Tutor: Michelle Hughes

Auslan is a wonderfully expressive language. This beginner's course will cover alphabet and finger spelling, common phrases, greetings, numbers, colors, days of the week, family signs, school, transport, animals ... Bringa pen, notebook & enthusiasm!

Book socialplanet.com.au/activity/view?id=38269

Physical Health and Wellbeing

Dance Fusion – "Shake your Tail Feathers"

Thursday 7.30pm – 8.30pm in the Hall (9 wks from 24th July)
Tutor: Nikki Thompson

A fun, inclusive dance class for all ages and abilities. Together we'll explore a wide range of dance styles and techniques to get our bodies moving and joy bubbling to the surface of our souls.

Book: socialplanet.com.au/activity/view?id=38264

Interest

Tune In

Saturday 3.00pm in the Hall (9 wks from 26th July)

fTune In is a group music program designed to teach singing and music fundamentals to kids and teenagers of all abilities - in a fun and safe way. **Book:** socialplanet.com.au/activity

Tech for Luddites

Friday 10.00 am - 11:30 am (6 wks from 25th July)

A gentle 6 week introduction to Modern Technology to help you navigate some fundamental functions on your phone, with hands on practice. Learn to use apps like banking, health apps, my gov; explore the internet and social media with confidence and learn about online safety and passwords; emails, online communication and video calls to keep in touch with loved ones will also be covered. **Book:** socialplanet.com.au/activity

Paint and Sip

Friday 7pm – 10pm in the Hall
Tutor: Lindy van Tuil

A BYO art class that encourages friendship. With a drink in one hand and a paintbrush in the other.
Art experience isn't necessary as it caters to complete beginners through to confident artists. You will be instructed in easy steps all art supplies are provided. You will go home with a gorgeous canvas under your arm, painted by you!

Book: https://www.socialplanet.com.au/activity/view?id=38298

For any queries or additional information, please contact
Reception: Phone: 03 5968 3895 Mobile: 0424 147 364
Email: fch@fernlea.com.au Website: www.fch.org.au

Emotional Growth and Wellbeing

Women's Wellness Art Therapy

Friday 1.30pm – 2.30pm in the Hall (8 wks from 1st Aug)
Tutors: Melanie Wray and Wendy Bell

For a creative and therapeutic outlet, join our Art Therapy Group and discover the profound benefits of art as a medium for emotional expression and mental well-being.

Book socialplanet.com.au/activity/view?id=38265

Work and Life Skills

Mothers & Teen daughters self-defence workshop

Sunday August 17th 10am-12pm in the Hall

A 2-hour Life Safe Education intro to self defence workshop includes theory and practical elements with a focus on the proactive skills to avoid confrontations/violent encounters. Delivered via awareness, risk assessment and decision-making drills, scenarios and partner activities. Q & A segments offer discussion. **Tutors: Grant Oaklands and Carmen Taylor**

Book: socialplanet.com.au/activity/view?id=38273

Natural Living: Transform Your Health and Home With Low-Tox Choices

Tuesday July 29th 11am

Deb, L'ada Soaps & Scents; 25 yrs experience in soap making with natural ingredients, will speak on how the products we use every day have an impact on our skin and our health. Free gifts on the day. **Speaker: Deborah Terkely**

Book: socialplanet.com.au/activity/view?id=38265

Creative Arts and Crafts

Macrame

Thursday 10am – 12pm in the Hall (9 wks from 24th July)
Tutor: Simone Healy

Join our upcoming Macrame Workshop and discover the relaxing and rewarding art of knotting cords into stunning plant hangers, wall decor, and more!
Our friendly instructor will guide you through the basic knots and help you craft your very own piece to take home.

Book: https://www.socialplanet.com.au/activity/view?id=38133

Sewing Basics for Beginners

Thursday 1.00pm – 3.00pm in the Hall (6 wks from 24th July)
Tutor: Caroline Spencer

Sewing essentials: your sewing tools, needles, machines; fabric choices, interfacing for different fabrics and reading patterns.
We will cover threading and looking after your sewing machine, create simple stitches, sew and finish seams and hems correctly, and design and assemble a lined bag, a square pouch bag with zipper, and a cushion or apron if time permits.
BYO sewing machine and essential sewing equipment.

Book: https://www.socialplanet.com.au/activity/view?id=38263

Crochet for Beginners

Thursday 7pm - 9pm in the lounge
Tutor: Simone Healy

Dive into the wonderful world of crochet and discover the satisfaction of creating your very own cozy blankets, stylish scarves, and adorable amigurumi! Our beginner's crochet class offers a supportive and fun environment where you'll learn all the foundational stitches and techniques, step by step, transforming a simple hook and yarn into beautiful handmade treasures. Materials are supplied to get you started.

Book: https://www.socialplanet.com.au/activity/view?id=38262

Emerald and District Museum

Volunteer at the Emerald Museum

The Emerald Museum was a busy place on 30 July when workers from Cardinia Shire's Communications Team were shooting a video which had the twin aims of promoting our local Museum of and encouraging people to think about volunteering there.

The Team took impromptu shots around the display areas of the Museum and in the back room where the cataloguing work takes place and also conducted short interviews with volunteers, young and old.

The plan is to have the video ready for release during August to coincide with National Family History Month and to promote it through the Shire's social media.



Taking time out at the Emerald Museum after a busy morning of filming'

Volunteering opportunities at the Museum are varied. They include front-of-house (meeting and greeting museum visitors and showing them around); cataloguing donated items so that they can be searched online; photographing items; curating displays and external exhibitions; researching the answers to questions posed by visitors or by people who email us; and writing promotional articles and social media posts.

If you are a tertiary student of Museum or related studies, the Museum is a great place to get hands-on collection experience including with cataloguing and photography. At present, we have a particular need for more front-of-house people as that would enable us to be open more frequently. s a front-of-house person you will welcome people who may have come from Melbourne or the regions for the day but are sometimes from interstate or overseas. You will also meet many local visitors, some of whom are seeking historical information about their family or their street. Whatever task or tasks you choose to do as a Museum volunteer, we will support you and provide training and mentoring. You will end up knowing so much more about the history of Emerald and the workings of museums than you would have thought possible!

For more information, go to our Face-book page or the Museum website or visit us to have a chat: Wed 10am - 3pm or Sun 12- 3pm or by appointment.

Anne Carter

Come Along with Us!

Alabaster Church Hills

In today's world, with all its busy-ness we can be lonely, without purpose, and distant from the God who made us and loves us.

At Alabaster Church Hills, we know that Jesus has called all people to come and follow Him. We welcome you to come and join us in learning His ways, His truth and to live a meaningful life.

- Where: Hills Hub, Emerald
- When: 10 – 12:00 Sundays
- Contact: Phil Cogger – 0412 492 889
- www.alabaster.org.au

ALABASTER CHURCH

Alabaster Hills is part of the Australian Christian Churches (ACC)



Friends of Emerald Lake Park

When you walk around Lake Treganowan and Lake Nobelius you will always see ducks, swamp hens and coots. If you bring bird seed to throw around, they will welcome you. Make sure that you throw seed rather than bread or random left over food which will damage rather than feed them. Check out the signs at the Lake that provide useful advice.

If you walk on the tracks that radiate from the Lakes out into the surrounding bush you will see a wider variety of bird life.

