

EMERALD NEWS

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Hills Hub - 400A Belgrave-Gembrook Road, Emerald Vic. 3782

APRIL 2026

EMERALD VILLAGE ASSOCIATION INC. AND COMMUNITY GROUP NEWS

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Emerald Village Association - President's Report

A prime purpose and aim of EVA is to look after the interest of Emerald's residents, particularly with Council. It is also important that we, on broader issues, think of ourselves as being part of one Hills community.

There are over 17,000 people in the lower Dandenong Ranges region. More than in many Victorian towns. Both EDRA (the tourism and business organization) and NHW-ER embrace the whole region concept and represent those 17,000 residents.

Now it is time for all Hills townships to bond together and recognize their common interests. It is excellent news that our local Councillor, David Nickell, has taken up the challenge and organized a first joint meeting of townships, EDRA and service organizations with the CEO of Cardinia, James Collins. Only positive results could be expected. Well done, David.

Community Bank
Emerald & District

Getting Learners
Behind the Wheel

Community Bank Emerald is proud to partner with Emerald & District Lions Club to purchase a car for the L2P Program!

The L2P Program gives local youth access to a vehicle and a volunteer mentor, helping them gain the driving experience they need to earn their licence. Completing the required 120 hours of supervised driving can be a big challenge without a safe supervising driver or a vehicle. This program makes it possible. Currently, the L2P program cars used by the local mentors are based in Kooweerup and Pakenham. Volunteers must travel to pick up the car, drive to learners home in the Hills, and then return the car before heading back home to the Hills. A locally based vehicle which will be stored at the Lions Club's of Emerald's registered office in Cockatoo will provide significantly improved access for our local youth and mentors. Having a licence is life changing. It opens doors to education, work, and independence. We're proud to play a part in assisting the region's youth and supporting their journey to becoming safe, confident drivers. Hopefully the car will be on the road soon.

Note from the editor: The Lions article on page 26 is dedicated to this project.

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Happy easter

EVA President's Report continued

Neighbourhood Watch - Eastern Regions.

The most important challenge for NHW is to keep our community SAFE. To watch out for each other. There is no room for complacency or apathy when it comes down to community safety.

NHW-ER is forging very close links with the local police both in Emerald and Cardinia too. We are breaking down barriers and are very encouraged to see our local Sergeant, Col Burge, attending all meetings and advising of the criminal and anti-social behavior that continues to surface. He also answered questions that residents have.

The next meeting in April of NHW is at the Emerald Police station (see poster below). This is an opportunity for residents to visit the police station and see what happens behind that grey edifice. Make a note in your diary.



Peter Maloney

Neighbourhood Watch Eastern Ranges

At our March meeting in Cockatoo there were several guest speakers, but for this new item, I would like to highlight the invaluable work being done by Peter Nous who spoke about the organisation he founded 10 years ago - **JRN Community Housing (JRN)**.

Peter's journey down this road began after losing two brothers to drug addiction. He initially used his own home to take in rough sleepers, but soon realised he needed to keep his work and home life separate. He sourced another house for seven rough sleepers, but after many Police visits and neighbour complaints he adjusted his program - first comes detox, then rehab, then they could gain entry to his community housing. After detox and rehabilitation, JNR offers a sober living program, whereby they are tested every three days. A positive test results in another stay in rehab.

Peter also runs a food truck program that provides rough sleepers with a warm meal, warm blanket and a chat. He gives them a brochure with phone numbers to contact if and when they want to get off drugs/alcohol.

A major issue now is parents being bullied and abused by their own children who are on drugs. They feel unable to call on police or anyone else, because this is their child. Peter's advice to parents in this situation is do call the police, and they will come and take the addict from the house to a program to detox. This program costs Peter \$600 per person. He gets this money through donations and church donations. JRN does not receive government funding because he is too busy with the hands on activity of his operation. He has no capacity for the record keeping and paperwork that applying for a grant would entail.

He suggested if homeless people in Cockatoo need help, direct them to Belgrave where he has his food truck and he will try and help. Some rough sleepers choose this lifestyle as there is no responsibility. They want to live like this as all the Centrelink payments can be spent on their habit. But he has noticed that they eventually become bored and ask for help. He therefore keeps asking if they want help to make a change and gives them pamphlets about detox programs. He doesn't put himself in danger in the instances when violence emerges. As anyone should in those situations, he calls Police and doesn't engage.

NHW asked how we could help. He said donations of casseroles/food/bread for his food truck; blankets for winter; bedding for his houses – blankets/sheets/sleeping bags; underwear and socks as well. Peter said he has a good success rate because he treats them the same as anyone else. JNR is out there to help and publicises what they do via social media. facebook.com/jrncommunityhousing/

Deb Peachey

After the event, Sam, from Gembrook, a sheep farmer, donated 2 sheep, suitably prepared, to Peter for his food truck. This was organized by Garry McGough.



You're invited to attend
**NHW - Eastern Ranges
April 2026 Meeting
Emerald Police Station**

Where:
Belgrave-Gembrook Rd.
Emerald

**Tuesday
April 14th -
6.30pm**

All welcome!

Want to become a
Neighbourhood Watch
Member?
Scan the QR code to join



Neighbourhood Watch
Let's watch out for each other
Eastern Ranges



Emerald - Cockatoo - Gembrook - Macclesfield - Upper Beaconsfield - Menzies Creek

MONTHLY HEALTH FEATURE

Commencing next month, there will a regular article on some aspect of health &/or type of practice. Many of our local care providers will be providing these for our community's benefit.



FERNLEA COMMUNITY HOUSE

TERM 2 CLASSES & WORKSHOPS



TERM 2 CLASSES

Arty-Crafty afternoons

Monday 20 Apr to 22 Jun 2026 (excl. 8/6), 1.00pm. 9 sessions
Tutor: Liz D'Argent

Magical Moves - Belly Dancing

Monday 20 Apr to 22 Jun 2026 (excl. 8/6), 7.00pm. 9 sessions
Tutor: Janelle Miller

Inter-Generational Playgroup

Wednesday 22 Apr to 24 Jun 2026, 11.15am. 10 sessions
Facilitators: Katie Holmes and Karen Jinette

Mat Pilates

Wednesday 22 Apr to 24 Jun 2026, 1.30pm. 10 sessions
Tutor: Greg Berry

Mindful Movement for All

Wednesday 22 Apr to 24 Jun 2026, 2.30pm. 10 sessions
Tutor: Greg Berry

Introduction to Spanish

Wednesday 22 Apr to 24 Jun 2026, 7.00pm. 10 sessions
Tutor: Catherine Pellegrini

Study Like It's 1999

Thursday 23 Apr to 25 Jun 2026, 4.00pm. 10 sessions
Tutor: Amanda Manypenny

Refashioning for Sustainable Clothing

Thursday 23 Apr to 25 Jun 2026, 7.00pm. 10 sessions
Tutor: Caroline Spencer

Qigong

Monday 27 Apr to 22 Jun 2026 (excl. 8/6), 10.00am. 8 sessions
Tutor: Genevieve Roche

Venue & Room Hire

Our venue and rooms can be hired for special occasions, parties, markets, meetings, counselling sessions and more. Scan the QR code for the latest on our Spaces page or get in touch with us. We look forward to welcoming you!

WORKSHOPS AND SOCIAL EVENTS

Preparation for End of Life Talk

Tuesday 21 Apr, 11.00am
Facilitator: Kerry O'Leary, End of Life Doula

Amateur Acoustic Musician Jam & Singalong Sessions

Tuesday 21 Apr to 16 Jun, 7.00pm
First and third Tuesday of the month
Hosts: David Hoskin and Annie Coppinger

Community Games Night

Thursday 23 Apr 2026, 6.00pm
Every Thursday evening
Host: Aukje Van Vark-Houwen

From Scraps to Soil: Composting & Worm Farming

Sunday 26 Apr, 11.00am
Tutor: Christian Der Kinderen

Older Men's Discussion Group

Tuesday 28 Apr to 23 Jun 2026, 9.30am. 3 sessions
Every fourth Tuesday of the month
Facilitators: Ken McMaster and John Douth

Herbal Tea Blending

Sunday 10 May 2026, 10.00am
Facilitator: Kirsten Parkinson, Naturopath / Herbal Medicine Teacher

Hills & Spills, Sip & Paint

Saturday 20 Jun 2026, 2.00pm
Facilitator: Kieren Cochrane

Death Cafe

Sunday 28 Jun 2026, 11.00am
Facilitators: Kerry O'Leary and Melanie Wray



Scan the QR code to view our **Spaces** page on Social Planet for further details on our venue and rooms for hire plus our **Happening Now** page, where you will find more information on becoming a member, our Term 2 classes, workshops, social events, prices and booking your spot! Or visit our website!

Please note: All participants of classes and workshops are required to have an annual membership. You will find the link to purchase this on our Happening Now page, in the class description of your choice, on our website or hard copy forms are available at the House.

Phone: 03 9568 3895 (option 1) **Email:** fch@fernlea.com.au **Website:** www.fch.org.au

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Planning, Tourism & Environment Sub-Committee Report

We are working closely with Cr Nickell and through the full EVA Committee lobbying hard on getting budget commitments to **Emeral Lake Park Precinct and the Puffing Billy Playground upgrade**. The EVA is fully aware that Council's finances are stretched, and we understand that serious savings are needed to balance the books. We are focussing on Council following through on past commitments.

We have submitted to Council that "at a Council meeting on 19 August 2019, Council resolved that the funds (\$610,000) from the sale of over 8,000 square metres of land at Emerald Lake Park to the Emerald Tourist Railway Board (former name of Puffing Billy Railway) were designated for improvements at both Emerald Lake Park and the Puffing Billy Place Reserve in Emerald." "To date the EVA is unaware of any specific allocation of money from that fund to a project at either site. The allocation of \$60,000 for the design of a new facility at Puffing Billy Place Reserve was a separate line item in a more recent Council budget." "We seek an assurance from Council that those funds are still sitting in a designated line-item reserve held by Council and have not or will be used for any other purpose."

We have specifically asked that in the 2026/27 budget Council should allocate some of those funds for the commencement of works on the Puffing Billy Place Reserve to start implementing the design that is expected to be finalised later this year. The subcommittee through the EVA made an extensive submission with our thoughts on the future of the Reserve in 2024 and then followed up with a detailed submission on the draft design. It's been a long, drawn-out process for the community to see any outcome when ironically funds were originally allocated nearly 7 years ago, and we are still facing at least another two to three years for project completion!



Talking about ideas for the future – the subcommittee has been turning its mind to ideas for Emerald in the Council promised **review of the Emerald Township Strategic Plan**. An item that has been raised several times with the subcommittee is that Emerald doesn't offer a facility or many opportunities for aged persons to downsize and stay in the community. One of the major changes seen in Australia's housing options is the growth of active retirement facilities. While some people seem horrified at the idea of living in such a facility there are many people who are keen to access such places. Many people do not want to move from the community they love and have great friendship networks. Emerald is constrained by public land, forest and zoning that does not support opening new land for such a development.

While it is privately owned the prospect of using a relatively small part of the former Emerald Golf Club has been raised in the context that any overall review of the Township Strategy must look at the long-term viable use of the former golf club. Is it realistic that a private owner will 'sit' on this land 'forever'?



We recognise that over time parts of it are being progressively overrun with blackberries and other environmental weeds. While many people are thankful that the current owners allow the public to walk on the fairways and hundreds do so every week often with their dogs, the owner or a different owner could turn round and ban such public use. The EVA is aware that there are serious management issues with the golf course including fire hazard, in any consideration of any development proposals, even a small part would require a rezoning of land and that must be approved by the Minister for Planning. That won't happen without an extended and costly process.

Your subcommittee is keen to hear the community's views on this. Are you in favour of the idea being examined or are you opposed? Please let the EVA know your thoughts.

Trevor Budge

Subcommittee Chair

E: trevorbudge49@gmail.com



Emerald Tennis Club



JOSD 1 Premiers



Congratulations to all our junior teams for a very successful season and a special mention to the JSD1 team of Isaac, Kenneth and Jude who won their Grand Final on Saturday March 21st. Emerald Tennis Club have submitted a request to Cardinia Council for approval to upgrade the existing halogen lighting to LED lighting on courts 6&7, fully funded by the club for improved light quality, energy savings and lower maintenance costs. **Ros Trojan**

**Protecting Eastern Victoria From Natural Disasters
Butting Out Illicit Tobacco**

15 March - The Allan Labor Government is cracking down on illicit tobacco and the organised crime gangs it funds. Tobacco Licensing Victoria (TLV) has seized almost \$5 mil worth of illegal tobacco in its first month, including:

- 3.19 million cigarettes
- 2,243 cigars
- 40 kilograms of loose-leaf tobacco
- 32 kilograms of shisha tobacco.

Individuals caught face fines of up to \$370,000 or 15 years' jail, while businesses face penalties of more than \$1.8 mil.

Under laws to be introduced this year, TLV will be able to order businesses caught selling illicit tobacco to close. Landlords will be given new powers to kick out businesses selling illicit tobacco. Landlords that knowingly allow these sales will face tough new penalties. Inspectors will get the power to destroy seized illicit tobacco pre-trial. This will help keep illegal tobacco off the streets and make prosecutions faster. .

For full article: [butting-out-illicit-tobacco](#)

For more information including reporting suspicious activity or to view the licensed list, visit vic.gov.au/tobacco-licensing.

on behalf of the Victorian Government

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Community Voices help shape Future Energy Planning

Community representatives and customer advocates gathered for the first 2026 meeting of AusNet's Customer Consultative Committee (CCC) on 20 February, discussing energy resilience, changing customer needs and future electricity demand.

A key topic was the extreme bushfire and heat events experienced in January, which led to widespread outages across parts of Victoria. Committee members discussed the challenges of restoring supply during emergencies and emphasised the importance of timely communication and ongoing support for affected communities.

Feedback was shared from communities, highlighting issues such as affordability pressures, customer expectations around reliability, and the growing need for resilience as extreme weather becomes more frequent.

The meeting included updates on several initiatives and emerging trends shaping the energy sector. These included declining residential gas use as electrification increases, plans to improve energy literacy among younger customers, and the rapid growth in electricity demand from large data centres.

The Committee also heard about projects supported through AusNet's Energy Resilience Community Fund, which helps local organisations develop community hubs, backup power systems and other preparedness measures to support communities during outages and severe weather events.

Members noted the importance of bringing community experiences into discussions to help inform future planning and engagement – a full report is available from the below link:

https://communityhub.ausnetservices.com.au/download_file/view/1038/730

George Trojan

Community Representative,
Ausnet Community Consultative Committee

The Puffing Billy Toy Library



The plastic bags pictured here have different board games etc, that parents can 'take out and return'.

The Puffing Billy Toy Library is just like a traditional book library, but TOYS are borrowed instead. Our mission is to help each child to reach their full potential through play. We are here to support parents, carers and families to choose toys that nurture and engage their child's development. We are a community based, not-for-profit organisation made up of local volunteer parents.

