EMERALD NEWS

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

FEBRUARY 2026

EMERALD VILLAGE ASSOCIATION INC. AND COMMUNITY GROUP NEWS

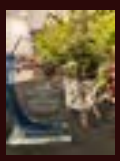
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL CARDINIA AWARD RECIPIENTS

CARDINIA SHIRE AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD WINNERS!



SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR, MAUREEN TIMMS, CITIZEN OF THE YEAR, ROBB EVANS, CARDINIA SHIRE COUNCIL MAYOR, CR BRETT OWEN, YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR, ELIZA OWEN AND EVENT OF THE YEAR, REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE EMERALD ARTS SOCIETY ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION.

THE 2026 EVENT OF THE YEAR



'The Emerald Arts Society Annual Art Exhibition – a highlight of the local calendar for 55 years.' Mayor Owen said.



Mayor Owen said, 'This much-loved and long-standing annual event celebrates creativity and strengthens community connections through art... The event attracts entries from across Victoria and interstate, featuring more than 200 exhibits and drawing more than 400 visitors across four days."

GRAHAM SIMPSON, CARDINIA SHIRE COUNCIL MAYOR, CR BRETT OWEN, RUSSELL SIMPSON

THE 2026 YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

ELIZA OWEN YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



ELIZA OWEN

"From a young age, Eliza supported logistics and welfare during major storms, even when her own home was destroyed. Officially joining the SES at 15, she quickly became a trusted team member, assisting with storm response, flood recovery, landslides, and community engagement.

"Eliza has earned her CFA five-year service award and is recognised as a youth leader in Emerald and Cockatoo. Eliza's strength, positivity, and commitment make her an inspiring role model for young people."

visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/AustraliaDayAwards

Photos suppled by: Graham Simpson and Cardinia Shire

Emerald Village Association - President's Report



Peter Maloney

New years bring new resolutions. Personal promises that one hopes will be achieved. But probably rarely are. From an EVA perpective my aim, and high on my hit list, is to help keep Emerald a safe and happy place to live.
About 12 months ago EVA initiated the revitalisation of Neighbourhood Watch - this time for the whole Hills Ranges. We embrace all townships in the region. Our next meeting is in Gembrook. See the back page for more details.



Julie Buxton & Elaine Spencer

Every community organisation has to embrace changes in its personnel. EVA is about to lose its esteemed Treasurer, Julie Buxton. Julie is about to venture out into the political world as the candidate for Bayswater in the next Victorian election. We wish her well and offer her many thanks. Elaine Spencer will step up as EVA Treasurer in 2026.

In the first edition of Emerald News for 2026, we have started a monthly Tradies and Service Industries Directory (check out the middle page spread). We encourage all local businesses to sign up so residents have a local 'Go to' reference (on their fridge) when they have work around the house that needs attention - it's a great way to use an EVA sponsor and support locals.

New EVA committee member, Lisa Bloore, has given EVA two Facebook pages that she has built up over the years - *3782 Shop Local* and *Emerald & Around Notice Board*. With Lisa on board, EVA will assist in the promotion of all local businesses. YES - BUY LOCAL.
In 2026, we are achieveing our aim to be "The Voice of Emerald".



Howard Winter
A Consumate Community Contributor



The Worrell Reserve in Emerald is a major feature of our town and is regularly used by girls and boys playing football (on a high class oval), tennis players, skateboard's riders, walkers, runners etc. Great credit needs to given to the Worrell Management Committee who have developed and maintained the facilities over many years. Howard Winter as the secretary of the W.R.C. has done an outstanding job looking after the Reserve which the people of Emerald should acknowledge. He and President, Kris Strong are stepping down from the management committee.

Thank you Howard and Kris
Dick Bartley

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WORD ON THE STREET HAS IT THAT OUR EMERALD AMBULANCE SERVICE IS UNDER PRESSURE

**WHILE AMBULANCE VICTORIA (AV) SERVICES OPERATE 24/7, IN EMERALD VIC., A REDUCTION IN LOCAL SERVICES IS UNDER CONSIDERATION.
REPORTS INDICATE THE EMERALD AMBULANCE STATION MAY SOON CLOSE TWO NIGHTS PER WEEK.**

CONCERNS CAN BE RAISED WITH YOUR LOCAL MEMBER DANIELA DE MARTINA

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- Genealogy
- First nations
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- Wattle Book Group
- Eucalypt Book Group
- Banksia Book Group
- Creative Writing
- Bushwalking
- Lawn Bowls
- Pickleball
- Table Tennis
- Yoga
- Art Open-Medium
- Botanical Art
- Calligraphy
- The Opium Wars
- Photography
- Reflections on Rock/Pop
- Seven centuries of Music
- Encounter & Connection through the Arts & Nature
- Bridge
- Scrabble
- German
- Italian
- Italian Conversation
- French Conversation
- Japanese
- Musicians Sharing Group
- Music Jamming
- Over the Hills Singers
- Evolving Marvels of the Universe
- Spotlight on the Environment
- Cinema Classics
- Coffee Club
- Exploring Victoria
- Gardening
- Singles Social group
- Wine Appreciation
- Wine Tourism

Emerald Tennis Club



Emerald Tennis Club finished 2025 with some great results for the club, with 3 Grand Finalists.