At the last Thursday working bee of the Friends group we were working along the Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail (EDRT) back towards the Nobelius Nursery. Towards the end of the morning, **we saw a lyrebird** cross the maintenance trail and disappear into the bush. Wow, what a sight. We knew that a pair had been seen up near the Council depot but we had not seen one in the broad Precinct area.

An indicator that our work is having a positive effect; patience and persistence.

FELP works to improve the habitat at the Park to ensure the survival and the increase of all native bird species. That's why we work to renew the native vegetation, tackle the weeds and monitor the environment in the Lake Precinct.

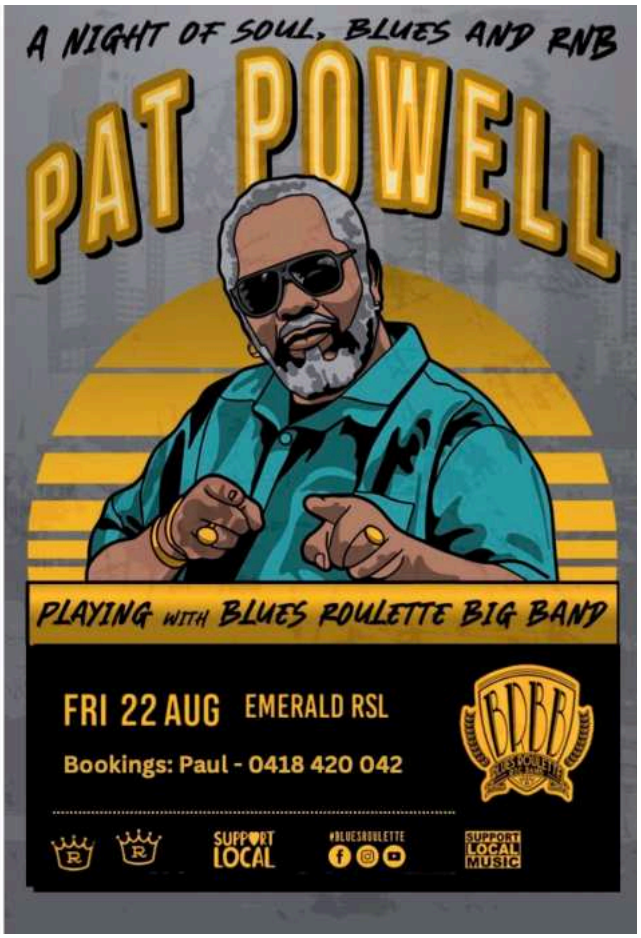
Will you help us please? We have 3 working bees each month. They are scheduled to provide a time that can work for everyone. For August we will meet in the Lakeside carpark at 9am, planning to work in the gardens around the Lake, and also, back in the bush along the EDRT.

Join us in August on - Saturday 2nd, Sunday 10th and Thursday 21. Any questions, please email us at friendsofemeraldlakepark@gmail.com.

We need you.

Anne de Schepper





Media release: Nominate a young person for Cardinia Shire's Good Choice Awards

Nominations are now open for the Cardinia Shire Council's annual Good Choice Awards.

The Good Choice Awards recognise and celebrate young people aged 12-24 who demonstrate resilience, kindness, and strength in their decision-making throughout 2024.

This might include prioritising study, applying for a job, making informed choices about their health and safety, accessing support networks, prioritising life goals and aspirations, choosing to spend time with positive influences, and engaging in school or returning to study with confidence.

Read more in the full release online.

On behalf of Cardinia Shire Council

WHERE AM I?

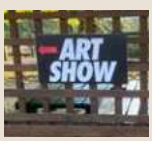
This month we have this wonderful sign "Welcome" which is put out on a weekly basis.

The event is held in many countries in the world.

If you know where this is located and you like a cake and coffee from the Captains of Emerald, email me your reply.



Dick Bartley
dickbartley08@gmail.com



Last month we were at the old cafe Emerald Lake Park.

Yes, the Shire was proposing that this building would be demolished.

The Arts Society and others were able to save it and now we have another venue for artists to display their works -

Art in The Park

A great result.



Anatidaephobia: the fear that somewhere. somehow, a duck is watching you.

Press Release - Volunteers invited to join Cardinia Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee (CAIAC)

We're calling on passionate and committed community volunteers to join our Access & Inclusion Advisory Committee to represent the interests of people with disability in Cardinia Shire.

CAIAC aims to create a welcoming, accessible & inclusive Cardinia Shire.

The committee consists of representatives from the disability community, disability sector and Cardinia Shire Councillors and plays a key role in providing information and advocating to Council on issues impacting people with disability.

The Role of CAIAC

- Monitor and review access and inclusion policy and Council's disability action plan
- Provide information to Council on issues impacting people with disability that prevent inclusion in the community
- Have input and participation in strategic planning
- Are represented on Council Community Advisory Committee's for local projects, and
- Liaise with Cardinia Shire Council on Council related matters.

Time commitment:

Membership covers a period of three years and committee members are invited to attend in person meetings on the third Wednesday of alternate months, February, April, June, August, October, December.

- Time: 10am to 12 noon
- Location: Cardinia Cultural Centre, 40 Lakeside Blvd, Pakenham.

How to apply:

- online application form
- Ph Access & Inclusion Disability Officer on 1300 787 624

Email: www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/accessandinclusion

On behalf of Cardinia Shire Council

Puffing Billy Toy Library

Puffing Billy Toy Library is now located at Fernlea Community House.

Katie Holmes - President



U3A EMERALD

Emerald U3A members continue to make the very best of their golden years. Why do I call them golden? Because it's a much better, more optimistic and accurate description than "autumn years". Every day is precious. Every day is valuable.

We mark the value of our days, months and years by taking care of ourselves. We keep our minds active and learning through classes ranging from philosophy to current affairs, science, the environment, literature and more. We keep our bodies moving with table tennis, bush walking, bowls, yoga, Pickleball. Our creative juices flow as we write, paint, craft, felt, and act. Equally importantly we enjoy each other's company through a whole lot of social interaction.

Every season we have a celebratory social event. The chill of winter was offset by our Winter Warmer. We'll be having a cheese and wine Spring Fling. Christmas in July saw our members bring friends along for a festive evening meal together at the RSL.

All in all our focus is having A Good Time. If you are interested in joining us, come along to the Hills Hub between 10am and 1pm and speak with one of our Hub Hosts.
Or you could join online at www.emeraldu3a.org.au

Pat Buoncristiani

C Me Uniforms & Safety
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1300 441 959
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www.c-me.com.au

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DENTAL PROSTHETIST
03 5968 2626
0409 965 465
tibballsdental@gmail.com
www.dingleyemeralddentures.com.au
396 Belgrave-Gembrook Road, Emerald VIC 3782

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341 Belgrave Gembrook Rd, Emerald
efdc@monbulkemeralddentist.com.au
Monbulk 9752 0177
U8 37-39 Main Rd, Monbulk
mfdc@monbulkemeralddentist.com.au

History of Emerald

This month we will look at the life of a remarkable man – Carl Axel Nobelius, and what he achieved. Next month we will look at the Nobelius Heritage Park and the following month the Nobelius Packing Shed. His achievements and his legacy will take three editions to do justice to him! Many of our readers will be familiar with the Nobelius story but many will not. The word 'unique' is flagrantly overused and the term has been devalued. But unique aptly applies to what Carl Axel Nobelius achieved.

in 1851, Carl Axel Nobelius, the eldest of five children, was a cousin to Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite whose fortune established the Nobel Prize. In 1871 Carl migrated to Melbourne. About 1884 he bought land at Emerald and for years went each Saturday by train to Narre Warren and then walked 26 km to his land, where he cleared, cultivated and planted before walking back to catch the Sunday night train! By 1890 he had established his business at Emerald; fifty acres (20 ha) of orchard and nursery were under cultivation. By 1892 Carl's nursery which he called 'Gembrook' was sufficiently established for him, his wife and their children to relocate permanently to Emerald. As the nursery prospered, the family moved to a sixteen-roomed Victorian mansion called Carramar which still stands in Emerald.