Open Thurs 2-3pm and Sun 2-3.30pm during the school term at FCH, Emerald.

Committee appointed to help shape Cardinia Shire's food and agribusiness future

Cardinia Shire Council has appointed 10 community representatives to its newly formed Food and Agribusiness Advisory Committee to help guide the future of the shire's food and agribusiness sector.

These community representatives have diverse backgrounds and experience across the sector and will work alongside Councillors David Nickell and Trudi Paton, as well as Council staff, to steer the committee and help strengthen the sector.

[Read more in the full release online](#)

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"Please hold while we bring you the complete works of Johann Sebastian Bach."

For **Clean-up Australia Day** on Sunday 1st March, we again joined forces with Johns Hill Landcare group and the Emerald Scouts to undertake a clean-up of the township. Sixteen of our members covered the main streets of Emerald and recreation areas. As ever there were interesting finds that were discussed at the BBQ lunch, with sausages kindly provided by Emerald Village Meats. Two days earlier our local EarlyAct members at Emerald Primary School ensured that they too were involved with this initiative and they helped to clean up Puffing Billy Park and Emerald Station reserve.



Rotary Club of Emerald and District



Last month I advised that we were on the brink of launching a new initiative – **the Golden hour Café** – **this is part of the Umbrella Dementia Cafes**, which are a charity determined to empower families and people living with dementia to live their best lives. I am pleased to be able to inform you that the café **will launch on Wednesday 6th May** and will operate out of the Emerald RSL every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month and will run for 2 hours. To allow this venture to be successful long-term funding will be required and if you have been exposed to a family member being affected and know of someone who could commit to a yearly funding/be a philanthropist can you please contact me.



The Rotary Book Club members would have assisted with the EarlyAct clean up however they were otherwise engaged in a **Sip and Paint afternoon!**

At our meeting on Tuesday 3rd March, **we were thrilled to be able to present Eastern Health Foundation with a cheque for \$39,000** following our 30th November “Rotary Club of Emerald Kids Fun Run with Puffing Billy” event in Gembrook. This money is going towards a Mural for the children at the William Angliss Hospital. Children entering hospital can be quite traumatised by the experience and by having a distraction that they can interact with brings calmness. Murals have the ability to improve patients’ outcomes and studies have shown that they reduce stress and anxiety, improve mood and promote a sense of well-being. Artist Tess Dawson has been commissioned with this project following her successful mural at Box Hill hospital. **And as an add on to this item we presented all our event Sponsors with an “In appreciation” plaque** and I was thrilled to spot the one that we presented to the Bendigo Bank on one of the desks in their foyer.



Another very special event that we are holding is the **full day's seminar “All in the Mind”** which is a **community-based forum on Sunday 24th May** at the Cardinia Cultural Centre from 9.30am to 4.30pm. The Keynote speaker is Craig Hamilton, Australian's leading Mental Health advocate, author and lived experience speaker plus there will be a speaker from Beyond Blue. Topics include mental health, trauma, working with children, sleep, and other lived experience stories. There will be an interactive panel Q&A. This is a free event and you can attend in person or online. For more information & registration details visit <https://emeraldrotary.org.au/page/all-in-the-mind/> or **see the flyer in this newsletter with the QR code.**



Rotary Club continued.

Our annual District Conference in conjunction with Rotary Tasmania was held in Hobart. 13th -15th March with 514 attendees. Based at the Grand Chancellor Hotel in Hobart there was a wealth of key speakers including Saroo Brierley, who had a film called "Lion" based on his real-life story of being separated from his brother at an Indian train station, being placed in a local orphanage in Calcutta and being adopted by an Australian family living in Tasmania. The film stars Nicole Kidman and Dev Patel. A very moving story. As ever at the gala dinner on the Saturday evening, Emerald Rotary dressed appropriately to comply with the Nautical theme. Ever competitive we hoped to again take out the best fancy dressed club as Life Savers. However, most clubs have stepped up their game and we had to contend with 2nd place to a Tasmanian club. Now we are looking forward to next year when the Conference is taken to another level – on a Cruise boat.

We are only a few months out from our annual 36th Debutante Ball, which will be held on Saturday 13th June at Cathies Lane Receptions, Wantirna. Whilst registrations closed officially a few days ago we can still take late comers as the first dance practises commence on Thursday 30th April. This is a highly professional event that will remain a milestone in the lives of all that partake. If you still wish to be involved, please visit the Rotary website or see our flyer in the EVA newsletter.

Finally, if you 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

Shalini Penny, Publicity



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Emerald RSL

Emerald RSL Sub-Branch Annual General Meeting Our AGM was held on Thursday 5th March 2026, President Kane Falconer's report is available to read on our website emeraldrsl.com.au

Anzac Day.

We look forward to commemorating and sharing the day with you, our service details:

- DAWN SERVICE

Gather at ANZAC Place 5am, for the service to start at 5.30am
Memorial Avenue, Emerald

- MID-MORNING MARCH & SERVICE

Gather at the Cenotaph in Emerald 10am (near the Emerald Commonwealth Bank)
March along with Veterans and local community groups to ANZAC Place for the mid-morning service

Or

- MID-MORNING SERVICE

Gather at ANZAC Place 10.30am, for the service to start at 11am
Memorial Avenue, Emerald

Emerald RSL invite all groups and services to attend an Anzac Day commemoration service (or both) lay a wreath and/or join the community group march.

Contact Tanya if you have any queries or for more information
secretary@emeraldrsl.com.au
or text 0409 358 777



Our clubrooms and bar are open for patronage Tuesdays 5 – 7pm and Thursdays 5 – 10pm, everyone welcome!

Our website is emeraldrsl.com.au and our Facebook page is Emerald RSL Sub-Branch Inc

Tanya Jogan
secretary@emeraldrsl.com.au

Our new badge

Have you noticed updates to the RSL badge?

The badge change links with the accession of His Majesty King Charles III and the Monarch's adoption of the Tudor Crown.



The RSLA badge change ensures the RSL remains consistent with Royal protocols and acknowledges His Majesty King Charles III as the Patron of RSLA.

The changes are:

- Tudor Crown - The St Edward's Crown marking the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, has been updated to the Tudor Crown, as chosen by King Charles III to symbolise his reign
- Flora - The floral emblems have been updated with a sprig of rosemary and a poppy, symbolising Australian flora linked to ANZAC and Remembrance Day.

Tanya Jogan



the BALD ARCHY prize

A Message from Maude

"Now this is something to squawk about! For our 30th year, I was buried under a record-breaking flock of entries. Featuring everyone from Barnaby to Bob Irwin, 2026 is officially our biggest yet. The tour has taken flight, so don't miss it!"

21 March -19 April at 101 High Street, Mansfield
www.artsmansfield.com.au

The Bald Archy Prize is Australia's most irreverent portrait award, celebrating wit, satire & the lighter side of portraiture.



Heritage Report

Emerald Country Club and Golf Course

An Emerald local has produced a great nostalgic video about the former Emerald Country Club and Golf Course and its history with some little seen photos and images with some animation. This first part of the video is then followed by some humour as many former members and some of their feats are celebrated. Well worth a look. I'm sure everyone will recognise someone in the video they know or remember. Great work by Mike Litchfield and you can view it at [Here](#)

While talking about the former golf course check out the article in this month about ideas being discussed by the EVA's Planning, Tourism and Environment subcommittee about the golf course's future.

How times have changed – Helen Coulson in her comprehensive book, published in 1959, *The Story of the Dandenongs 1838 – 1958*, writes 'In 1923 B.S. Stilwell [many older readers will remember his son 'Bib' Stilwell the racing car driver], and W.H.Treganowan conceived the idea of establishing a country club for city businessmen on the attractive property purchased for the purpose from Dr Bottomley [who had bought part of the Nobelius nursery]. Membership was conditional on purchase of a debenture bearing interest at 6%, while the annual membership fee was four guineas (\$8.40). The property was valued at £14,000 (\$28,000 – equivalent to about \$700,000 in current value). It was estimated that 150 members and 100 associates would be required.' As we know the depression hit in 1929 which severely impacted the viability of the whole venture.

Coulson wrote in 1959, 'the Emerald Country Club has prospered since that time and is now a popular weekend rendezvous.' Unfortunately, due to ongoing financial issues the Club closed and was sold in 2016.



A mural on the water tower in Kings Rd, Emerald?

There are also ongoing discussions within the EVA subcommittee on the idea of a mural on the Puffing Billy Railway owned water tower in Emerald. First mooted many years ago, it's an idea that didn't get 'off the ground' – no pun intended. Inspired by the silo art which has resulted in many towns in rural Victoria having high quality murals on their silos commemorating past events and historical characters. We want to hear what the community thinks. With the tower visible 360 degrees there is scope to depict much of Emerald's history – many ideas have been mooted: First Peoples, early pioneering days (gold, timber, agriculture), Carl Axel Nobelius and his nursery that put Emerald on the map, Puffing Billy Railway, historical images of the town, soldiers leaving for WW1 on the train many never to return, and given the proximity to the school and preschool – lets celebrate our future by depicting children. The EVA wants to hear your thoughts. Are you in favour or not of a mural, do you have any concerns, what ideas do you have on items for depiction? This is only an idea. and nothing has been decided and while it has been raised informally with Puffing Billy Railway – they own the building and ultimately, they would need to agree. Ideas like this don't just happen it will cost money. The subcommittee is looking at possible funding sources.

Give us your thoughts.

Trevor Budge



Cardinia Shire Community Strengthening Report

Homelessness is an issue affecting people and communities worldwide due to a fundamental lack of appropriate levels of social housing and an unaffordable housing/rental market - making home ownership and housing security unattainable for many. It can also occur due to a variety of complex issues and is important to note that there is no single cause that explains the experience of homelessness.

Council takes a human ethical approach to Homelessness, we do not move people on unless there is a safety risk to themselves and/or the community. If community has safety concerns about a homelessness case, the first point of contact should be VicPol

Council plays a limited role in responding to cases of homelessness as we do not provide direct housing or homelessness support services. **We work alongside service providers such as Ermha and Wayss** who are the funded housing and homelessness support services within Cardinia Shire.

These agencies can provide services such as:

- outreach
- case management
- housing support services

Reports of homelessness from the community which we receive are referred on to the relevant agency to connect with the person/s experiencing homelessness.

Help with finding accommodation

- Contact WAYSS on (03) 9791 6111 or (03) 9703 0044
- Email: info@wayss.org.au
- Website: www.wayss.org.au

If you see someone who is homeless or believe that someone may be experiencing homelessness:

- Please do not remove or damage personal items, sleeping equipment or a makeshift shelter that may belong to the person/s

- Visit [Homelessness in Cardinia Shire - Cardinia Shire Council](#) website
- Complete a simple [online form](#) (it will take less than a minute to complete)
- Contact Council directly on [1300 787 624](tel:1300787624) – you can choose to remain anonymous

Council will use this information to refer cases of homelessness to the relevant agencies that will then visit the site and offer support services to the individual/s.

Should you suspect any illegal activity or that the person/s requires immediate medical attention please call 000 immediately.

Dandenong Ranges Emergency Relief Service for Emergency Relief
9754 7777 open Thursday and Friday 9:00-12:30pm at The Base 7-17 McBride Street, Cockatoo

- Direct community to Cardinia Support for social, health and community services
- [Dandenong Ranges Emergency Relief Service Inc.](#)
www.drers.org.au

Coffee with Community – bimonthly opportunity for community to connect with Victoria Police, Council and other safety stakeholders.

9 April – Cochrane Park Koo Wee Rup 4pm – 6pm

23 June – Heritage Springs shopping Centre Pakenham 10am – 2pm

21 August – Middle Ground Café Beaconsfield 10am – 12noon

Meeting with Township committees – Opportunity for Township Committees/ Progress Associations etc to discuss local safety concerns.

Council is continuing to promote the 9pm campaign and working towards a video.

on behalf of the Cardinia Shire Council



SAVE THE DATE!

SUNDAY 24th May
10am to 3pm
Cockatoo Complex
79 Pakenham Rd, Cockatoo

Are you part of a local club, group or community organisation?

Join us for a vibrant expo designed to help you:

- ✦ Showcase your group
- ✦ Connect with others
- ✦ Discover new opportunities to collaborate
- ✦ Guest speakers

Together, we can build a stronger, more connected Hills community.

✉ Secure your spot now:
Email ask@edra.org.au to register your interest

An Emerald and District Lions Club & Eastern Dandenong Ranges Initiative



Dylan: What's worse than raining cats and dogs?

Joe: I'm stumped.

Dylan: Hailing taxis.

MONTHLY BOOK REVIEW

Our Missing Hearts by Celeste Ng

Beautifully written with descriptions that vividly bring images to life. The central figure is Bird (Noah) a delightful boy with a huge heart and beautiful demeanour his mother (Margaret) who is a Chinese-American poet and father who is an American linguist.

Their family is living through a period of intense preservation of the American culture. PACT - Preserving American Culture and Traditions Act which had as its three pillars:

1. Outlaws promotion of un American values and behaviour
2. Requires all citizens to report potential threats to our society
3. Protects children from environments espousing harmful views.

One of the most distressing aspects of the PACT is that children were removed from their families if deemed at risk. Margaret has written a poetry book which had to be removed from libraries as a result of it being seen as unpatriotic. The phrase 'our missing hearts' refers to the children removed from their families. To save her son from removal Margaret disappears and leaves Bird with his father. Their lives consist of staying off the radar but deep down Bird wants to see his mother mainly because he believes she left because she didn't love him.

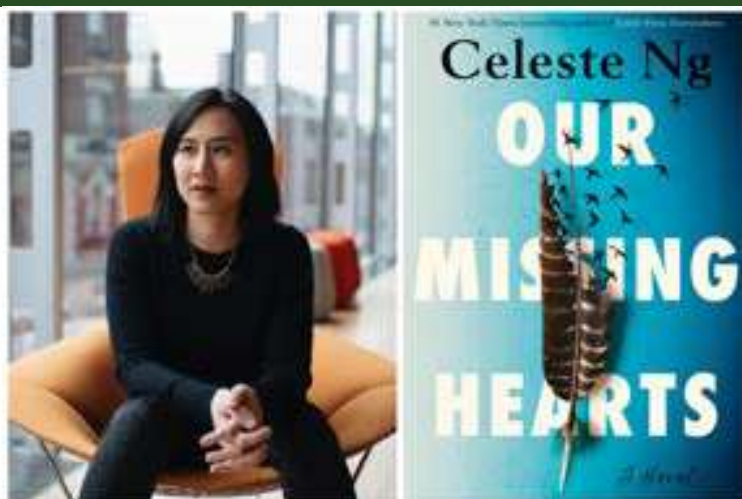
Bird then receives a letter covered in drawings of cats which he recognises as part of a favourite story his mother shared with him. Added to this he goes searching through her belongings and finds a card in a box with her wedding dress in it. The ensuing journey to find his mum, what happens when he does, and the reconciliations with those he met along the way, make for a perfectly paced ending.

A beautiful story written around libraries, books, poetry, and the sharing of stories. Importantly it explores the voices of those marginalised, and those who have been silenced. Whilst its genre includes dystopia the issues in many ways hit close to reality in many parts of the world.

Enjoy the read!

Tanya Cooke

Book Group Tutor U3A Emerald



All In The Mind
A Community Mental Health Forum
A project of the Rotary Clubs of Emerald & District,
Belgrave, Sorrento and Monbulk

Sunday 24th of May 9:30 am to 4:30 pm
The Cardinia Cultural Centre

Free Event - Places Limited!
In Person or Online

Keynote Speaker - Craig Hamilton
Australia's leading Mental Health
Advocate, Author and Lived Experience Speaker

 **Beyond Blue - Lived Experience Speaker**

An evidence-informed, community focused event bringing together leading
voices in mental health, research, clinical practice
and lived experiences

Interactive Panel Q&A

For more information and registration information



Scan Me

<https://emeraldrotary.org.au/page/all-in-the-mind/>



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Cardinia's Bring Your Bills Day

Following an overwhelmingly successful event in 2025, South East Community Links (SECL) is bringing its Bring Your Bills Day back to Pakenham this year. The event invites community members to access free and confidential financial guidance and support to help navigate household bills and other financial pressures.

Held at Pakenham Hall

on Tuesday 21 April, from 10:30am to 3:00pm

[Click here to read the full release online.](#)

on behalf of the Cardinia Shire Council

**WE'RE OPENING
FROM 6 MAY 2026!!**

**Rotary Club of
Emerald & District's
Golden Hour Cafe**



**A Café for those living with dementia
in the community and their family
carers**

**10am to 12 Noon
1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month
To be held at Emerald RSL**

**Would you like to find out more
about attending with your
partner?**

Call Kris Ash on 0412 399 001



UMBRELLA
Dementia Cafés
An affiliate of

Rotary
Emerald and District

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E: admin@efficientair.com.au
www.efficientair.com.au



7.45am to 8.45am

Emerald

Apr 14 at Over the Road

May 12 at Laughing Fox

Jun 9 at The General Foodstore

Our new Coffee Catch-Ups are a relaxed way for local businesses to catch up, meet other business owners, share ideas, knowledge, insights, stay informed about what's happening locally.

No speeches. No pressure. Just good coffee and genuine conversations at a local café.

✓ Open to all local businesses ✓ Casual friendly networking ✓ Come when you can – no long-term commitment.

Bring a colleague, invite another business, or simply pop in and say hello. Because the best conversations often start over coffee.

AT THE CANINE CAFE...



FACEBOOK.COM/OFF-THE-LEISHEN-DAILY-DOG-CARTOONS





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Ready to try something new?

Join Scouts

Emerald Scout Group is welcoming
new members to unlock adventure
and start their Scouting journey!

Our Section meeting nights are
Joeys | ages 5-8 | Wednesday 6pm - 7pm
Cubs | ages 8-11 | Monday 7pm - 8:30pm

We meet at 21 Kilvington Dr, Emerald

For more information or to join, scan the QR code
gl.emerald@scoutsvictoria.com.au



Emerald
Scout Group



1800 SCOUTS
scoutsvictoria.com.au

Dingoes and Wild Dogs Around Cardinia Reservoir

Understanding the Risks and How Our Community Manages Them

Cardinia Reservoir has become a regular spot for sightings of dingoes and dingo-type wild dogs. For many locals, these animals are simply part of the landscape — but it's still important to understand their behaviour, their ecological role, and how to keep people, pets, and livestock safe.

Recent media attention, including Jacqui Felgate's 3AW segment, has brought community concerns into focus. Residents have reported sightings on private properties, raised worries about pet safety and livestock losses, and called for clearer information about how these animals are managed. The discussion has encouraged a broader conversation about coexistence and responsible land, pet, and stock management across our tight-knit Hills community.

Most wild dogs in the region are hybrids — a mix of dingo and domestic dog — though pure dingoes do occur. They help control rabbits, foxes, and feral cats, but they can also affect livestock, hobby farms, and small native animals.

For bushwalkers and pet owners, simple precautions go a long way. Keep dogs on-lead near bush tracks and around the reservoir, avoid walking at dawn or dusk when wild dogs are most active, and never leave food scraps behind. If you encounter a wild dog or dingo, stay calm, avoid sudden movements, and walk away slowly. For nearby residents, secure fencing and supervising pets outdoors remain important.

Some Hills landowners have experienced stock losses, including alpacas and sheep. Practical management often includes improved fencing, bringing stock into home paddocks at night, using guardian animals, and keeping in touch with neighbours about local activity. These responsibilities fall largely on landowners, who can find guidance on the DEECA and Agriculture Victoria websites, including the 2025–26 Dingo Predation Management Zone Work Plans, by Agriculture Victoria.

Research into dingo genetics, hybridisation, and behaviour continues in Victoria, but funding remains tight, and resources are limited. As our urban fringes expand, many expect the challenges of managing wild dogs and dingoes to increase. Community reporting and shared local knowledge remain essential.

Dingoes and wild dogs are a natural part of the Cardinia landscape. With awareness, practical action, and good communication, our community can minimise risks while respecting the ecological role these animals play. If you see a wild dog or have concerns, report it to the appropriate authorities and share information with neighbours — together, we can support safe and sustainable coexistence.

Lisa Bloore

References (public sources):
Cardinia Biodiversity Strategy 2019–29,
Bush Heritage Australia –
bushheritage.org.au, ABC Science –
abc.net.au/science, DEECA –
energyenvironment.vic.gov.au, Agriculture
Victoria – agriculture.vic.gov.au
3AW – Jacqui Felgate (Drive Program)

Dog or dingo?



Dingoes come in a range of colours from black and tan to sandy yellow, ginger, white, sable and even multicoloured. (Source: istockphoto)



Redesigning Cardinia Reservoir Park

We're upgrading the dam at Cardinia Reservoir, so it can keep supplying world-class drinking water to Melbourne.

The surrounding reservoir park will be closed during construction, from 2027 to 2030. Once this is complete we plan to restore the park. We're designing the park with local residents and stakeholders, so it remains a valued community space for years to come. Have your say

letstalk.melbournewater.com.au/cardinia

**Share what's important to you
about the park by Sunday 26 April,
11.59pm.**

on behalf of the Cardinia Shire Council



"Have you tried opening the back and emptying the pencil shavings?"

Overheard at a local cafe

"If you start a meeting with a blank sheet of paper, and end the meeting with a blank sheet of paper, that says something about the meeting."

LOL

The Hills Toastmasters



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Hills Hub, Emerald



Public Speaking

- Have you ever been asked to present at a business meeting and froze?
- Do you need to make a speech at a 21st or wedding?
- Do you have trouble just chatting in a group or are you shy?

You are not alone. Surveys show that public speaking is consistently many greatest fear!

Is Toastmasters for you?

We have the perfect solution for you if you've ever answered yes to any of the questions above.

You're invited to attend Hills Toastmasters.

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month at the Hills Hub: 402 Belgrave-Gembrook Rd, Emerald

Benefits



Improve Communication

Learn various Public Speaking techniques and improve your communication skills in a friendly environment.



Leadership Development

Participate in a leadership development program at your own pace with full support and mentorship.



Increase your confidence

Develop your interpersonal skills and confidence to enhance your career prospects.

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ENTER YOUR PET NOW!

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Email: secretary@emeraldvillage.org.au



Sponsored by: Emerald stock feed & pet supplies.



"The last thing I remember is being thrown into the dryer."

HILLS YOUTH SPACE NOW OPEN!



WEDNESDAYS 3PM-6PM

during school terms

1-3 CHURCH STREET, EMERALD
rear of St Marks carpark

Hills Youth Space is a free, fully-supervised drop-in space for young people aged 12-18. Drop-in only, provide and enjoy free youth-led activities and events.



www.echo.org.au/youth



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Partners with the Community

Flaura & Fauna Feature: the New Holland Honeyeater

The
orange
colour
on top
of the
beak is
nectar



The New Holland Honeyeater's eyes have bright white iris and it's white tuft is broken up by black in the middle. They also have a spikey little beard and a tiny white tuft on each side just under the beak like a little handlebar moustache.

The White-cheeked honeyeaters (below) look very similar, but have dark brown eyes and the white tufts on their cheeks are bigger and more noticeable.

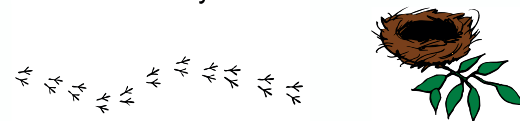


Photo from internet



The New Holland Honeyeater is an active bird, and rarely sits still long enough to give an extended view. Sexes are similar in looks, but females are slightly smaller in size. Young birds are browner and have a grey eye. They are common in heath, forests, woodland and gardens, mainly where grevilleas and banksias are found. They are inquisitive, and approach humans. They also mix with other types of honeyeaters.

Their cup-shaped nest is made of bark and grasses, bound together with spider web. It's lined with soft material and placed in a bush or tree, anywhere from ground level up to 6 metres. Both sexes feed the chicks. A pair of adults may raise two or three broods in a year.



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FROM HOME TO THE FRONT

Memories of War

EMERALD & DISTRICT MUSEUM

APRIL 2026

www.emerald-museum.org.au



Emerald Museum News

A Saddle, A Nurse and Uneaten Chocolates – Memories of War at the Emerald Museum

The Emerald Museum is holding an exhibition during the month of April of war memorabilia entitled: From Home to the Front – Memories of War.

The display features helmets, kit bags, awards, war buttons, photographs, and postcards and other objects as well as moving stories of the impact of war on local people.

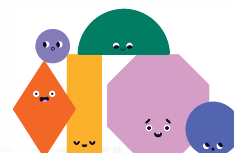
Visitors will want to see the fine light horse saddle used by Harold Ferres in World War 1. Harold enlisted in 1914 and proved to be an unusually brave and capable soldier. He ended the war with the rank of Major and retired as one of the AIF's most decorated soldiers. After the war he farmed on his property at Ridge Road Kallista where he lived until his death in 1978,

There is also a complete Red Cross Nurse uniform from World War 1 which belonged to a local woman Ethel Ogilvy (nee Stoddart). Ethel's uniform is a reminder of the overlooked part that women played in these wars. This included nursing in the battle zones or at home, filling the gaps in the paid workforce, knitting socks and preparing comfort parcels to send to the soldiers and fundraising to support the war effort. As well as this, women were doing the hard physical and emotional work of running households on their own.

On a lighter note, visitors can see a tin of chocolates which were a New Year present to soldier, Arthur Ayers, in 1915. Arthur served at Gallipoli and then Egypt and France. He and his wife later ran a flower farm at Avonsleigh. It seems Arthur never ate his chocolates. They are still packaged in their tin looking seemingly edible 111 years later!

This exhibition can be viewed at the Museum during the month of April on Wednesdays 10.00-3.00, Sundays 12.00-3.00. There are extended open hours of 10.00-3.00 on Sunday 12 April as part of the PAVE Festival.

Anne Carter



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Mental Health and Wellbeing Local offers integrated Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs support including service navigation, and peer support. Cardinia Local offers support Monday - Friday, 9am-5pm. Free support in your local area without a need for referral or Medicare Card.

For free support in your local area, call or email:

Phone 03 5929 2600

Free call 1800 332 501

Email cardiniaLocal@mindaustalia.org.au

Your Mental Health and Wellbeing Local is supported by the Victorian Government and delivered by Mind Australia in partnership with Victoria State Government



Want to learn more? Scan for more information



Quote from book
"The High
Mountains of
Portugal" set in
1904 -

*The roads are ratty
obscurities laid down
by an enterprising
government of long
ago and forgotten
by every
government since.*

It's always been a
problem!



"I hope this is the right wine for reading
and ignoring each other."

Cardinia Mental Health & Wellbeing

New Mental Health Support Service for free,
delivered by Mind Australia & Monash Health

On 25th August 2025, Cardinia announced they were one of seven shires in the state that would receive a local agency with walk in access, and no requirement for a Medicare Card, Care Plan or doctor's referral.

It opened in November in a limited capacity (teleconsults only).

cardinia.vic.gov.au/news/article

mindaustalia.org.au

For more information see article on behalf of Cardinia Shire Council - Page 28 "Emergency relief service opens its doors in Cockatoo"

Cr David Nickell Report

Update on final road projects under "Sealing the Hills" Federal funding

The final two catchments under the program listed below, reached practical completion in December 2025 and are now in their 12-month defects liability period:

- Old Gembrook Catchment (Old Gembrook Rd, Sherriff Rd, Durban Rd – Emerald)
- Stoney Creek Catchment (Young St, Burton Rd, Morris Rd – Beaconsfield Upper)

The Major Roads Projects team is now focused on closing out the remaining program commitments, including:

- Mt Burnett Road – Under construction and expected to be completed by end of June 2026
- Mountain Road/Ure Road – Design only this FY 25/26. Expected construction in 26/27FY
- Minor outstanding works across several previously completed catchments, with contractor engagement planned for April 2026.
- Finalising design permits and consents for the 25 First Avenue, Cockatoo main drainage outfall.

At the Council briefing on Monday 23 March, a subcommittee of councillors including myself, will be presenting for consideration, a proposed shire-wide approach to future road sealing: the Local Street Sealing Initiative (LSSI) at the April 2026 Council Meeting.



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The Hills Photographic Society

Coming up in the next couple of months we have:

3rd April – Annual Club Photographic Exhibition

9th April – The Zen art of photo editing

12th April – Official Opening of Annual Photographic Exhibition



Hills Photographic Society Annual Exhibition 2026

This year we will be Exhibiting at the Puffing Billy Visitor Centre.

The exhibition will be open **Fri 3-April (Good Friday) to Thursday 16 April between 10am-4pm.**

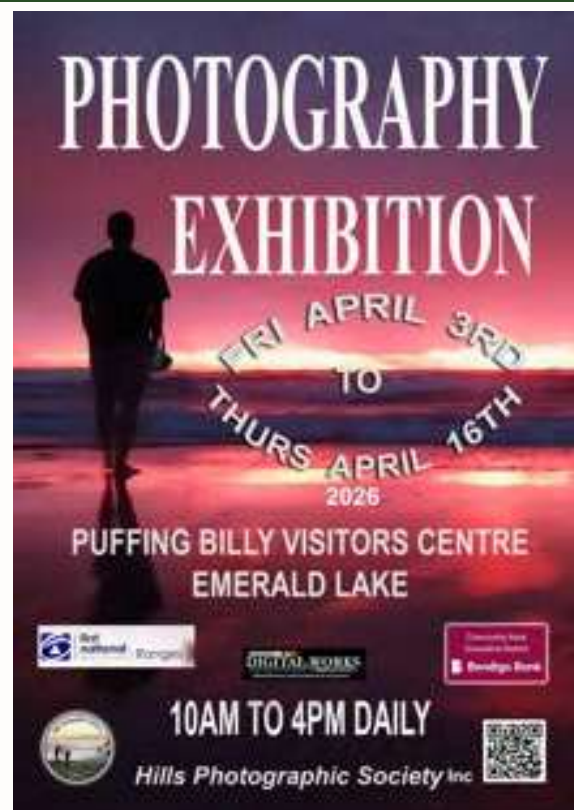
An official opening and awards presentation will held on Sunday the 12th April. For further information please visit our website.