In 1903 he was able to advertise a million trees for sale. By 1914 his nurseries held two million stock trees, produced quantities of apples and pears, and conducted a huge export trade with other Australian States and overseas with New Zealand, South Africa, India, Japan, Europe and South America. The size of exports is indicated by annual shipments of 400,000 tree stock to South Africa alone. Carl Nobelius ran the largest nursery south of the equator, occupying 650 ha. That's huge it's six and half square kilometres! The nurseries were run as a family business employing more than 80 people and it dominated the economic and social life of the Emerald-Gembrook district.

The Dandenong Advertiser reported in 1911 that 1,000 different species of fruit trees and 120 kinds of ornamental trees were for sale. By 1914 three million trees were advertised for sale.

Carl Axel Nobelius



World War I destroyed the export trade and compelled contraction and reorganization, but in 1920 the nursery was said to be still the largest south of the equator. Nobelius died of pneumonia at his home in Emerald on 31 December 1921.

Want to find out more? Visit the Emerald Museum at the Nobelius Heritage Park Wednesday 10am - 3pm and Sunday 12pm - 3pm, great photos and it's free.

Material used for this article has been extracted from these websites.

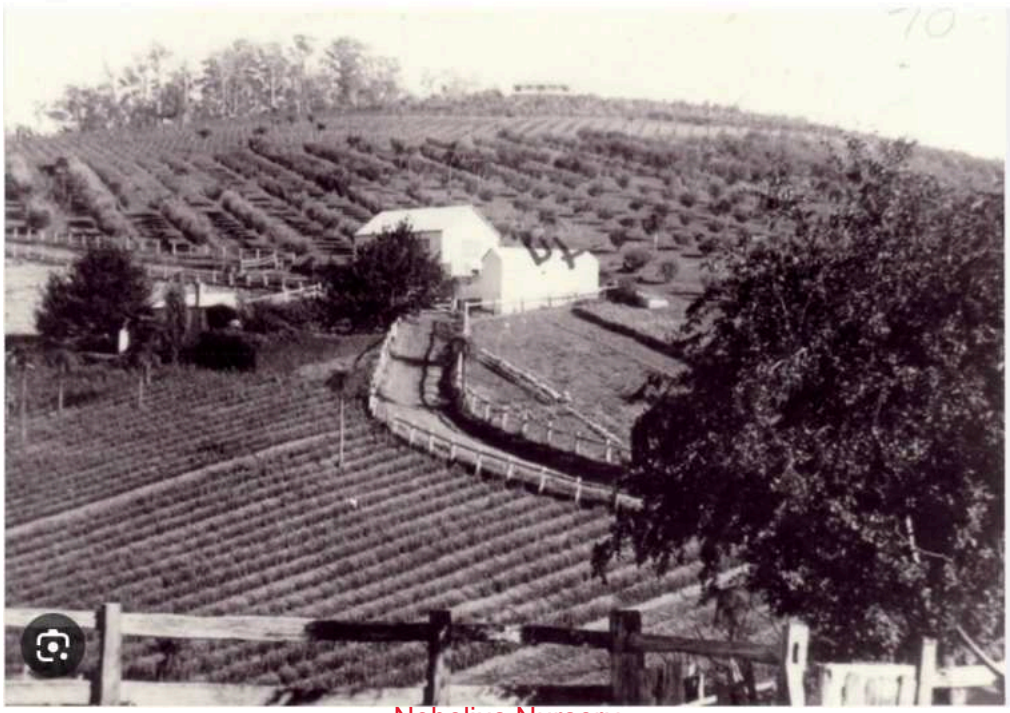
eoas.info/biogs/P000127b.htm

emeraldmuseum.org.au/carl-axel-nobelius

adb.anu.edu/bibliography/nobelius-carl-axel

cardinia.vic.gov.au/directory_record/4974/nobelius_heritage_park_conservation_management

Trevor Budge



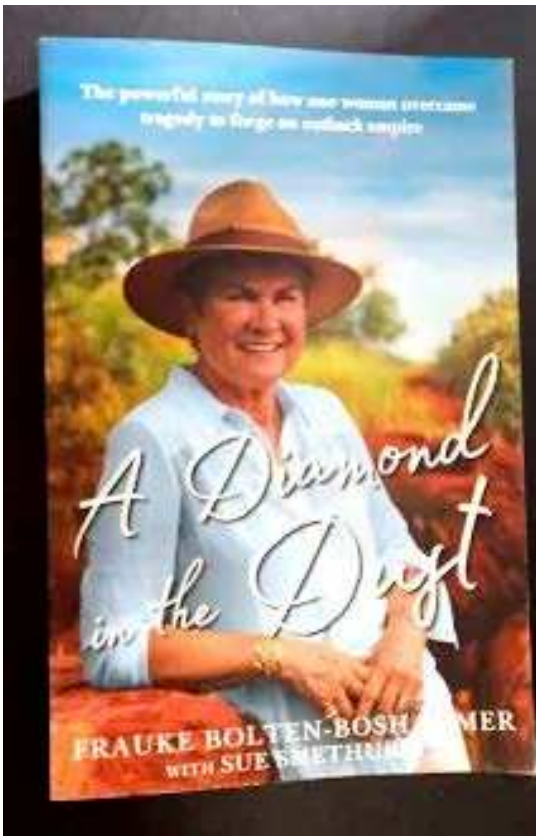
Nobelius Nursery



MONTHLY BOOK REVIEW

A Diamond in the Dust by Frauke Bolten- Boshammer

How many of you have visited Kununurra in the far north of Western Australia and felt that intense heat surround you and pervade all aspects of your daily life?
Imagine how Frauke felt leaving Germany where she had a beautiful farm, lush growth, cold winters and loads of fresh produce, not to mention her and her husband's whole family, to land in Kununurra - what a stark contrast!
Frauke and her husband Freidrich came to Kununurra to develop a life farming as this had excited her husband as a challenge, he wanted to have a go at.
Frauke faced a dilapidated house, incredibly poor farm soil and conditions, supplies that were riddled with weevils amongst other immense challenges, both by Mother Nature and life itself!
This is an incredible tale of how they both were so determined to make a life, develop and be supported by community and rear a family. Everyday tasks seemed at times impossible but against all odds sheer determination won through. Three years into this adventure tragedy struck and Frauke was left to rear a family and run a farm alone. Will she return to Germany or forge on?
With her young family she decided to stay, and life turns, with her meeting a new love. Just when life seems to be setting a new course tragedy strikes again and she loses a son.