Our guest speaker in March was Kim Wormald who spoke on Ethical Bird and Animal Photography. This was a very informative talk along with some of Kim's amazing birds photos. For further information please check out Kim's website at <https://www.lirralirra.com/>

Also you can also do a half or full day tour with Des Palmer, these are joint birding and photography adventures with Australian Bird Tours, check the website <https://www.australianbirdtours.com.au/>

Visitors are most welcome to come along to any of our meetings to see what we are about and if you are interested you may consider becoming a member. For more information regarding 'The Hills Photographic Society', contact the secretary@hillsphotographicsociety.org.au

Find us at: [HPS website](https://www.hillsphotographicsociety.org.au) See our Facebook Friends at: [HPS - Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/hillsphotographicsociety)



Michael Kavanagh

Publicity Officer

Mob 0411 036 328



All Myli locations will be closed from Friday 3 April to Monday 6 April for the Easter long weekend, & Saturday 25 April (Anzac Day)

Online resources will still be available during this time.

Musical Notes

Inc: The Lyrebirds Community Choir



The Lyrebirds had so much fun performing at The Cockatoo Country Twilight market! We were lucky enough to be a recipient of a market grant last year to purchase some performance scarves, so it was a great opportunity to show them off, and perform as a way of thanks.

Have you been following along with the event guides for the Paved Festival this year?

The super talented dynamic duo Dalys and Steve from the Lyrebirds will be hosting a **unique choir event at The Paradise Valley Hotel on the 14th of April as part of paved. Called INCHOIR**, all attendees will be taught a surprise song throughout the evening with the grand finale of singing your masterpiece together. Sounds like great fun. Tickets on sale now through INCHOIRS facebook page.

Also as part of the PAVED festival fantastic local band The Railway Cats will be performing at The Paradise Valley Hotel and at Gemco during Funfest. Pete & Belle will also be teaming up to perform at the Hive Bar. Not to mention performances at the Local in Gembrook. Check out The Railway Cats, Belle, Pete and Andy on Facebook.



Tuesday 14th April - Bookings from 5:30pm (essential).
Forks down at 7:30 sharp
Paradise Valley Hotel (The Clemo)

A high-energy, one-night singing experience where a room full of strangers learns a well-known song in three-part harmony-guided by InChoir, the charismatic conducting of Dalys Mithen and backed by live accompaniment by Steve Kyval. No auditions, no sheet music, just instant connection, big sound, and a shared musical buzz.

Volunteer Training Workshop: Advocacy 101

When: Tuesday May 5th, 2026, from 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Location: Council Chambers, Cardinia Shire Council Civic Centre, 20 Siding Ave, Officer

Online option available, but in-person attendance strongly recommended.

Community organisations and individual residents play a key role in advocating for better infrastructure and services locally. To help equip you to speak to Members of Parliament and ministers about changes that you want to see locally, Council have prepared a Community Advocacy Toolkit.

Please join us for an Advocacy 101 training session that will outline how to contact your local members of parliament, best practices for planning an advocacy campaign and communicating your message. The Community Advocacy Toolkit will ensure that you have the tools and strategies that you need to achieve your goals.

Book your place by clicking on this link: [Volunteer Training Workshop: Advocacy 101 – Fill out form](#)

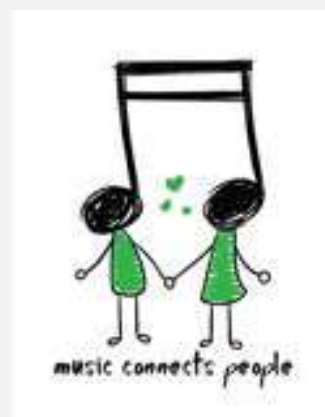
on behalf of the Cardinia Shire Council

Are you looking for places to perform?

Did you know MANY local venues hold open mic/stage nights.

The Cockatoo RSL, The Railway Dog, Gemco Theatre, and further afield in Belgrave, there is The Black Bee, The Belgrave Hotel, Zukes Place and The Sooki Lounge! Music is a gift that should be shared, so time to get out there and share, or support the people that do.

Elise Turnedge






JASON WOOD

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR **LA TROBE**

Authorised by Jason Wood MP, Liberal Party of Australia
Unit 3, 16 Langmore Ln, Berwick VIC 3806.

Friends of Emerald Lake Park

In late 2024, Friends of Emerald Lake Park secured a grant from Landcare Victoria/Melbourne Water to support the Shire's Emerald Lake Park Vegetation Management Project. The chosen site is downhill from the Nobelius Track, near Superman Corner.

The grant has been used mainly for weed control works undertaken by expert contractors. They concentrated on cutting down and removing invasive tree species, such as *Cestrum elegans*, large Sycamore Maples, Holly and small-leaved Privet. The next stage of micro weeding by the Friends was followed by the planting of a selected group of indigenous species grown by the Helmeted Honeyeater Nursery in Yellingbo. The Friends were helped by a group from Aligned Leisure to plant the 100 tube stock. The holes had to be dug and the newly planted tube stock protected with tree guards secured by stakes. The grant work will be completed in April when we plant the final 150 tube stock.

Our group would not be able to manage and complete this project without the support and advice of the Shire Natural Reserves Team.

The photos give you some idea of our work in preparing the site for the next stage of planting.

If you would like to help with the general work we do around Emerald Lake, please reach out to us through the website www.felp.com.au or email friendsofemeraldlakepark@gmail.com

In April we will meet on Saturday April 4 and Sunday April 12 at 9am in the Lakeside carpark. On Thursday, April 16, we will meet at 9am at the Packing Shed on the Puffing Billy line near the Emerald Museum. Each time, we'll finish around 11am with an informal cuppa & catch up.






2026 Debutante Ball
SATURDAY 13th June 2026

Applications are being accepted from 1st January 2026



For further information and to download an application form, go to www.emeraldrotary.org.au





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- Amazing K9 Grooming 0466 286 122
- Auto Plus Dog Wash 5968 2641
- Emerald Dog Grooming 0406 237 576

Pet Care & House Sitting

- Cedar Lodge Claws & Paws 0438 645 884

Veterinarian Services

- Avonsleigh Vet 5968 3957
- Elite Equine 0412 619 740
- Emerald Vet 5968 6600

AUTOMOTIVE

Car detailing

- Emerald Detailing 0430 918 071

Repairs & Maintenance

- Auto Plus SS 5968 2641
- Emerald Auto Repairs 5968 2922
- EMCAR, Darren 5968 6031
- B&B Auto, Brad 0438 087 400

CLEANING

Home & Office



- The Hills Cleaning Co [link](#) 
- EZRA Cleaning Services 0444 514 979
- Flowright Gutter & Roofing, Ashley 0438 007 728
- Matt Keyes, roofing/gutter cleaning 0407 657 484
- Michael O'Connor & Son, Chimney Sweeps 1300 651 631

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- Angus & Co. Barber [link](#) 
- Avonsleigh Hair Barn 5968 4539
- Gingers, Kasey 5968 4386
- Hewstone Hair 0400 709 463
- Hush Cosmetics 0425 859 183
- Jessica's Beauty therapy 5968 2683
- Skin Renaissance 5968 2913

BUSINESS SERVICES

Accounting, Auditing, Taxation

- Alexander Neil & Associates 5968 6062
- CBW Accounting & Taxation 0480 316 906

Banking

- Bendigo Bank Emerald & District 5968 8831
- CBA Emerald. 5968 4355

Bookkeeping, BAS & Payroll

- In Your Business 0407 316 955
- Financial Services
- Ben Smith, Mortgage Broker & Liberty Adviser 0424 153 236

CONSTRUCTION

Building Construction and repair

- AOB Master Builder, Aaron 0403 544 616
- AOV Construction, Licenced Builder 0448 479 775
- Bow Homes 0425 253 895
- Built Carpentry 0438 505 669
- Conventional carports 0487 779 800
- Everstraight Constructions, Joel 0474 068 182
- Hartwood Projects 0431 535 858
- Heard Building Group 0478 692 311
- Rosehaven Constructions 0418 342 349
- Spierings Constructions 0449 258 096

Carpentry

- Square It Carpentry 0408 175 607

Driveways

- Topcat Driveways Asphalt, Daniel 0409 395 635

Garage Doors

- Pakenham Garage Doors, Carl 0417331506

Painting and Decoration

- Mix Paint, Mick 0404 508 543
- Picasso Precision Painting, Colin 0455 242 629
- Paintenance, Jonno 0404 2227 330

Roofing & Guttering

- Top the Lot 0425 858 000

COMPUTING / IT

IT support and consulting i.e.

Software and Web Development; Social Media Management; FB & Google Ads

- Online Lifestyle Co 0407 870 267

IT & Maintenance

- PC Help @Home 0410 600 595

ELECTRICAL

Electricians

- GC Electrical & Data Services 0425 358 343
- Hearon Electrics 0419 313 591
- JPG Tech Solutions 0427 830889
- Menzies Creek Electrical, Geoff 0431 232 796
- Land2Sea Electrical, Kyle 0401 255 111
- Sabco Electrical 0422 642 440
- Specialized Solar & Electrical, Solar panel & battery system, installation, maintenance 9117 6185

ENVIRONMENTAL

Arborists: Pruning, Mill, Removal

- Heritage Tree Professionals 0431 749 136
- Superb Tree Care: tree pruning, removal, milling, wildlife habitat creation 9804 7369
- Tree FX 1300 TREEFX (873339)
- Tree Range Arborists: technical climbing arborists and salvaged timber sales for repurposing 1800 870 468

Earthmoving

- ConEarth, Rick 0430 411 944

Recycling Services

- AH Recycling Group, Home Donation Collection Service (clothing bedding, soft toys, books & jewellery 0423 509 733



GARDENING

Hedging & Hedge Cutting Services

- Hedge Works 0407 100 315

Lawn Maintenance: Spraying,

Weeding, Pruning & Landscaping

- Supercut Mowing 0449 789 218
- Wendy Neagle 0413 512 123

Stump Grinding

- Rhyno Stump Grinding, Ryan Cook 0430 276 868

JEWELLERS

- Erimus - Mark 0490 518 596

LEGAL

- Buy & Sell Conveyancing Services, Annette Watkinson Licenced Conveyancer 5968 6431
- KLR Legal Services: Family Law matters, Wills, Powers of Attorney, Probate, Trusts, Estate Planning, Estate Litigation 5968 4126
- Falcone & Adams Lawyers: Practicing across many areas of law 5968 3666

MARKETING & MEDIA

Advertising

- Emerald News, Pete 0439 112 204
- Star News Group 1300 666 808

Design: graphics, logos, packaging, signs, publications

- Online Lifestyle - Tash 0407 870 267

Drone Photography

- Ridge Media, Oskar 0490 393 244

Signage

- Gem Signs 0407 826 407
- Yarra Signworks 0418 535 523



METALWORK

Welding

- IQMAN Welding School, Peter Dompietro 0414 709 666

PEST CONTROL

- Dandenong Pest Centre 9707 1719
- Eastside Pest Control 0418 950 934
- Perkins Exterminators 1300 884 088
- The Pest Posse 0412 555 706

PLUMBING

Drainage, fixing pipes, Gas lines

Roof plumbing, Water systems

- Better Plumbing Solutions & Gas Fitting 0468582686
- Emerald Village Plumbing 0468 582 686
- Lateral Plumbing Solutions 0413 107 905
- Luv2Plumb 1300 259 053
- M.E.K Plumbing & Gas fitting 0418 212 038
- Ranges Plumbing Vic, Glenn 0427 150 000
- Richard's Plumbing 0411 116 979

PRINTING

- EDRA, Lynne 0419 584 498

REAL ESTATE

- Barry Plant Real Estate 5968 4522
- Bell Real Estate 5968 6222

SECURITY

Home / Business

- Australian Antennas 1300 361 121
- MJE Systems 1300 123 140
- Security Response 0421 016 897
- Spinks Security (cameras, alarms, locksmiths) 0438 543 043



PLUMBING & GASFITTING

Locksmiths

- Eastern Suburbs Locksmiths 9839 5107
- E.Z Locksmiths 9007 2505
- OnClock Locksmith 4060 9004
- Oakleigh Locksmiths 9568 6344

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Emerald Bin Hire 0427 368 685

WELLBEING

Carer Day Support

- Fernlea Community Respite 5968 3895

Childcare

- Jolly Jumbucks 5968 5820
- Where We Grow. 1300 991 991
- Emerald Twinklekids 5968 5820

Counselling

- Care Professionals: Aged Care & Disability services/support 90004141
- Emerald Psychology 5905 2811
- Jabulani Sanctuary equine therapy, Debbie 0438 424 889

Dental

- Emerald Family Dentist 5968 5736
- Dental Hygiene To You: in-home mobile dental care 0408 369 469
- Emerald Denture Clinic 5968 2626

Exercise / Physiotherapy

- Emerald Pilates, Di 0407 049 478
- Hills Physiotherapy 5968 3030

Massage

- Holistic Rem'il Massage 5961 9080
- Racha Thai Massage 5967 3996
- Be Fine Thai Massage 5968 4490

Medical

- Emerald Medical Centre, including Podiatry, Health Assessments, Geriatrician, Diabetes 5968 4622
- Mandala Clinic, including skin checks 5968 3733
- Melbourne Pathology 8532 7044

Optometrist

- Emerald Eyes Optical 5968 2906

Other

- Emerald Oseopathy 5968 6889
- Mindful Heart Spaces, Reflexology Myotherapy, Ayurvedic 0473 567 056
- Proactive Myotherapy 0422 650 414

This register provides a showcase of skill within our area. While we cannot guarantee the inclusion of each trade/service in every edition, due to limited space, we remain open to hearing of additional trade/service providers.

Note: The EVA directory lists local trade and service options; users assume all risks in their dealings. E: publication@emeraldvillage.org.au

Lions Club of Emerald and District The Car That Changes Everything

On a quiet road in the Hills, a young learner grips the steering wheel a little tighter than necessary. It's not just nerves—it's the weight of what this moment means.

For many local young people, getting a licence isn't a given. It's something that slips further out of reach with every missed driving hour.

No car. No supervising driver. No easy way to get there.



That's why a single car—funded by Community Bank Emerald and the Emerald & District Lions Club—matters so much.

Until now, volunteer mentors have to travel to Pakenham or Kooweerup just to collect a program vehicle, they then head back into the Hills to meet learners to support them, before returning the vehicle again. It's too time-consuming and, for some learners, the difference between getting hours... or missing out.

Soon, that changes.

A dedicated L2P vehicle will be based locally in Cockatoo, giving mentors more time to focus on what matters—helping young people build confidence behind the wheel. The impact is already growing. Melbourne driver support company; DriveSmart will also come on board as a sponsor, strengthening the program's reach and helping more young people access a safe, supported driving experience.

At the same time, organisers are reaching out to local car dealerships for additional support and connecting with secondary schools across the Hills to spread the word to Year 10 students—those just beginning their learner journey.

Supported driving add up to more than a licence. They build confidence. Independence. Opportunity.



The long road that led here

This is something Linda Jane understands deeply.

Years ago, after a serious motorbike accident, Linda lost the use of her hands for two years. Life stopped in ways most people never have to imagine. But instead of stepping away from the road, she chose to come back to it differently.

During her recovery, she trained as a driving instructor—determined to help drivers better understand how to share the road, especially with motorcyclists.

That decision became a career.

Over the past three and half decades, Linda has helped thousands of learner drivers pass their tests and gain the confidence to drive safely. Through her work with organisations like Murcotts, METEC and Mission Australia—and now as Director of Changing Gears - she continues to support those doing it tough through programs like Get My L's.



Today, Linda also plays a hands-on role locally as the Lions Club Project Manager for the L2P program, helping coordinate mentors, support learners, and initiatives, like securing this new vehicle, that make the program possible.

Soon, another young person in the Hills will sit behind the wheel, a mentor beside them, and a set of keys in the ignition.

And this time, the road ahead might finally feel possible.

Thank you to Bendigo Bank for your large contribution to this project.

Register your interest on QR link:

Yours in Lions

Dave Jordan



THANK YOU!

**BENDIGO BANK &
EMERALD LIONS**





This flourishing U3A group's last meeting was held at Emersleigh Winery which is owned and operated by one of our tutors - John Wall.

The feature of the meeting was the visit to Emerald of Rob Ihle of Relm Wines. Rob does not have a vineyard of his own, so sources grapes from a variety of vineyards around Victoria, primarily from the Yarra Valley and the Heathcote region.

Rob presented an Arneis white wine, full of flavour and a range of shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon wines. All delicious. Members were able to buy Rob's wine to take home. The afternoon culminated in a feast of pizzas from Lauritos Pizza shop in Emerald.

Photos below show the winemaker, Rob Ihle and group members Paul, Frank, Beth and Sue enjoying their pizzas.

Wine Appreciation Group



If you see anyone purchasing vapes anywhere other than a pharmacy, please call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000, or submit a confidential report online at [Crimestoppers](https://www.crimestoppers.com.au)

Selling cigarettes and vapes to a person under 18 is illegal.



CRIME STOPPERS - 1800 333 000



Anzac Day 2026

Saturday 25th April

DAWN SERVICE

Gather at Anzac Place 5.00am, service to start at 5.30am
Memorial Avenue, Emerald

MID-MORNING MARCH AND SERVICE

Gather at the Cenotaph in Emerald by 10am (near the Emerald Commonwealth Bank)
March along with Veterans and local community groups to Anzac Place for the mid-morning service

or

MID-MORNING SERVICE

Gather at Anzac Place 10.30am, service to start 11am
Memorial Avenue, Emerald

Our Clubrooms and bar will be open for patronage following both services and you are most welcome to join us in camaraderie.

EMERALD SCOUTS - EGG & BACON SANDWICHES after the Dawn Service

COFFEE VAN all day - FOOTY on the TV in the Clubrooms

Afternoon SAUSAGE SIZZLE and TWO-UP in the carpark

All welcome!

BELL

REAL ESTATE



Think COMMUNITY Think **BELL**

Emergency relief service opens its doors in Cockatoo

Cardinia Shire Council is proud to welcome the Dandenong Ranges Emergency Relief Service (DRERS) to Cockatoo, providing additional support to residents experiencing financial hardship.

The expansion of the service follows the recent announcement by the Australian Government of additional funding to strengthen emergency relief support for residents experiencing financial hardship.

DRERS is now operating from The Base in Cockatoo on Thursdays and Fridays from 9am until 12:30pm, and is available to residents living in the northern region of the shire. The service also continues to operate from its Belgrave premises five days a week.

Cardinia Shire Mayor, Councillor Brett Owen said that DRERS' expansion into Cardinia Shire would enable this vital service to better support Cardinia Shire residents.

"Cardinia Shire Council has continued to advocate to all levels of government for some time for additional funding to support our community, so we're really pleased that three services in the shire have received funding to provide additional support to Cardinia Shire residents who are doing it tough," Mayor Owen said.

"DRERS provides critical support for people in our community who are going through tough times, whether that's homelessness, illness, unemployment, family violence, or other challenges.

"This important service provides practical help like food, clothing, and financial support, and residents can either walk in themselves, or be referred by a service provider.

"We're really pleased to have DRERS in Cardinia Shire, and we welcome the positive difference this important service will make to our local community."

Residents can access support from DRERS in the following ways:

Visit: The Base, 7-17 McBride Street, Cockatoo.

Phone: 9754 7777

Email: enquire@drers.org.au.

Website: drers.org.au

Emergency Relief is an Australian Government funded program that provides immediate, short-term assistance to people facing financial stress or crisis and who have limited means to meet essential needs.

Two other services also received additional funding to support Cardinia Shire residents:

- South East Community Links: SECL
- Catholic Care Victoria: CatholicCareVic

on behalf of the
Cardinia Shire Council

**HAPPY
EASTER!**



Photo credit: L-R: Cardinia Shire Mayor Cr Brett Owen, DRERS patron and major donor Philip Wollen OAM, DRERS CEO Tania Bevan, and DRERS Cockatoo branch manager Zoe Welsh.

Outlook
an inclusive society for all



Outlook Australia Community Centre
communitycentre@outlookaust.org.au

24 Toomuc Valley Rd, Pakenham, Ph (03) 5940 4728

Microsoft Office - Beginners - Build confidence with every click; Learn the basics of OneDrive, Publisher, Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Perfect for beginners. BYO USB stick. Thursdays starting **7 May**, 7 sessions, 9.30am - 12.30pm
Cost: \$45 (Includes course notes)

Take Control of Your Smartphone

Are you feeling overwhelmed? Make your phone simple, clear and easy to use. In this hands-on session: we will clean up your phone and remove apps you don't need, organise your home screen, adjust text and sound settings and reduce unnecessary notifications. Cost: \$10
Mondays starting **11 May** for 2 sessions, 9.30am - 11.30am

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. Cost: \$25
Wednesdays starting **13 May**, 4 sessions 9.30am- 12.30pm

Caravanning for Newbies

This session covers a broad range of need-to-know topics to get you safely and efficiently on the road with your caravan.
Tuesday **12 May**, 6.30pm - 9.30pm Cost: FREE

Neighbourhood Watch - Eastern



Safe neighbourhoods don't just happen... they're made.

They're built by people who look out for each other, and do these simple things.

1 Say hi

A friendly hello builds connection, and connected streets are safer streets.

2 Do what you can

- Lock up every time
- Keep an eye out when neighbours are home and away
- Report suspicious behaviour
- Improve lighting and visibility at home

3 Join your local NHW group or start one

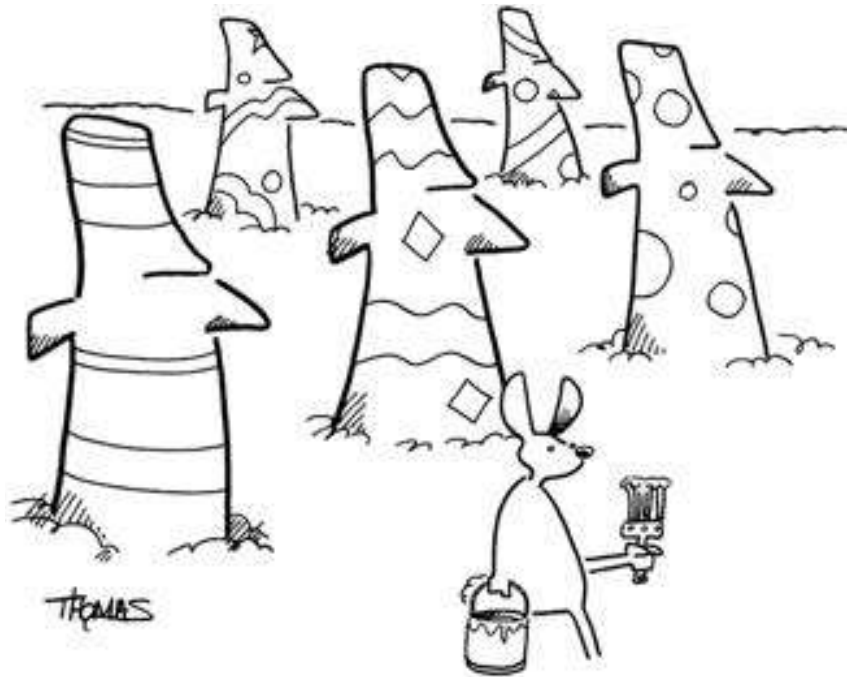
Stay informed. Share updates. Strengthen your neighbourhood.

When we each do our part, we make it harder for criminals and easier for community.

Neighbourhood Watch
Let's watch out for each other

www.nhw.com.au
hello@nhw.com.au

[@nhw.vic](https://twitter.com/nhw.vic)
[@nhw.vic](https://www.facebook.com/nhw.vic)



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, neighbourhood houses, sporting clubs, men's sheds, township committees and many more.

To see what sessions are coming up and to register, visit: cardinia.vic.gov.au/volunteering or email:

connectedcommunities@cardinia.vic.gov.au

Volunteer Learning Bytes

Did you know that 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

A photograph of the Hills Hub Cardinia building at night. The building is modern with large glass windows and a curved roof. The text "Hills Hub Cardinia" is visible on the building's facade.

Virtual tour:
Scan the QR code to take a virtual tour of the facility!

A QR code for a virtual tour of the Hills Hub.

Booking Cardinia

The Hills Hub is available to hire for one-off or recurring activities! Check out our Virtual tour of the Hub via the QR code above.

Request a booking:

To request a booking, contact the Connected Communities team:

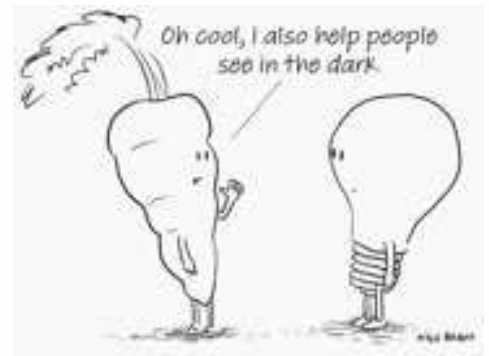
- ☎ 1300 787 624
- ✉ connectedcommunities@cardinia.vic.gov.au

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

The Cardinia logo, featuring a stylized 'C' and the word "Cardinia".

The Cockatoo Community Market invited NHW-Eastern Ranges to the twilight market on March 7th to hold a fund raiser sausage sizzle at the market to enable us to but essential equipment for Neighborhood Watch. It was a beautiful day, weather-wise and the market was packed with locals and visitors from out of town. The event was great success as the NHW committee were able to distribute lots of information about NHW in the region. All sausages were sold. Big shout thanks to our local Lions Club for the use of there shelter and gear.

Peter Maloney, President of Neighbourhood Watch - Eastern Ranges



Why don't Bilbies use GPS?
They prefer to burrow their own way to the egg hunt.



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

AUTO PLUS

349 Belgrave Gembrook Road, Emerald
Phone (03) 5968-2641 (E) autoplusmore@gmail.com

Your locally owned and operated independent service station
"Putting the service back into Service Station"

Fuel Tyres Auto Accessories Oils Mechanical Services
24 Hour Self Service Car & Dog Wash
Open 7 Days

**Daniela
De Martino**
MP for Monbulk



**OFFICIAL OPENING OF NEW INCLUSIVE
PLAYGROUND AT DANDENONG RANGES
STEINER SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN**

The Victorian Government continues to invest in high-quality early learning environments across Victoria, today celebrating the completion of upgrades at Dandenong Ranges Steiner School Kindergarten, delivered through last year's 2024–25 Building Blocks Inclusion Grants Program.

Member for Monbulk Daniela De Martino officially opened the new three-year-old kindergarten playground today, funded through \$197,872 in State Government support via the Building Blocks Inclusion Grants Program. The project marks the final stage of the school's Little Kindergarten redevelopment, creating a safe, welcoming and inclusive outdoor space where children of all abilities can learn, play and thrive. The upgrade has delivered significant improvements to the kindergarten environment, including:

- new retaining walls and stairs to provide safer access
- landscaped garden beds to support sensory and nature-based learning
- the installation of new swing sets and play elements suited to children of varying developmental needs

The works were made possible through the Building Blocks Inclusion Grants Program, which in 2024–25 provided more than \$9 million to over 400 early childhood services across Victoria for facility upgrades and inclusive equipment. Funding under the program ensures early childhood services can support children to engage in activities, build confidence, and participate fully in their kindergarten experience, regardless of a child's ability.

Since its launch in 2020, the Labor Government's Building Blocks program has delivered more than \$235 million to plan, build and improve early childhood services across the state. These upgrades are part of Victoria's nation-leading \$14 billion Best Start, Best Life reforms, transforming early childhood education and giving every Victorian child the strongest possible start.

The project at Dandenong Ranges Steiner School Kindergarten was supported and managed by Business Manager Cath Lanigan and Maintenance Officer Alex McHutchison.

Quotes attributable to Dandenong Ranges Steiner School Kindergarten Business Manager Cath Lanigan

"We're delighted to have a beautiful new play space and gardens for our three-year-old Kindergarten program. The craftsman built swing set is a particularly popular upgrade with the children."

"We're very grateful to the State Government for their support for this project so we have a safe, accessible playground which will serve the kindergarten well for many years."



Scan here to learn more



**Daniela
De Martino**
STATE LABOR MP FOR MONBULK

1635 Burwood Hwy, Belgrave, 3160
daniela.demartino@parliament.vic.gov.au
9754 5401 @danielademartinomp

"This project also follows previous State Government grants for the establishment of the three-year-old kindergarten room, and the refurbishment of the kinder office and community room. We feel very fortunate to have this lovely space to provide for the children, parents and staff. It is very helpful for delivering our program that is rated as exceeding all national standards."

Media Contact: Kara Fouhy ph. 9754 5401 e.

kara.fouhy@parliament.vic.gov.au





Emerald Ladies Probus Club

The Emerald Ladies Probus Club has a busy month ahead. Upcoming events include morning tea at Gracies in Gembrook, a visit to the Running Rabbits Museum in Upwey with lunch afterwards, and craft sessions featuring papercraft and card making.

As in previous years, our club will participate in Emerald's ANZAC Day March and mid-morning service at ANZAC Place where a club representative will lay a wreath of hand knitted and crocheted poppies.

Probus focuses on friendship and connection, offering a friendly environment where retired or semi-retired women can make new friends, keep active, and enjoy themselves.

Our club meets on the third Monday of each month at the Emerald RSL, commencing at 10am. If you're interested in any of our activities and would like to find out more, please come along to our next meeting on Monday 20 April to join us for morning tea and meet our members. Our guest speaker at this meeting will be Dr Alex Maisey, talking about lyrebirds.

You can find more information on our website by scanning the QR code or by contacting Anita on 0408 608 887.