With the power of community, her entrepreneurial skills and her new partner she starts selling diamonds from her backyard. This becomes the impetus for the development of her very own empire specialising in rare pink diamonds. Some of you may have heard of or visited Kimberley Rare Diamonds which also specialises in pearls.
Of course, the development of the industry provides fascinating reading in itself, which I will allow you to discover.
A wonderful true story of sheer grit and determination which I am sure many readers would enjoy as did our U3A Eucalypt Book Group.

Tanya Cooke
U3A Eucalypt Book Group

Emerald Wellbeing Group

Our Wellbeing group has been running for 10 + years through the Community House. Now the new Fernlea Community House.

It's open to over 60s.

Come together for socialisation, coffee and chat. We often laugh with our attempts at various quizzes, Bingo and sharing memories and stories.

It's free, fun and welcoming to new faces, so come along and join us. Thursdays 10.00am till 12.00 at the Fernlea Community House.

Karen Jinnette
kaddieschultz@gmail.com

EMERALD NEWS

GET INVOLVED IN LOCAL NEWS!

Help us get the word out to our community.
If you are interested in volunteering with the newsletter and building your skill base/resume contact us.
Email:
evacommunications3782@gmail.com

We are looking for assistance across the production of Emerald News particularly in areas of:

printing, reporting, photography, cartoons, or puzzles.

Emerald Wellness Pharmacy
Putting patients first
348 Belgrave-Gembrook Rd,
Emerald VIC 3782
Ph: (03) 5907 8706
Mon - Fri 8:30am - 8:00pm
Saturday 8:30am - 2:00pm
Sunday 9:30am - 12:30pm

EMCAR
Automotive
Darren Gavin
Owner/Manager
297 Belgrave- Gembrook Road
Emerald 3782
info@emcarautomotive.com
5968 6031

Emerald Lakers

Emerald Lakers Gear Up for Summer Season – Join the Action!

The Emerald Lakers Basketball Club is calling all basketball enthusiasts to hit the court this summer. Registrations are now open for the upcoming summer season. Emerald Lakers offers inclusive teams for all age groups, from Under 8s to Under 23s, welcoming players of every skill level.

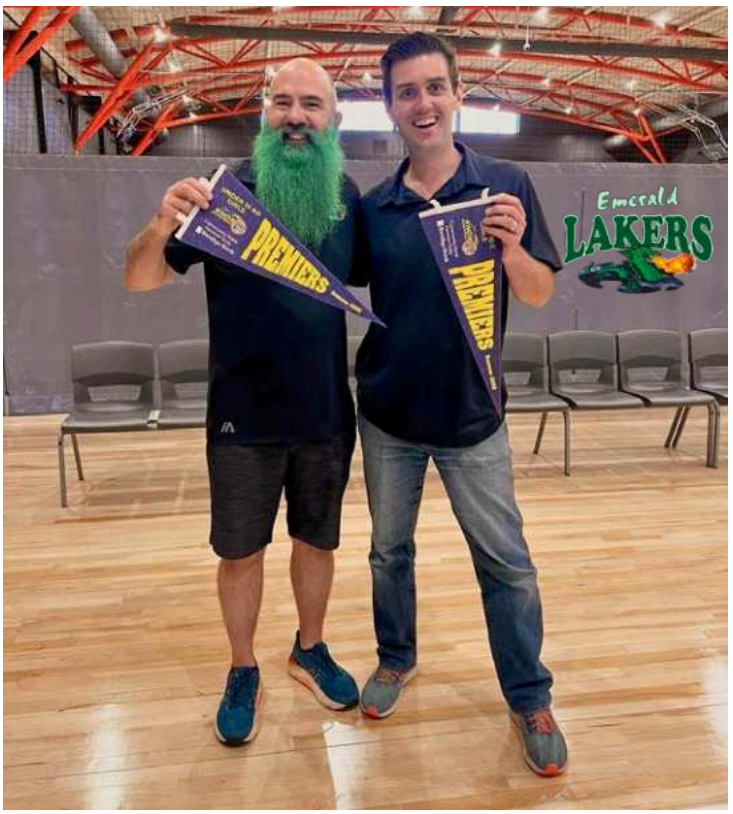
The home of the Lakers is at the vibrant Emerald Primary School Basketball Stadium, situated in the heart of town. The Lakers provide a supportive environment where young athletes can thrive, compete and connect through sport. For budding players aged 4 to 10, the club offers weekly Foundation Sessions – Little Lakers and Laker Ready are fun-filled, community-driven programs that teach basketball fundamentals while building confidence and coordination.

Whether you're an experienced baller or just playing socially, the Emerald Lakers are ready to help you join a team and be part of a wonderful club culture.

To register or learn more, visit www.emeraldlakers.com.au or email the team at join@emeraldlakers.com.au

Lisa Bloore vicepresident@emeraldlakers.com.au





Cardinia Community Foundation

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE

CARDINIA BUSINESS *Lunch*

OCTOBER

FRIDAY **10** 11.30 AM

2025

THE VALUE IN A PURPOSE-DRIVEN BUSINESS

Join us for an exclusive business lunch featuring keynote speaker Ian Ash from OrgMent Business Solutions. Discover how cultivating a purpose-driven culture can transform your ability to attract, engage and retain top talent in today's competitive market.

Following Ian's presentation, participate in a panel discussion with industry leaders Simon Dunstan (SJD Homes), Wade Calderwood (Pakenham Mazda) and Neil Bainbridge (Southside Racing) who will share proven strategies for building workplace cultures that reduce turnover and boost employee satisfaction.

This event includes lunch, drinks & networking opportunities with local businesses!

CARDINIA CLUB

71 RACECOURSE ROAD, PAKENHAM

Booking link for tickets: or scan the QR code

https://www.trybooking.com/DDFYZ

Tickets $35 each or $300 table of 10

Early bird discounts apply before 31st August!

BOOK YOUR SEAT BY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2025

admin@cardiniafoundation.org 03 5945 0766

AVONSLEIGH VETERINARY CLINIC

441 Belgrave-Gembrook Road Avonsleigh Vic 3782

For appointments call: Tel: 5968 3957 (24 hours)

Dr J. Hamilton and Associates

GROOMING SERVICES AVAILABLE

Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF)

The ESVF came into effect 1 July replacing the Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL). Council is legislated to collect this levy on behalf of Victorian Government through the annual rates notice.

- The levy will fund a range of emergency services, including the CFA, FRV, VICSES, and Triple Zero Victoria.
- Council submitted a motion calling for the Municipal Association of Vic (MAV) 16 May, to note the significant impact on local government and the community, particularly on primary production properties such as farms.

We are committed to continuing to work with our local government colleagues to advocate on this matter and highlight the sector's concerns.

Cardinia Shire Mayor Cr. Kowarzik said Council continues to seek clarification from the State Government on the level of financial support the State provides to councils to administer the increased levy. "Council looks forward to seeing what support will be provided to administer and collect this levy and to support us in responding to increased community questions, concerns and enquiries. While we understand that the levy is to fund emergency services, we are concerned about the impact it will have on ratepayers, including farmers. "I encourage our local farmers to seek out advice as to whether they are eligible for drought relief rebates, or exemptions for our emergency services volunteers."

Mayor Kowarzik said the levy **would appear in rates notices for the 2025–26 year.** "While this levy will be collected by Council on behalf of the State Government, we remind our community that this is not a Council charge... Even though State Government charges and Council charges are listed separately on our rates notices, payments made to Council are allocated equally across all charges, regardless of whether they are State or Council charges."

Council reminds ratepayers that they do not have the option to select which charges on their rates notice they wish to pay or withhold.

Council encourages members of the community to contact us if they are experiencing financial hardship.

Emerald Cemetery

Hi, we are a small group of volunteers who care for the graves at Emerald Cemetery in Macclesfield Road.

We are looking for assistance from the local residents to prune the roses and other work around the Cemetery.

We meet at the Cemetery on Mondays at 10am and work till 11.30am; then stop for a cuppa, biscuits and a chat.



If interested call:
Graeme Fergus
- Ph| 5968 5612
- M| 0437 543 515

Or just turn up.



Faye Robins
Co-ordinator

BURNOFFS - Key points

- Burning off is primarily to reduce bushfire fuel loads.
- Non-urban properties may be able to burn off without a permit - check your zone.
- Urban/built up areas cannot burn off without a permit.
- All burns must be registered with *Triple Zero Victoria* , prior to the burn taking place. (03) 8656 1200 Plan your burn-off more than two hours in advance with an online registration ***(Do not call 000)***
- There are limited provisions for BBQs, chimineas, fire pits for food preparation or warmth in all areas – see further information.



- All fires (either with or without permits) are subject to common conditions (Step 4). You may be fined if you breach these conditions.
- Domestic or commercial waste is not allowed to be burnt at any time.
- If you need a permit, you should allow three business days for processing. Permits are not processed on weekends or public holidays.

Are you lighting a fire in a firepit, chiminea or barbeque for cooking or warmth? – see the rules for firepits.

On behalf of Cardinia Shire Council





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Outlook

an inclusive society for all

TERM 3

Morning Melodies

Join us for a sing along to popular songs
Featuring Frankie Stevens and Linda Reid. A light lunch is included.
Tuesday 12 August, 10.30am – 1pm
Cost: $25 booking essential

Carer's Morning Tea: FREE

Do you care for someone elderly, disabled or with a mental illness?
Join us for a morning tea celebration of the amazing job you do. A morning to relax and enjoy. There will be refreshments and entertainment.
Wednesday 15 October 10am – 1pm
Supported by
CarersVIC Australia

Prostate Cancer Support Group

Support when you need it most
If you have been impacted by prostate cancer, this group will connect you with others who have been through a similar experience. A safe space to share experiences with diagnosis, treatments and managing side effects. You will learn evidence-based information in a friendly environment.
1st Thursday of the month:
4 Sept & 2 October, 7pm - 8.30pm
FREE (Gold coin donation welcome)

Computer Maintenance and Internet Safety

Keep your PC running smoothly and your data secure
Covers maintenance tools and options, managing your files and folders (including backups), staying safe on the internet, avoiding online scams, managing passwords and much more. BYO USB stick.
Tuesdays commencing 26 August
for 3 sessions. 9am - 1pm
Cost: $25 (includes course notes) A Learn Local course

To see our complete program please visit www.outlookaust.org.au or drop into the centre at 24 Toomuc Valley Road, Pakenham. ph 1300 617 649

Metro Community Education Session: FREE

Metro's Community Education Team's insightful and informative information session brings to life the Metro Tunnel Project, the largest rail project in Melbourne since the City Loop was built more than 40 years ago! The Metro Tunnel will provide people with more choice and better connections to parts of Melbourne not previously serviced by trains. The presentation will focus on the Metro Tunnel Project – including the new stations, trains, systems, and technological innovations. Supported by METRO
Wed 3 Sept 11am - 12pm

Morning Melodies: Join us for a sing along to popular songs
Featuring Frankie Stevens and Linda Reid. A light lunch is included.
Tuesday 12 August, 10.30am – 1pm
Cost: $25 booking essential

Cardinia Dementia Connections

Nobody can do it alone
To coincide with Dementia Action week, Care Connect - Care Finder Program is hosting an event in conjunction with local community organisations, to raise awareness of dementia.
Learn about services and supports available to people living with dementia and their carers, in the Cardinia Shire.
Tuesday 16 September, 10am - 12pm
Cost: FREE (a light morning tea will be provided)
Supported by Australian Multicultural Community Services, care connect, Carer Gateway, Forget-Me-Not Café, Alfred Health and Services Australia

Artificial Intelligence

Unlock the power of AI to enhance your life! Join us to explore the fascinating world of AI and embrace its potential to enhance your daily life safely and effectively. This course will provide you with the skills and hands on experience you need to confidently navigate and use AI in society.
Suitable for Windows and iPad 8th Gen and above.
Mondays commencing
11 August for 6 sessions,
10am - 12pm Cost: $30
A Learn Local course



Community Group Buses

Does your club or group need a small bus (up to 11 passengers plus driver) we have two very close to the Hills.

- Cardinia community bus is available Ph| 5943 4100 at $9.00 an hour for community groups.
- Monbulk community bus M.R.E Bus is a not for profit entity that provides affordable use of a Self Drive 12 seater Bus for schools, sporting clubs, social clubs.

For ONLY

- $100.00 on a weekday
- $250.00 for the whole weekend (Saturday & Sunday)

The bus has automatic transmission, capacity to carry 12 people (including driver), and only requires a standard drivers licence. It is also equipped with a wheelchair lift for those who need a little assistance.
To book your event: Ph 9756 6011
Email: reception@mre.net.au

Dot Griffin









Another Option

Victoria Police is calling on residents with **CCTV cameras** to register their systems.
You are not handing over footage or providing live access. You're simply letting police know you have a camera and how to contact you if an incident occurs nearby.



NHW Eastern Ranges

When former police detective David Bartlett was working on cases, he would often view footage from CCTV cameras fitted to individual houses. Most residents were happy to share their camera data, but the time it took to find owners at home and eventually receive the data was not ideal. He commissioned a system that would allow the police electronic access to potentially all CCTV cameras, whilst also giving the resident CCTV owners control over what information is shared with the system. With this, David and his wife set up **Safer Places Network (SPN)**, three months ago. Only the police have access to the data, and SPN do not store or collect any footage. It allows real time activation of the system, within minutes for those who have agreed to the practice of being alerted when something has been reported in their area.

SPN has gone through all the legal requirements and are looking at ways to keep improving the service. They are now approaching the likes of Woolworths and Coles about joining, to bring in all facets of the community. They would also like Dash Cam footage to be included in the system.

An example of how it works
After a ram raid all members within a kilometre (and up to 5 kilometre radius) could be notified to keep an eye out and check their cameras for suspicious activity. SPN is able to send an SMS out within minutes of being notified and only to those in the immediate vicinity.

Currently one in every five homes has security cameras so if they all registered with SPN, this would open up the opportunities to catch those who are engaging in criminal activities. Camera evidence increases the police opportunity to collect hard data, enables quick responses by police, and is valuable when entered into a court proceeding.

If you have a CCTV camera, you can help. Register for free and make our communities safer.
At saferplaces.com.au or Facebook Safer Places

POLICE REPORT
Over the past couple of months, there was a noticeable increase in graffiti and theft from motor vehicles in the Emerald and Cockatoo areas. We would like to thank the local community for quickly reporting these crimes and assisting with the investigation.
Due to your help, on 20th May, police from the Emerald Police Station and the Cardinia Crime investigation unit arrested and charged a 32 year old man from Cockatoo.
He was remanded in Custody and was later sentenced by the Dandenong Magistrates' Court to a 5 month term of imprisonment.