Linda McIvor

Recruitment and Management of Volunteers

When: Wednesday 15th April
Time: 6.30-9pm

Location: Council Chambers, Cardinia Shire Council Civic Centre, 20 Siding Ave, Officer

Online option is available, but in-person attendance is strongly recommended.

Volunteers are often the heart of a community group, but keeping them motivated, supported, and aligned with the organisation's purpose takes thoughtful planning and good communication. This session gives participants the tools to manage volunteers effectively and build a strong, engaged team.

Book your place by clicking on this link:
[Volunteer Training Workshop: Recruitment and Management of Volunteers – Fill out form](#)

on behalf of the Cardinia Shire Council



"Take us to Lady Gaga."

Creative Still Life - a 2-day workshop for Painters, Photographers and Designers by Sue Jarvis



About The Artist



Sue Jarvis is an Award-winning Artist, Teacher, Designer and Photographer. She has recently been inspired by natural forms from her large Botanic Garden.

She has works in the State Library and the Shrine of Remembrance collections and recently won 2 Awards with her Still Life studies.

EMERALD
ARTS
Society

Consecutive Sundays: 24th and 31st of May
10am-4:00pm

LOCATION: Emerald Arts Society Studio,
Cnr Church & Anne Sts, Emerald, VIC 3782
COST: \$180 Members, \$220 Non-members

BANK DETAILS:
BSB No: 633 000
Acct No: 196 696 249
Reference: (Your surname) + MAYCSL
Eg. Smith MAYCSL

Please be sure to include the "reference" with your bank transfer so our treasurer knows who has sent the funds and what they are for. Thank you!

BRING ALONG: (see Materials List)

SKILLS: This workshop is ideal for beginners, as well as anyone curious to explore painting in a simple and high creative way.

BOOK NOW TO SECURE YOUR PLACE!

Send an email to:
ginamaymiller@icloud.com
or phone Gina on 0400 598 059

Please note: Any event organized by Emerald Arts Society may be postponed if it falls on a date that is declared an EXTREME or CODE RED day.

EMERALD SES	
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	11:00am - 7:00pm
Friday	Closed
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	Closed

Please note our set hours of operational as seen on our Facebook page. 11am to 7pm or until container deposit capacity is reached.

Olinka Edwards,
Deputy Controller
Community Engagement.
Emerald SES



Clean Up Australia Day in Emerald SCOUTS...ROTARY...LANDCARE

Clean Up Australia Day is always the first Sunday of March. This year three community groups; Emerald Scouts, Rotary Club of Emerald & District and Johns Hill Landcare Group combined their enthusiasm to help Clean Up Emerald. We excitedly dispersed to Worrell Reserve, Emerald Arts Society and the main streets around Emerald. Together, we collected about 18 bags of rubbish including an old oven.

The beauty of these community events is being able to share morning tea, purposeful activity and BBQ lunch. A lovely bunch of 25 people registered for this annual event. There was lots of chatting and sharing stories amongst new and old friends. Thank you to Barry Plant for the big marketing sign, Emerald Village Association for flyers, Emerald Scouts for the BBQ trailer and tables; Rotary Club of Emerald & District cooked the sausages, distributed flyers and Johns Hill Landcare organised the event.

Time is often in short supply with busy lives. Contributing to your community enables you to make new friends, discover new interests, feel a sense of purpose and have fun all at once. It is very efficient!

Emerald Rotary Club meets every Tuesday 6:45 pm for 7 pm at The Paradise Hotel Clematis, or call 0408 769 491 or 0417 038 707. Johns Hill Landcare just had lots of new members join up at our AGM.



Clean Up at Worrell Reserve: Shalini Penny



Group at Emerald Scout Centre after Clean Up Emerald: Shalini Penny

Check out the websites of Johns Hill Landcare and Scouts for more activities. Clean Up Australia Day gives us an opportunity to do all those valuable things and provides a hands-on way to tackle litter and pollution, showing that our actions, no matter how small, can add up to big change. Remember, the first Sunday of March is Clean Up Australia Day. For more activities:

www.johnshill.org.au www.emeraldrotary.org.au www.scoutsvictoria.com.au

Julie Thompson, Johns Hill Landcare Group

emerald
psychology
practice

emeraldpsych.com.au
admin@emeraldpsych.com.au

TINKAR'S CORNER
Gifts & Homewares



Shop 7, 5-7 Kilvington Drive, Emerald, Vic 3782
0448 763 606 tinkarscorner@hotmail.co
www.tinkarscorner.com.au

PET OF THE MONTH

Miss Fir-Bear is this month's winner, pictured here participated in some paw-printing !



Thankyou Sam at Emerald Stock Feed and Pet Supplies for Lucy's gift below, & the one awaiting little Miss Fir-Bear



Note: Below is the continuation of 'correspondence between doggies' for the amusement of young readers.

To whom it may concern,
Re: Pet Of The Month

I am an avid reader of Emerald News and look forward to Pet Of The Month. I get giddy with anticipation should I see my Paw-Pal Evie featured. They were simpler times; the Spring of 2004 I was a regular contributor to Emerald News. Learning about Lucy, I can see a little of myself; I am 9 years old and still run flatout across the park with ears flapping but these days I am paying for it afterwards.

I don't know if I am handling the humidity to well this Summer, my Mum says I am running very hot but I say she is self-projecting. She has shaved me (maybe for the comment) and now instead of looking like a Teddy-Bear I look like an Italian Greyhound! Silver linings; it is better for running.
Say Hi to Evie for me.
Your Paw-Pal,
Miss Fir-Bear

In entering Miss Fir-Bear and her most recent story in to Pet Of The Month, her mum would like to remain anonymous in order to continue the story of Evie and Miss Fir-Bear; I love the idea of readers following their correspondence.

All I ever wanted back in October 2024 when I entered a Colouring Request-Feeling safe, was to make someone smile.

Miss Fir-Bear's Mum.





ART IN THE PARK

Emerald Lake Park

- a Pop-up Gallery
in the old tea rooms

OPEN THURS - SUNDAY
11 am - 4 pm

The gallery is set in a beautiful location, and if you haven't visited the park lately, come and see it during Autumn. Entry is free.

All artworks are for sale and can be taken home at the time of purchase. The Gallery shop also sells a large collection of bespoke artist creations, including cards, prints, pottery, jewellery, resin products, small artworks etc. It's an ideal place to find an authentic gift that represents this region.

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



**Fire Restrictions in Cardinia
Shire will end at 1.00am on
Tues 7th April 2026**

Sudoku

ANSWERS - PAGE 37

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.



"I wish you'd told me you were inviting them. Thomas hates shellfish."

the GRUB CLUB

Prepared meals and catering delivered!
NDIS & SoH participants welcome.

WE'RE BACK!

GET 25% OFF FIRST MEAL ORDERS!
*Conditions apply



EMERALD
SECONDARY COLLEGE



2026
Presentation and tour commences at 9am, and conclude 11 am.

APRIL
Monday 27th
Tuesday 28th

Open Week

Come and experience a presentation in our Performing Arts Centre and join us for a College Tour with a member of the Principal class, staff and student leaders.

We look forward to meeting you and your child!
Bookings via the QR code, online at
www.emeraldsc.vic.edu.au or call us on 5968 5388



Respect - Resilience - Excellence - Harmony

Printmaking Without a Press — Gel Plate Workshop

SAT 18th April 2026
10am - 4:00pm

LOCATION: Emerald Arts Society Studio,
Cnr Church & Anne Sts, Emerald, VIC 3782
COST: \$160 Members, \$200 Non-members

BANK DETAILS:

BSB No: 633 000
Acct No: 196 696 249
Reference: (Your surname) + APRPRI
Eg. Smith APRPRI

Please be sure to include the "reference" with your bank transfer so our Treasurer knows who has sent the funds and what they are for.
Thank you!

BRING ALONG: (see Materials List)

SKILLS: This workshop is ideal for beginners, as well as anyone curious to explore printmaking in a simple and highly creative way.

BOOK NOW TO SECURE YOUR PLACE!

Send an email to: ginamaymiller@icloud.com
-or- phone Gina on 0400 596 059

Please note: Any event organized by Emerald Arts Society may be postponed if it falls on a date that is declared an **EXTREME** or **CODE RED** day.



Materials List

All materials are provided. You may also wish to bring:

- Apron
- Flat foliage, feathers, or other found textures
- Paint brushes (various sizes)
- Cotton tips
- Small soft rubber brayer
- Rags
- Scalpel and scissors for stencil making
- Journal for notes and ideas (optional)

Trudy will also provide workshop notes for future reference.

emeraldartsociety.com.au

Where am I?

First correct answer earns a
free coffee at

Captain's
OF EMERALD

This month is a very old sign on the Puffing Billy Station. The question is what could you do then, that would cause great uproar from most people if allowed today!
Walkers! did you know the Cardinia dam will be closed next year due to construction works to increase the capacity of. It is a great place for a walk.



Send response to Dick Bartley
dickbartley08@gmail.com

Include: your answer, name,
email and daytime phone number

Last month's photo
was taken when we were nearly down to the lake. Those marker signs are used for an emergency. If for example, a walker on a track has a heart attack and evacuation is required, the medics will need an exact location to attend and plan for an ambulance to get in and out.

EMERALD
ARTS
Society

SKILLS: This workshop is open to all levels who want to grow their technique and confidence. Beginners will discover watercolour essentials, experienced painters will push into greater boldness and paint more like yourself.

About This Workshop

Join renowned printmaker Trudy Rice for a full-day workshop exploring the magic and immediacy of gel plate printmaking.

This accessible and expressive process allows you to create rich, layered prints using found objects, hand-cut stencils, foliage, and mark-making tools - no press required. Trudy will guide you through with a demonstration, share inspiring examples, and support you as you experiment and develop your own unique visual language.

Throughout the day, you will create a collection of one-of-a-kind original works on paper, discovering the joy of printmaking in a relaxed and encouraging environment.

This workshop is ideal for beginners, as well as anyone curious to explore printmaking in a simple and highly creative way.

Words on the sign:

"Wild, picturesque mountain scenery, good fishing, splendid shooting and excellent camping-grounds are a few of the attractions that the narrow-gauge line from Fern Tree Gully to Gembrook, which is to be opened today, present to the holiday-maker."

- The Argus newspaper, Melbourne, 18 December 1900.

Above: *Passengers at Lakeside Station, early 1940's. Background: 'On the tourist track' postcard, c.1900. Source: State Library Victoria.*

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YEAR DATES 2026 ST LUKES YOUTH

Term 1

Program: Feb 13th, 20th, 27th, March 13th, 20th

Term 2

Program: May 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th (Holidays)

SYG: June 6th-8th

Program: June 12th, 19th

Term 3

Program: July 31st, August 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, Sep 4th, 11th

Term 4

Program: Oct 16th, 23rd, 30th, Nov 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

Night Church

T1: Feb 8th-March 29th (exc. labor day), T2: May 3rd-June 21st (exc. king bday), T3: July 19th- September 13th, T4: Oct 11th- Dec 6th

News and updates from Jacinta Allan & her team.

Victorians will soon be able to access three hours of free power in the middle of the day, every day of the week. This could save families up to \$300 per year off their energy bills, and up to \$1,070 if they have solar panels and batteries.

Victoria's Midday Power Saver offer will be available from 1 October 2026. This will benefit households who can shift their electricity use to the middle of the day. That includes people who work from home.

The overall benefit to Victoria is reduced peak demand, which is good for reliability and security. For the full story - [three-hours-free-power-every-day](#).

on behalf of the Victorian Government

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



10 Victor Road, Clematis
14 View Street, Avonsleigh
29 Avon Road, Avonsleigh
34 Patons Road, Macclesfield
67 Beaconsfield Emerald Road
Emerald
26 Pinnocks Road, Emerald
4 Nolan Road, Emerald
28 Beaconsfield Emerald Road,
Emerald
81 Jardine Road, Macclesfield
3 Ladd Square, Emerald



3/35 Kings Road, Emerald
6 Doery Street, Emerald
8 Jacka Road, Avonsleigh
15A Avon Road, Avonsleigh
189 Swales Road, Macclesfield
8 Cherry Road, Avonsleigh

LAND

13 Outlook Road, Emerald
70 Beaconsfield Emerald Road, Emerald
12 Lakeside Drive, Emerald
7 Brookdale Avenue, Emerald
3 Sunnyside Terrace, Emerald

Properties for Sale in Emerald (from sponsors of
Emerald Village Association)



Fernlea Community House

As many in our community will know, Fernlea has recently undergone a change in leadership, with Ross Farmer stepping into the role of Acting CEO. Ross brings experience in governance, community services and organisational stewardship, and will be working closely with the Board and staff to ensure continuity and stability as Fernlea adapts to the ever-changing health funding landscape.

The bicycle featured in the photo below has been generously donated and is now being raffled to support the continuity of Fernlea's foodbank service. This raffle is an important contribution to keeping this much-needed community program running. Tickets are available for purchase at the Fernlea Community House and through our volunteers at upcoming community events.

Fernlea remains focused on providing reliable, compassionate support to our clients, carers, volunteers and staff. We appreciate the ongoing support of our community as we continue this work together.

Ross Farmer
Acting CEO

Website:

[Fernlea Community House](#)

Facebook Page:

[Fernlea-Community-House](#)



Cellarbrations at Emerald

Chris & Kirsty Moloney – Management

Ph / Fax: (03) 5968 4205

e: emerald@cellarbrations.com.au

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FERNLEA COMMUNITY HOUSE



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www.fernlea.com.au | 03 5968 3895

Fernlea Community House

At Fernlea Community House, we use 6 key pillars as the foundation for our term offerings.

1. Community and Connection
2. Emotional Wellbeing & Resilience
3. Environmental Stewardship
4. Physical Activity/Health
5. Life Skills
6. Art/Craft and Creativity

In Term 2, we are pleased to bring you the following program. Please note that as opportunities arise, we will continue to add to this. **The QR code** will always direct you to the most up to date page, so please check in regularly or check our Events page on our website for our latest offerings.

We would also like to remind you of a wonderful Seniors Wellbeing Group that is run at the House each Thursday morning from 10am. This wonderful gathering of men and women is a great chance to connect and check in with neighbours, build friendships, combat loneliness and stay alert and engaged with your Community. Brain training word games, great conversation and morning tea are all included. No booking, just a Fernlea annual membership is needed - and then just pop along and meet everyone and join in!

In addition to this, we have an Older Men's Discussion group for retired Men over 60 years. Meeting on the 4th Tuesday of each month, this group is a safe space for men to connect with others who are at similar stages of life. Sharing a morning tea as they chat about all the experiences they encounter, this gathering is one of

about eight that operate really successfully over the broader Cardinia Shire. Booking and information can be found by scanning the QR code on our Term 2 poster or on our website.

We would encourage you to check out both of our ongoing social events - the weekly free Community games night and the new, twice monthly music/singing nights - scan QR code on our program for details. We invite you to pop into the House if you have yet to visit, and to see the spaces that are there for community use.

Finally, a huge shout out to all in our Community who are popping their spare change into our fund-raising boxes around town. Every cent goes to our Food Pantry, helping so many of our neighbours in great need. Our records tell us that from when we opened for the year on January 27th until now, our supplies have fed 833 people. Clearly, with concerns about the impact of the war in Iran, this number will only increase further as the economy feels the pinch. If you have spare produce in your garden - an excess of lemons, or rhubarb or zucchini - every little bit helps and is so very appreciated by our members. If you wish to make a cash donation to assist, do remember we are a registered charity and can provide you with a tax receipt for your records. Cash does allow us to purchase specific items we are struggling to source through food bank.

Kerry McGregor



Intergenerational Playgroup!
at our Community House!

♥ Open to local seniors and families

All Ages Welcome!

Wed, 22 April, 11:15 AM
For less than the price of a coffee each week, this is an inter-generational playgroup designed to build connections across the generations

FCH Book Exchange



Stephanie Vu

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Emerald, Vic 3782 Email: pradavu83@gmail.com
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Active Autumn

Cardinia Shire is coming alive this Autumn!

Ash Wednesday Bushfire Education Centre Open Day

Learn about the history of Ash Wednesday and bushfire preparedness at the Ash Wednesday Bushfire Education Centre Open Day.

Tuesday 14 April from 10am-1pm
Ash Wednesday Bushfire Education Centre, 2 McBride St, Cockatoo

The Ash Wednesday Bushfire Education Centre pays tribute to the efforts of firefighters and other emergency services workers during the fires, and educates visitors on how to protect themselves against the threat of bushfires.

The memorial centre was built in 2011 on the site of the former kindergarten in McBride Street, Cockatoo. The site has great significance to the local community as around 300 residents took shelter in the building during the fires.

The centre has retained the kindergarten's original concrete slab and 12-sided steel framework. It features memorial plaques, historical and bushfire education displays, artworks and a barbecue and shelter.

A reflective garden has also been planted and landscaped, featuring a *Corymbia ficifolia* tree (red flowering gum) planted by the late Princess of Wales and Prince of Wales during their visit to Cockatoo in March 1983.



More information:
1300 787 424
mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au
cardinia.vic.gov.au



FREE
EVENT

Active Autumn

Cardinia Shire is coming alive this Autumn!

Music sessions at Emerald Lake Park with local artists

Sunshine, smooth tunes and lakeside views... what more could you ask for?

Join us for an uplifting afternoon of live music in the heart of one of Cardinia Shire's most beautiful parks.

Spread out your picnic rug, grab your favourite people and soak up the relaxed vibe as talented local artists bring the park to life.

No bookings required - just bring along a picnic blanket or comfy chairs, snacks or a picnic lunch, sunscreen, hats, water, your favourite people and your relaxed-Sunday energy!



Sunday 22 March from 12pm to 2pm
Enjoy an afternoon of music in the park with local emerging artist Jay Santilli.



Sunday 12 April from 2pm - 5pm
Relax by the lake with a performance from Matt McMahon as part of our live music series.



More information:
1300 787 424
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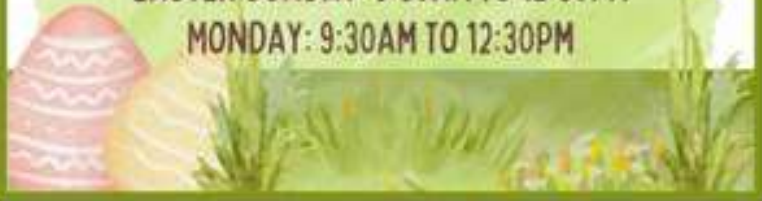
OPENING HOURS

GOOD FRIDAY: CLOSED

SATURDAY: 9AM TO 1PM

EASTER SUNDAY: 9:30AM TO 12:30PM

MONDAY: 9:30AM TO 12:30PM



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Hills Hub Artspace:

Open Mon-Fri 9:30–2:30pm
Artist Residency - 'Practice Lab'
Gülşen Özer and Dalys Hill
ends on 3rd April.

Marissa Avaro - 21 April to 15 May

Cardinia Cultural Centre

SideQuest, Sat 2 May 10am–3:00pm

SideQuest is a new one-day pop culture convention. The event will celebrate comics, cosplay, gaming, film, television, anime, sci-fi, fantasy and creative fandom culture, while showcasing local makers, independent artists and small businesses. Designed to bring together families, young people, the young at heart, and pop-culture fans from Cardinia Shire and neighbouring areas.

Enjoy a variety of activities and participation modes, from trying out your hand in interactive gaming sessions to exploring the event's artist ally, which will showcase everyone from Comic artists to costume creators and so much more!

Full program with event times will be announced closer to the date.



Image by Cheeky Monkey Photography

Asking for Trouble, Wed 8 Apr, 10 – 11:55am without interval. Recommended age: 3 – 12 year olds (and their families!)

A spectacular magical world of play and creation, where everyday objects become a universe of fun and adventure. Two curious characters are hunting for whispers of possibility when they discover a pile of seemingly ordinary objects. Watch and be amazed as sheets, broomsticks, chairs and couches transform into fantastical places to play and explore using ridiculous clowning, spectacular acrobatics and beautiful visual imagery.

ForT celebrates the kind of creative genius that has been known to turn lounge rooms into volcanoes, trees into castles and cardboard boxes into racing cars. If you've ever made a cubby in

on behalf of the Cardinia Shire Council



Are you interested in being a volunteer carer for graves at **Emerald Cemetery**.

Just come along.

We meet at the Cemetery each Monday and work from 10 - 11,30am then stop for a cuppa, biscuits and a chat.

For further information call: Graeme Fergus
Ph: 5968 5612
M: 0437 543 515

Faye Robins



In today's world, with all its busyness 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 join us in learning His ways, His truth and to live a meaningful life in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Where: Hills Hub, Emerald
Sunday Services 10:00 am
Sunday meetings 2:30 pm
Contact: Phil Cogger - 0412 492 889

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



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CARDINIA SHIRE COUNCIL

Report any issue relating to the services Council 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.

**EDITORIAL ENQUIRIES:**

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Dona Martin: publication@emeraldvillage.org.au

Lisa Bloore Social media: communications@emeraldvillage.org.au
400A Belgrave-Gembrook Road, Emerald Vic. 3782.

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Advertising booking form available EVA Website

Return to: president@emeraldvillage.org.au

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**EMERALD FIRE BRIGADE**

Do I need a permit?
You can check if you require a permit online through the [Fire Permits Victoria website](#).



To check Fire Danger Ratings [click here](#).



Don't forget - If you're planning on burning off in Cardinia Shire, you must:

- meet the conditions of your burning-off zone
- register your burn off on the Fire Permits Victoria website or by phone: 1800 668 511

Burning off to reduce fuel loads on your property should always be a last resort. Alternatives include Council's optional green waste bin service or bookable hard and green waste collections.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/burningoff

More information: www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/burningoff



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

If you have any ideas or would like to contribute or support us please make contact.

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We thank you to all our valued financial supporters.

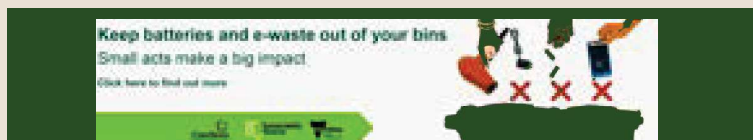
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Emerald News

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

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A4 colour - 25 cents; A4 mono - 5 cents

A3 colour - 30 cents; A3 mono - 10 cents



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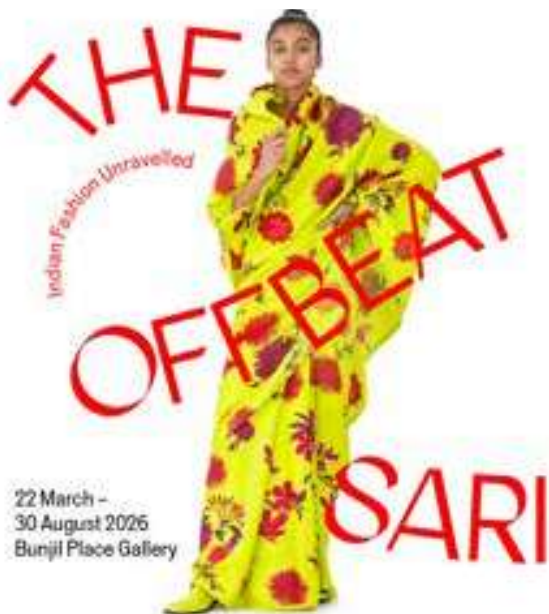
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APRIL

Calendar of Events

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29 MARCH 2 - 3:30PM SUNDAYS DURING SCHOOL TERM - PB TOY LIBRARY AT FERNLEA COMMUNITY HOUSE ALABASTER CHURCH, SUNDAYS 10 - 12NOON AT THE HILLS HUB	30 9:30 - 11:30AM EVERY MONDAY DURING SCHOOL TERM - EMERALD HILLS PLAY-GROUP, AT 5 CHURCH ST EMERALD 11:15 - 11:45AM EVERY MONDAY BABY RHYMN TIME AT THE LIBRARY	31 2PM & 3PM EVERY TUES: TECH HELP ONE-ON-ONE, @ THE LIBRARY 7PM EVERY TUES ROTARY MEETING @THE PARADISE HOTEL.	1 1ST & 3RD WED MTHLY 10 - 12 NOON GOLDEN HOUR CAFE AT EMERALD RSL (an affiliate of umbrella dementia cafes)	2 2-3 PM DURING SCHOOL TERM - PB TOY LIBRARY AT FERNLEA C/ HSE 11:15AM - 12 NOON EVERY THURS - STORY TIME AT EM LIBRARY 4 - 5PM, 1ST THURS MTHLY LEGGO CLUB AT EMERALD LIBRARY - ALL AGES	3 3-16TH APRIL - ANNUAL CLUB PHOTO-GRAPHIC EXHIBITION AT ELP VISITORS CENTRE 10AM - 4PM	4 9AM-11AM FELP WORKING BEE, MEET E/LAKE CPARK 1ST SAT MTH 9AM-2PM KALLISTA MARKET
5 EASTER SUNDAY DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS AT 3AM SUNDAY - WIND BACK YOUR CLOCKS	6 3-16TH APRIL AT ELP VISITORS CENTRE 10AM-4PM DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS AT 3AM SUNDAY - WIND BACK YOUR CLOCKS	7 1ST & 3RD TUES MTHLY 6 - 7.30PM CREATIVE HAVEN - CRAFT GROUP AT THE LIBRARY. ALSO 1ST SAT MTHLY 12:30-2:30 PM	8 10AM - 2ND WED MTHLY BOOK CHAT, EM LIBRARY 10AM-3PM WEDNESDAYS EMERALD MUSEUM	9 HILLS PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY MEETING - THE ZEN ART OF PHOTO EDITING 4PM, 2ND THURS MTHLY STEAM CLUB AT EMERALD LIBRARY AGES 5+ 6PM EVERY THURSDAY, COMMUNITY GAMES NIGHT, FERNLEA COMMUNITY HOUSE	10 11:15 - 11:45AM EVERY FRI, TODDLER TIME 1-3 YRS, AT EMERALD LIBRARY	11 PAVED KICKS OFF WITH LOST WOODS AT 9AM MARKET, HIVE POP UP BAR (GEMCO RAILWAY CARRIAGE) OPEN FROM 12 NOON GEMCO OPEN STAGE IN HALL AT 7PM & BENOIT ALBUM LAUNCH 7.30PM, MUSIC BINGO AT RAILWAY DOG
12 9: - 11AM FELP WKG BEE AT EM LAKE CPARK 10 - 3PM EMERALD FUNFEST AT GEMCO & EPS B'ALL COURTS, HIVE OPEN 4- 10PM WITH SHEA RANDAL 7-9PM 7.30-11PM BENOIT, GEMCO 2- 5PM MATT MCMAHON LIVE AT ELP OFFICIAL OPENING OF ANNUAL HILLS PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIB AT ELP	13 10AM-1PM AT 2 MCBRIDE ST TUESDAY 14TH APRIL Ash Wednesday Bushfire Education Centre Open Day 5-6.30PM BE AN ARTIST, GEMCO HALL 5-11PM HIVE BAR 8-10PM TALL TEETH ALSO AT HIVE BAR	14 7:45-8:45AM EDRA'S COFFEE CATCH UP FOR LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS @ OVER THE ROAD SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES INCHOIR (PUB CHOIR, STYLE EVENT) AT CLEMO, BKGS FR 5.30PM FORKS DOWN 7.30 HIVE OPEN 5PM WITH PETE & BELINDA 8-10PM 6:30PM - NHW AT Mulbride Street Cocktails	15 1ST & 3RD WED MTHLY 10- 12 NOON GOLDEN HOUR CAFE AT EMERALD RSL 2 - 3PM THURSDAYS, PB TOY LIBRARY AT FERNLEA C/ HSE 5-7 PM WINE TASTING, GEMCO HALL HIVE OPEN 5-11PM WITH LUKE TOWZZEND 8- 10PM 8-10.30PM WOMEN IN SONG, GEMCO THEATRE	16 9: - 11AM FELP WKG BEE AT THE PACKING SHED 5-7PM BEER TASTING, GEMCO HALL 8-10PM JIMI HENDRIX CONCERT, GEMCO THEATRE 7.30-10PM, G&T JAZZ AT EMERSLEIGH 8-10PM DUPLICITY	17 TESSELAAR KABLOOM FESTIVAL 21/3 - SUN 19/4 6.30-9.30PM 3MDR'S BATTLE OF THE BANDS FINAL, ELP VISITORS CENTRE HIVE OPEN 5-11PM WITH UKELALI ON THE DECK 6-7PM & TRACEY ROBERTS HIVE, 8-10PM 8-10.30PM WOMEN IN SONG, GEMCO THEATRE	18 8AM EVERY SAT, PARK RUN AT EMERALD LAKE PARK 1.30-3.30 THE MESSAGE OF THE LYREBIRD, GEMCO THEATRE HIVE OPEN 5-11PM WITH MARK GARDNER 8-10PM 8-10.00PM KATE BUSH GEMCO THEATRE
19 10AM - 3PM ON THE 3RD SUNDAY MTHLY: EMERALD PRODUCE MARKET, TOWN CENTRE ON SUNDAYS, EMERALD MUSEUM IS OPEN 12-4PM, OR BY APPOINTMENT	20 10AM, 3RD MONDAY MTHLY. PROBUS CLUB AT RSL EMERALD. GUEST SPEAKER WILL BE DR ALEX MAISEY, TALKING ABOUT LYREBIRDS. SCHOOLS BACK!	21 9:30AM EVERY TUES - FACILITATED 'OLDER MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP', FERNLEA COMMUNITY HOUSE 1ST & 3RD TUES MTH 6-7.30PM CREATIVE HAVEN - CRAFT GROUP AT THE LIBRARY.	22 10AM - 4TH WED MTHLY MOVIE MORNING, EMERALD LIBRARY 3 - 6PM WEDNESDAYS DURING SCHOOL TERMS - 1-3 CHURCH ST, EMERALD (REAR OF ST MARKS CARPARK)	23 7:30- PM HILLS HUB HILLS PHOTOGR. SOCIETY, 4-5PM, 4TH THURS MTHLY KID ZONE (AFTER SCHOOL CLUB) EMERALD LIBRARY.	24 9:30 - 11:30AM EVERY FRIDAY DURING SCHOOL TERM - EMERALD HILLS PLAYGROUP, 5 CHURCH ST EMERALD 11AM - 4PM, WKLY THURSDAY - SUNDAY, ART IN THE PARK GALLERY IN THE OLD PB CAFE AT EMERALD LAKE.	25 Anzac Day
26 9AM - 2PM 4TH SUNDAY MTHLY, GEMBROOK MARKET, GEMBROOK COMMUNITY CENTER	27 EVERY TUESDAY, RSL EMERALD OPEN 5- 7PM	28 EVERY TUESDAY, RSL EMERALD OPEN 5- 7PM	29	30 EVERY THURSDAY, RSL EMERALD OPEN 5- 7PM	1ST MAY 1ST MAY 7:30 - 11:30PM 10 X 10-MIN PLAYS AT GEMCO	GOLDEN HOUR CAFÉ AT EM RSL LAUNCHES ON WED 6TH MAY 44

HEY
KIDS!GRAB YOUR FAVOURITE PENCILS AND MAKE THIS EASTER BUNNY PICTURE
SUPER FUN AND COLOURFUL!