The Facebook Eyewatch team suggests if you return to your car and notice items missing, call the Police Assistance Line (PAL) 131444, or report it online at police-assistance-line-and-online-reporting
If the offender is still present or you require immediate police assistance, dial triple zero (000)

Unlock More with Your Library Membership

Did you know you can borrow a Bird Watching Kit with your Myli library membership? Each kit includes binoculars, guides, and DVDs—perfect for spotting local wildlife. Some clever patrons have even used the binoculars for whale watching along the coast. You can ask at your local branch or reserve one of these kits online through Myli's Library of Things, where you'll find all kinds of fun items to borrow beyond books.
https://www.myli.org.au/resources/bird-watching-kit/



Author Talk: Everyday Permaculture with Urban Nanna

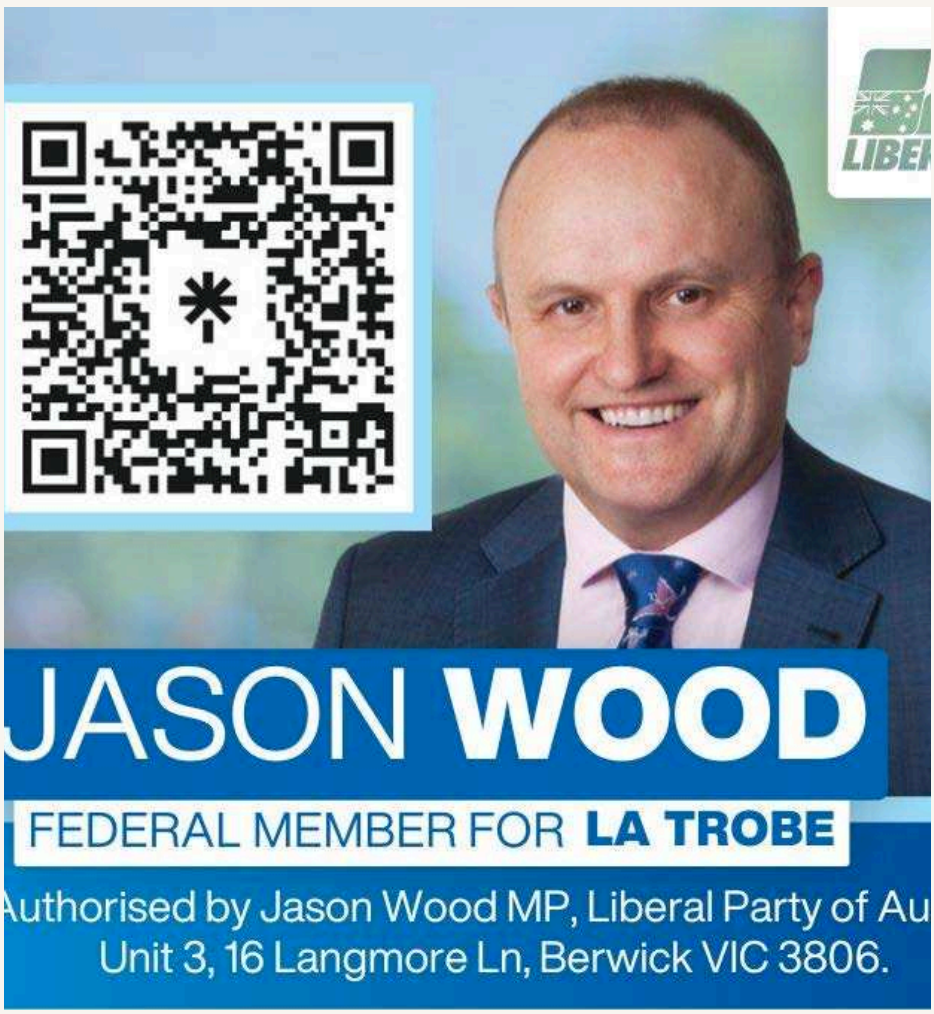
Friday 8 August, 4:00pm
Join 'The Urban Nanna' for a practical and inspiring chat about her book 'Everyday Permaculture'. Learn how to reduce waste, save money and live more sustainably at home. Everyday Permaculture offers a fresh, accessible take on sustainable living, grounded in common sense and a passion for the planet. Books will be available for purchase.
Book your spot

Writing your Personal Narrative: Personal vs Political

The workshop will explore narrative structure, charact-erisation, argument, place-making, dialogue, under and overstatement, and context.
Learn to narrativise your truths in a way that is compelling yet not self-indulgent and understand the ethical implications of writing in the non-fiction genre.

📌 **This is an online event**
📅 **Saturday 17 August**
⏰ **10.30am - 1pm**





Properties for Sale in Emerald

from sponsors of Emerald Village Association

BELL REAL ESTATE

RESIDENTIAL

158 Emerald Monbulk Road, Emerald
18 Clearbrook Road, Clematis
16 Coopers Road, Macclesfield
8 Cherry Road, Avonsleigh



LAND

70 Beaconsfield Emerald Road, Emerald
13 Outlook Road, Emerald
7 Brookdale Avenue, Emerald
62 Kilvington Drive, Emerald
3 Sunnyside Terrace, Emerald
5 Mcnamara Road, Avonsleigh
31 Avon Road, Avonsleigh

BARRYPLANT
EMERALD 5968 4522

11 Lower Grieve Road, Avonsleigh
17 Kings Road, Emerald
339 Belgrave Gembrook Road, Emerald
3/4 Westlands Road, Emerald
10 Victor Road, Clematis
5 Regal Close, Emerald
109 Emerald Monbulk Road, Emerald
3 Ladd Square, Emerald

Volunteer Opportunity

COCKATOO NILs

The No Interest Loans (NILs) program provides loans of up to $2,000 for people on low incomes.

Based in our office in Emerald, we are looking for volunteers to support our staff in talking to clients on the phone, emailing documents and working through the client's budget on the NILs App. Training and support is provided for volunteers.

If you have a few hours a week to spare and would like to help those in need, please contact 0427 895 596 or drop in at 5 Church Street, Emerald to find out more and meet our lovely staff. We are open Tuesday to Friday.

ECHO YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Cardinia Council Press Release

Cardinia Shire residents helped recycle nearly 12 tonnes of e-waste, polystyrene, soft plastics, textiles and cardboard at Cardinia Shire Council's first Recycling Drive and Drop event.

Council hosted the wildly successful event on Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 July at the Council Depot in Pakenham.

With residents taking the opportunity to drop-off those hard to recycle items, the weekend saw an impressive 419 vehicles drive through – averaging one vehicle every 90 seconds.

Due to this overwhelming success, Council has already locked in dates for the next Recycling Drive and Drop event: **Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 January 2026**. More details to come closer to those dates.

Cardinia Shire Mayor, Councillor Jack Kowarzik praises the community's enthusiastic participation.

"A massive thank you to everyone who attended this new event!"

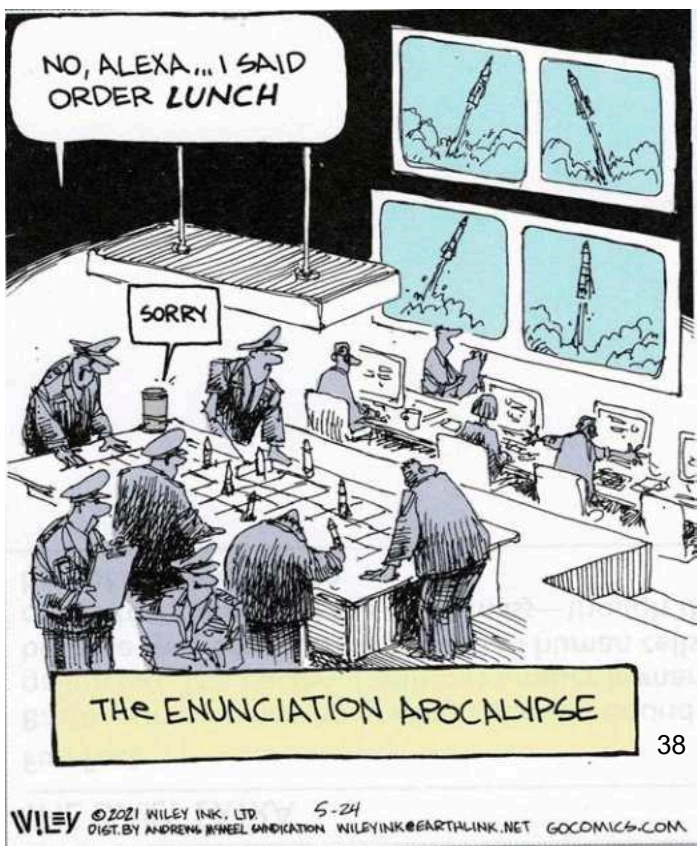
"Over the course of the weekend, we saw hundreds of cars drive through, each one representing a conscious decision to recycle responsibly."

"Not only have you cleared out those hard to recycle items from your home, but more importantly you have helped ensure nearly 12 tonnes of waste will be reused or recycled, instead of ending up in landfill."

"We are thrilled with the turnout and are excited for the next Recycling Drive and Drop event in January."

For more information on upcoming drop-off events, go to www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/dropoff

For information on how to dispose of common household items, go to www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/atoz









Realizing that not every moment in life will be deep, or meaningful, or vibrating with energy that would give him the fulfillment that he'd always hoped for, Todd unloaded the dishwasher.



2			4	9				
		3				2	7	
	4				7			9
		1	3				2	
	8	9		6		4		
			7				8	
		2	8			7		
		5	1			8	9	
7			9		3			1

Sudoku

Fill 9 x 9 square with no repeated numbers in each line, vertically or horizontally.

Note: 3 x 3 squares marked out in the grid - each of these squares can't have any repeat numbers either.

Xmas in July



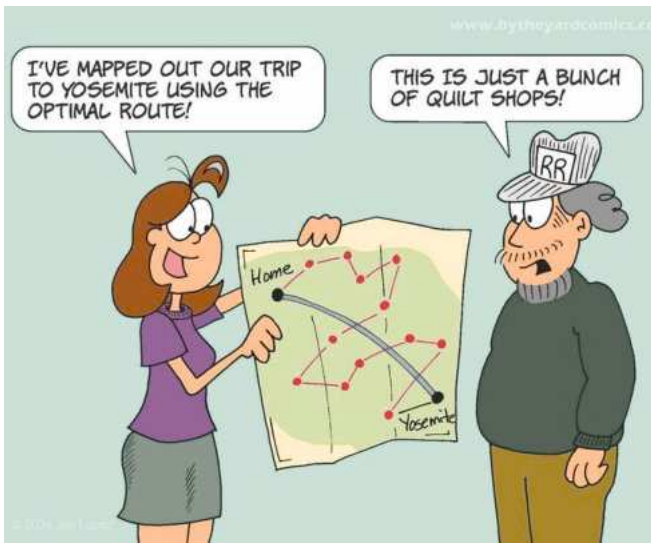
Emerald Ladies Probus Club

After enjoying a fun filled get together for our Christmas in July lunch, our Soup & Games Day and our morning tea with a wander around the Old Cheese Factory in Berwick in July, we're looking forward to more outings in August:

- Nosh & Natter lunch at "Seasons at Cloudehill" in Olinda
- Walk & morning tea at Lilydale Lake
- Titanic - A Voyage Through Time; a stunning virtual reality experience
- 1812 Theatre production of "Home, I'm Darling"
- The art of Annemieke Mein Exhibition at Box Hill Town Hall

We will again be running our own Emerald Ladies Probus Show in September when our members will display their creations. Our recent monthly craft sessions included a watercolour painting class enjoyed by our budding artists and an exquisite "Cut & Tuck" craft using paper to create bookmarks, cards and 3D shapes.

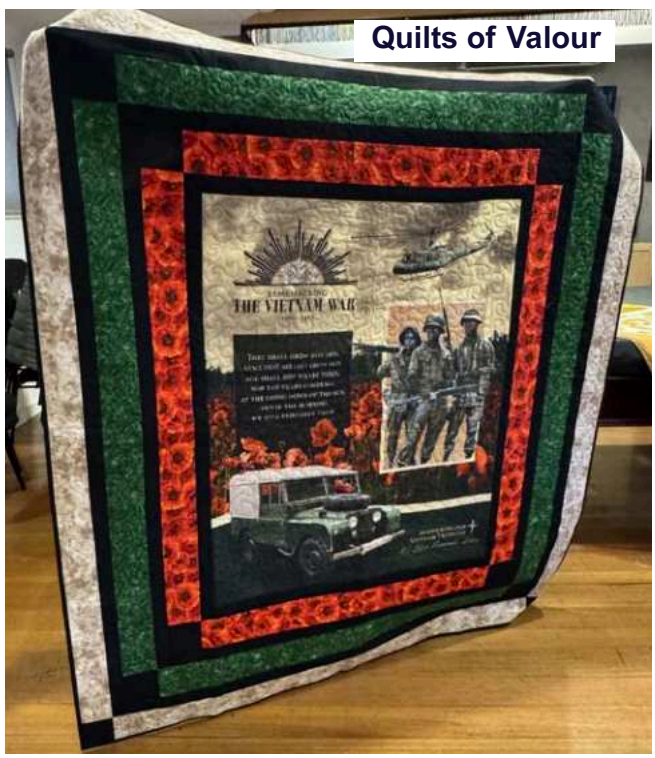
A recent guest speaker, Helen Comport was awarded an OAM this year in the King's Birthday honours for her involvement in Quilts of Valour. This organisation creates then awards quilts to Veterans & immediate families of Defence Personnel & of Veterans who have passed. Helen bought along some amazing quilts. If you are interested you can learn more about this wonderful organisation at quiltsofvalour.com.au We also appreciated an interesting and informative presentation provided from another recent guest speaker, Jenny Dexter, from Palliative Care Victoria. Jenny spoke about the many elements of palliative care and her personal experiences in end-of-life care for her husband. More information can be found at **pallcarevic.asn.au**



If you like the sound of our activities and guest speakers, why not come along to a meeting to find out more. We meet at 10:00am on the third Monday of each month at the Emerald RSL. This month our guest speaker will be Andrew Gardner from the Bendigo Bank with a presentation about online banking safety. You can find more information on our website by scanning the QR code or contact Michelle on 5968 4922.