Folia Saree, from Other collection, 2021.
Raw Mango. Photo Amlanjyoti Bora

Bunjil Place Gallery

Step into a bold celebration of the contemporary sari.

The Offbeat Sari unravels the many forms of this iconic garment, revealing it as a powerful metaphor for the layered and complex realities of India today. Bringing together more than 50 extraordinary saris from leading designers, passionate wearers and master craftspeople, this major exhibition showcases the finest saris of our time.

Discover amongst many others:

- Glamorous creations by Sabyasachi, Diksha Khanna, Abu Jani Sandeep Khosla and Tarun Tahiliani
- Innovative garments by Anamika Khanna, Abraham & Thakore, Raw Mango and Rimzim Dadu

- The iconic hot-pink sari of the Gulabi Gang – a striking symbol of resistance in India

In recent years, the sari has been dramatically reinvented. Designers are experimenting with hybrid forms such as sari gowns and dresses, pre-draped saris and even unexpected materials like steel. In India's cities, commuters pair saris with sneakers on their way to work, while individuals and activists alike wear the sari as an expression of resistance, protest and personal freedom.

Presented exclusively in Victoria at Bunjil Place, The Offbeat Sari is a touring exhibition from the [Design Museum, London](https://www.designmuseum.org/).
Conceived and curated by Priya Khanchandani.

Discover more at www.bunjilplace.com.au

PAVED FESTIVAL

The 2026 PAVED Festival celebrates its 20th anniversary and kicks off with two events on Saturday evening, **11th April** at Gemco: an album launch by Benoit in the theatre and Gemco's Open Stage event in the hall. Benoit thrilled audiences last year with his performance of Bob Dylan's Freewheelin' album, and this year will grace the festival with his original compositions. Gemco's Open Stage invites you to perform anything you like or just come for the lovely entertainment. Enjoy music, poetry, singing, dancing, monologues or anything that might inspire on the night.

The festival's family day, FUNFEST, will be held on Sunday **12th April** in an expanded space around the GEMCO Theatre and Primary School precinct. Kids' rides (get your prepaid wrist bands), food, craft and general merchandise stalls, community group activities and information, roving performers, steam machinery, precious plastics, emergency services displays, and live music will all make for a great day. And as a special treat, the railway carriage and deck will host a series of fun kids' activities on the day. There will be circus performances, kids play activities, donkey rides and so much more.

Have you heard about Pub Choir? Well PAVED has InChoir at the Clemo (Paradise Vally Hotel) on Tuesday **14th April**. A high-energy, one-night singing experience where participants learn a well-known song in three-part harmony. Led by INCHOIR, with the charismatic conducting of Dalys Mithen and backed by live accompanist Steve Kyval. No auditions, no sheet music, just instant connection, big sound, and a shared musical buzz. Book for dinner, bring your mates and be prepared for the most fun you've ever had.

The GEMCO Theatre will be home to another three exciting musical performances. Women in Song returns on Wednesday **15th April** and features four fabulous female singer-songwriters, Kavisha Mazzella, Anouk Ely, Freya Josephine Hollick, and Beck Sian. On Thursday **16th April**, gun guitarist Ash Naylor of Rockwiz, Paul Kelly band, and Even fame, will return with the Ash Naylor Spaceship (trio) to pay tribute to the songs of Jimi Hendrix. We are also thrilled to have Beck Sian, cousin of Kate Bush (truly), and her band performing Kate's first album The Kick Inside (1978). It promises to be a very special show.

There are workshops and activities for kids all week, including a storytime and colouring competition at Emerald Fruit Barn, chalk drawing and games for older children at the library. You can also learn about the art of Ekphrasis, writing poetry in response to art, in a special, one-off workshop that precedes the Woorilla Poetry Prize launch.

Several art exhibitions featuring local artists such as Ray Besserdin, Debra Ferry, Julie Skipsey, Kim Oakes, Belinda Conibeer, Gemma Pullar, Tracey Roberts, Pat Buoncristiani, Ted Kryzywokulski and Leticia Tabone, will be on display at various venues throughout the town, so keep an eye on the program and the walls of the GEM theatre hall and foyer, the Paradise Valley Hotel, Penny & Pickle café, the Laughing Fox café, the General Foodstore, Incy Wincy, St Mark's Church and Emersleigh Estate winery.

There will also be exhibitions by the Emerald Museum at the museum and Hill's Hub, as well as an exhibition by the Hill's Photographic Society at the Puffing Billy visitor at Emerald Lake, the same vicinity you will find art in the park featuring over 60 diverse artists. Art in the Park will have free activities of Henna art and leaf rubbing on Sunday 12 April.

Cinema makes its first appearance at the festival with the screening of the award-winning film Message of the Lyrebird at the GEM theatre on Saturday **18th April**. This film will be top and tailed by beautiful art by paper sculpture Ray Besserdin, music from the Lyrebirds Choir and Q&A from members of the film cast.

Another first for the festival will be 3MDR's Battle of the Bands. This competition will open with online submissions from which four bands will be selected to compete in the final on Friday **17th April** at the Puffing Billy visitor's centre. Watch our social media pages for all the action.

You can also try your hand at a sustainable florist art workshop. In this small class, learn how to make your own magical flower bowl with seasonal flowers and sustainable supplies. There will be no floral foam or plastic used in this workshop! Your host Kylie from Myrtle Road is a horticulturist, ex-landscaper, floral/nature artist, coach and business woman. She is someone who is passionate about reconnecting people with nature and finding joy in the little things as well as wanting to bring some awareness to sustainability in our everyday lives.

The HIVE bar in the railway carriage at the GEM theatre will once again be open each night of the festival with musical acts as entertainment, and as a bonus will also be open each Saturday evening before the festival. This is where you can also enjoy a coffee, sample wine and beer tastings as well as Sip and Paint workshops. Choose the Hive to catch up with friends and neighbours, celebrate an occasion, or just enjoy the setting of the restored railway carriage, brought to life for the community to enjoy.

The PAVED Festival is sincerely grateful for the funding and support it receives from Cardinia Shire Council and our sponsors, including local businesses and community organisations who provide space, events, marketing and monetary contributions, to support arts industries and our local economy. The Hills Arts Alliance auspices this festival, providing financial management, insurance and admin support. Please check our sponsors page and support the businesses that allow this week of festivities to happen

A full program for the PAVED festival can be found on the festival website at www.paved.org.au, and updates are posted on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

There's something for everyone to enjoy!



SATURDAY 11 APRIL	EVENT	VENUE
9am – 2pm	The Lost Woods Market	Next to the Puffing Billy Emerald Railway Station
12noon – 11pm	The Hive Wine Bar – sponsored by Bendigo Bank	GEMCO Train Carriage – 19 Kilvington Drive, Emerald
2pm – 4pm	Sustainable Floral Art Workshop With Kylie McKellar–Lewis (Myrtle Rd)	The Place (Old Bakehouse) – 1 Kilvington Drive, Em
7pm – 11pm	Open Stage	GEMCO Hall / Foyer – 19 Kilvington Drive, Emerald
7.30pm – 11pm	Benoit Album Launch	GEMCO Theatre
	Music Bingo	The Railway Dog
SUNDAY 12 APRIL	EVENT	VENUE
10am – 3pm	FUNFEST– rides, food trucks, music, dance, street performances and more!	GEMCO Carpark / Theatre
4pm – 10pm	The Hive Wine Bar	GEMCO Theatre Train Carriage
7pm – 9pm	Shea Randal – sponsored by Hills Physio	The Hive Wine Bar
MONDAY 13 APRIL	EVENT	VENUE
10:30am – 11:30am	Balloon Twisting Workshop	Emerald Library
10am – 11am	Sensory Session & open play space	Foundations and Friends – 15 Kilvington Drive,
11.30am – 12.30pm	Sensory Session & open play space	Emerald Foundations and Friends
5pm – 6:30pm	Bee an Artist	GEMCO Hall / Foyer
5pm – 11pm	The Hive Wine Bar	GEMCO Theatre Train Carriage
8pm – 10pm	Tall Teeth	The Hive Wine Bar
TUESDAY 14 APRIL	EVENT	VENUE
10am – 12noon	Mixed media – Make and Take	Foundations and Friends
12.30pm – 2.30pm	The Golden Egg Quest	Foundations and Friends
5pm – 6:30pm	Bee an Artist	GEMCO Hall / Foyer
5pm – 11pm	The Hive Wine Bar	GEMCO Theatre Train Carriage
8pm – 10pm	Pete & Belinda – sponsored by EDRA	The Hive Wine Bar
7.30pm – 10.30pm	InChoir	Paradise Valley Hotel - Clematis
WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL	EVENT	VENUE
9am – 6pm	Chalk Art	Emerald Library
10am – 12noon	Calm Kids & Companions Club	Foundations and Friends
5pm – 7pm	Wine Tasting – Emersleigh, Tiny Block, Full Circle, Patch Wines	GEMCO Hall / Foyer
5pm – 7pm	Game on! Zone events (teen event) – for more info and bookings please visit https://bookings.myli.org.au/event/5871739	Emerald Library
5pm – 11pm	The Hive Wine Bar	GEMCO Theatre Train Carriage
8pm – 10pm	Luke Townzzend – sponsored by Emerald Village Pharmacy	The Hive Wine Bar
8pm – 10.30pm	Women in Song Kavisha Mazzella, Beck Sian, Freya Josephine Hollick, Anouk Ely	GEMCO Theatre
THURSDAY 16 APRIL	EVENT	VENUE
10am – 12noon	Expressive Move & Groove	Foundations and Friends
12.30pm – 2.30pm	Makers Space	Foundations and Friends
3.30pm – 5.30pm	K–Pop craft afternoon! 6+	Emerald Library
5pm – 7pm	Beer Tasting – Hard Road Brewing & Beereratne	GEMCO Hall / Foyer
5pm – 11pm	The Hive Wine Bar	GEMCO Theatre Train Carriage
8pm – 10pm	Jimi Hendrix Concert – Ashley Naylor Spaceship (Trio)	GEMCO Theatre
7.30pm – 10pm	G & T Jazz	Emersleigh Estate
7:30pm	Open Mic Night – check website	The Railway Dog – Belgrave-Gembrook Rd, Emerald
8pm – 10pm	Duplicity Live – sponsored by Barry Plant	The Hive Wine Bar
FRIDAY 17 APRIL	EVENT	VENUE
11am – 12noon	Veggie Friends Storytime & colouring competition prize presentation	Emerald Fruit Barn
5pm – 11pm	The Hive Wine Bar	GEMCO Theatre Train Carriage
6pm – 7pm	Just Here for the Beers – Ukulele Rock Band	The Hive Wine Bar (on the deck)
6.30pm – 9.30pm	3MDRs Battle of The Bands - Final	Emerald Lake Puffing Billy Visitor Centre
7pm – 10.30pm	Countdown Quiz Night	The Railway Dog
7.30pm – 11pm	LIVE MUSIC	Paradise Valley Hotel - Clematis
8pm – 10pm	Tracey Roberts – sponsored by Emerald Bazaar	The Hive Wine Bar
SATURDAY 18 APRIL	EVENT	VENUE
1.30 – 3.30pm	The Message of the Lyrebird - FILM	GEMCO Theatre
3pm – 5pm	Ekphrasis Art for Poetry	Venue TBC
5pm – 11pm	The Hive Wine Bar	GEMCO Theatre Train Carriage
8pm – 10pm	Kate Bush The Kick Inside Concert – Beck Sian and Band	GEMCO Theatre
8pm – 10pm	Mark Gardner – sponsored by Emerald Pilates	The Hive Wine Bar

ALL EVENT
DETAILS & TICKETS



EXHIBITION - artists	VENUE	DATE / TIMES
Ray Besserdin	Gemco Foyer/Bar	During Opening Hours 11 - 18 April
Debra Ferry and Julie Skipsey	Gemco Hall	During Opening Hours 11 - 18 April
Kim Oakes	Paradise Valley Hotel	During Opening Hours 11 - 18 April
Belinda Conibeer	Penny & Pickle Cafe	During Opening Hours 11 - 18 April
Gemma Pullar	The Laughing Fox Cafe	During opening hours
From Home to the Front	Nobellus Heritage Museum	Sunday 12 April 10.00 - 3.00 Wednesday 15 April 10.00am - 3.00pm
WW1 Recruitment Posters (From Emerald Museum)	IGA	All hours
Hills Photographic Society Annual Exhibition	Puffing Billy Visitor Centre - Lakeside	3 - 16 April 10am - 4pm
Jazz music inspired exhibition featuring artists: Debra Ferry, Tracey Roberts and Ray Besserdin	Emersleigh Estate	4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 18, 19 April 11am - 5pm
Collaboration of Emerald Arts Society, Cardinia Arts and Hills Photographic Society Art in the Park - Over 60 artists work on display and for sale. Free Activities on Sunday 12 April Henna Art Decorations & Leaf Rubbing	Emerald Lake Park Former cafe at Emerald Lake	11 - 18 April 11am to 4pm
If I knew you were coming, I'd have baked a cake	The Hills Hub Foyer	All of April during opening hours Mon - Fri 9.30am - 2.30pm
TBC	The Hills Hub Arts Space	During Opening Hours 11 - 18 April
Ted Krywokulski	The General Foodstore	During Opening Hours 11 - 18 April
Community Art Project	Incy Wincy	During Opening Hours 11 - 18 April
Pat Buoncristiani and Leticia Tabone	St. Marks Church	Check at venue

Program correct at time of printing but subject to change without notice



**THANK YOU TO OUR
MAJOR SPONSORS**