Helen Beach

Quilts of Valour



Cut & Tuck papercraft



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CARDINIA SHIRE COUNCIL

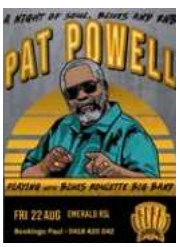


Emerald Library: your local drop off point for small e-waste items



AUGUST Calendar of Events

Apologies for omissions/ errors- we have worked hard to ensure details are correct & inclusive

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27 JULY EVERY SUNDAY 12- 3PM EMERALD MUSEUM OPEN	28 EVERY MON 10–11.30AM VOLUNTEER AT EM CEMETERY. EVERY MON 11.15 - 11.45AM BABY RHYMME TIME EM LIBRARY, AGES 0-1	29 EVERY TUES 7PM ROTARY MTG @THE PARADISE EVERY TUES 2 & 3PM TECH HELP ONE-ON-ONE @LIBRARY END OF PB TRAIN OF LIGHTS FOR THIS YR	30 9:30 - 11AM EVERY WED PB TOY LIBRARY AT FERNLEA COMMUNITY HOUSE 6 – 7:30 PM EVERY 2ND WEDNESDAY (FTNLY) - EMERALD WRITER'S COMMUNITY - WSHOP	31 10.00AM -12.00 EVERY THURSDAY, EMERALD WELL-BEING GROUP @ FERNLEA COMMUNITY HOUSE EVERY THURDAY 11.15 AM-12NOON STORYTIME @ EM LIBRARY AGES 3-5	1 AUGUST 11:15 AM - 11:45 -EVERY FRIDAY DURING SCHOOL TERMS.TODDLER TIME @ THE LIBRARY 1-3 YRS EVERY THURS 11AM-4PM SES BOTTLE COLLECTION	2 8AM EVERY SAT PARKRUN AT EMERALD LAKE 9AM-11AM FELP WORKING BEE, MEET AT E/LAKE CARPARK 
3 EVERY SUNDAY 12- 3PM EMERALD MUSEUM OPEN 	4 EVERY MONDAY "THE LYREBIRDS COMMUNITY CHOIR" ST LUKES C'TOO 7.15PM DURING SCHOOL TERMS  EDRA AGM @ THE BASE COCKATOO	5 1ST & 3RD TUES MTHLY 6-7.30PM CREATIVE HAVEN - CRAFT GROUP AT THE LIBRARY. (ALSO 1ST SAT MTHLY 12:30 - 2:30 PM) EVERY TUES RSL EMERALD OPEN 5-7PM	6 EVERY WEDNESDAY 10AM–3PM EMERALD MUSEUM OPEN 	7 1ST THURS MTHLY AT EMERALD LIBRARY 4- 5 PM LEGO CLUB 5TH JUNE) EVERY THURS RSL CLUB EMERALD OPEN 5-10PM	8 EVERY FRI EVENING DURING DAYLIGHT SAVINGS, BAREFOOT BOWLS @ COCKATOO BOWLS CLUB 4PM AUTHOR TALK @ EM LIBRARY, SEE P38	9 8AM EVERY SATPARKRUN AT EMERALD LAKE LOST WOODS MARKET  COMMUNITY BUSH DANCE 2-4:30PM @ GEMBROOK COMM CENTRE
10 9AM-11AM FELP WORKING BEE, MEET AT E/LAKE CARPARK 	11	12 2ND TUES MTHLY 10-11 AM BOOK CHAT EMERALD LIBRARY 6:30PM NEIGHBOUR HOOD WATCH MEETING AT GEMBROOK RSL	13 2ND WED MTHLY @ 10 AM BOOK CHAT @ THE LIBRARY 6 – 7:30 PM EVERY 2ND WEDNESDAY (FTNLY) - EMERALD WRITER'S COMMUNITY - WSHOP	14 2ND THURS MTHLY 4-5PM STEAM CLUB EMERALD LIBRARY HILLS PHTOGRAPHY SOCIETY ON 2ND 4TH THURS MTHLY 7:30-PM @ HILLS HUB	15 MYLI TODLER CRAFT TIME 11-11:30AM D'NONG RANGES ONE ACT PLAY FESTIVAL @ THE GEM 15, 16 & 17 SEE P17	16 8AM PARKRUN AT EMERALD LAKE 
17 9AM-11AM FELP WORKING BEE, MEET AT E/LAKE CARPARK 8.30-1.30 EMERALD PRODUCE MARKET	18 3RD MONDAY MONTHLY 10AM, PROBUS MEETINGS AT EMERALD RSL CLUB, WITH SPEAKER	19 7-9PM RADIO & MEDIA PROF DEV @ 3MDR HOMESTEAD UPWEY = SEE P12	20 6 – 7:30 PM AT EM LIBRARY, EVERY 2ND WEDNESDAY (FTNLY) EMERALD WRITER'S COMMUNITY WSHOP	21 9AM-11AM FELP WORKING BEE, MEET AT E/LAKE CARPARK  3RD THURS MTHLY 4-5PM IN SCHOOL TERMS. CREATIVE KIDS @ THE LIBRARY	22 AT RSL EMERALD 	23 8AM PARKRUN AT EMERALD LAKE 
24 9:30 - 11PM EVERY SUNDAY PB TOY LIBRARY AT FERNLEA COMMUNITY HOUSE  9AM - 2PM GEMBROOK MARKET 4TH SUNDAY MTHLY	25	26 7-9PM 'GIGS & FESTIVALS - HOW TO GET BOOKED' AT SOOKI LOUNGE BELGRAVE SEE P12	27 4TH WED MTHLY 10AM - MOVIE MORNING AT EMERALD LIBRARY 7.00PM EVA AGM AT HUB	28 AT EM LIBRARY: 4TH THURS MTHLY, - KIDS ZONE (AN AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM) 4TH THURSDAY MONTHLY 4 – 5PM YOUTH WRITING GROUP ONLINE EMERALD LIBRARY	29	30 8AM PARKRUN AT EMERALD LAKE, EVERY SATURDAY 
31	1 SEPT	2	3	4	5	6 8:30-1:30 C'TOO MARKET, 1ST SAT MTHLY 1ST SATURDAY MTHLY @ GEMCO 

Solution

2	1	7	4	9	5	3	6	8
9	5	3	6	8	1	2	7	4
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4	3	5	1	7	6	8	9	2
7	6	8	9	2	3	5	4	1



Mayor Jack Kowarzik, Graham Simpson, Russell Simpson





It Hao Pheh



Sue Jarvis



Lois Bannister with Lindsay Dyer



Janine Good

The Nine finalists

Lois Bannister ***'Contemplation'***
Merryn Emms ***'The Musician'***
Janine Good ***'Self with Ginger Lily'***
Anthony Howard ***'Homeless (Albert Grey)'***
Rose Mary James ***'From Master to Muse'***
Sue Jarvis ***'Study of Gulsen Ozer'***
Wendy Lindrea ***'Michael'***
It Hao Pheh ***'Envisage'***
Louis Sauzier ***'The young Prince'***

Committee, Emerald Arts Society



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Bendigo Bank

Terms and conditions, fees, charges and lending criteria apply. All information including interest rate is subject to change without notice. Full details available on application. Full offset facility is available for Bendigo Complete Home Loan for both fixed and variable loans. Offset facility can only be linked to one loan at any one time. A maximum of 5 offset facilities can be linked per loan account. Linked offset facility must be in same customer name(s) as loan. Credit provided by Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178 Australian Credit Licence 237500. (1713833)–(1107000.0317_4575233_20250325)

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.

Supported by

Cardinia

Cardinia Shire Council

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