- FTG Section 3- Premiers
- KDNTA Section 4- Premiers
- KDNTA Section 2- Runners Up

Well done to everyone on another very successful season.

We completed our very popular Fast5 season in conjunction with a fastest serve competition seeing Kerry Gardiner (Senior) and Isaac Morgan (junior) taking the glory.

The club looks forward to another year of enjoyment and participation in competition, both junior and open, social tennis and coaching. With the noticeable increase in participation and programs offered we can see the improved standard of tennis played amongst our members and Fast5 participants. The hard-hitters have a session on a Friday night which is an opportunity to watch some very skilled and impressive hitting.

During the break the club ran a social evening of tennis 'Doubles – Beat the Champ -Tennis Tunes Shuffle' that was enjoyed by everyone who participated.
Good Luck to our night teams for the new season and to our juniors who return to competition on Saturday, January 31st.
There are around 5 more weeks of current season for our juniors before finals in March, with all 9 teams having a great season. At this stage ETC will have many junior teams involved in the final series. "Have fun, play smart, and enjoy the journey! Tennis is your chance to run, hit, and laugh on the court – enjoy the game!".
Tennis is about fun, fitness, friendship, and learning life skills, focusing on effort and improvement over winning. Our game helps us to build resilience, confidence, and a lifelong love for the game.



"I get all my ideas in the shower."





Georgie & Miah

KDNTA Section 2- Runners Up Adam Wight & Miah Beardshaw



KDNTA Section 2- Runners Up L-R: Damian Di Manno, Ben Zarzu, Kerry Gardiner



FTG Section 3- Premiers L-R: Gaye Gadsden, Ros Trojan Yuhana Bender Catherine Elfick, Hilary Doulton

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AusNet: Emerald & Hill's District Community Submission to the Australian Energy Regulator – Submitted on 3rd January 2026

Link to documents:

Summary:

Why Our Local Power Lines Need to Be Undergrounded

The Emerald Village Association Inc. (EVA) and Hills District has made submissions to the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) regarding AusNet's electricity plans for 2026–31, following repeated, prolonged power outages across the Emerald Hills District. The submission and supporting evidence was emailed to Dr Kris Funston, Executive General Manager Australian Energy Regulator on 3rd January 2026.

Severe storms in June 2021 and again in February 2024 left many homes without electricity, mobile coverage and emergency information for days. These were not isolated incidents. More than 80% of local outage time is caused by major storm events, particularly on two overhead feeders - BGE22 and BGE23 - that run through heavily vegetated terrain.

This shows the problem is not day-to-day maintenance, but a network design that is not suited to worsening extreme weather.

In its Draft Decision, the AER significantly reduced AusNet's funding for resilience works, including undergrounding. While AusNet's revised proposal restores some resilience funding, it still does not clearly commit to undergrounding or hardening the specific feeders that have failed repeatedly in our area.

EVA's submissions make it clear that continuing to repair damaged overhead lines after every major storm is not the cheapest option in the long run. Since 2021, more than $85 million has already been spent on storm recovery across AusNet's network - costs that are ultimately paid by electricity customers.

Local analysis shows that the cumulative cost of repeated storm repairs, compensation and emergency response is comparable to the cost of undergrounding the most failure-prone sections of our local feeders. Fixing the worst sections properly would reduce outages, speed up storm recovery and improve community safety.

Importantly, AusNet's own resilience framework says investment should be targeted to areas with frequent storm outages, long restoration times and high vegetation risk. By these criteria, the Emerald Hills District clearly qualifies.

The community is not asking for blanket undergrounding everywhere. We are asking the AER to reverse the effective decision not to underground local feeders, and to ensure that the highest-risk sections of our network are properly assessed and upgraded. Without this change, our community faces the same cycle again: major storms, days without power, and rising costs - with no lasting solution.

George Trojan
Community Representative,
Ausnet Community Consultative Committee

Eastern Dandenong Ranges Business & Tourism
Eastern Dandenong Ranges Association

ADVERTISE FREE

Reach locals & tourists' foot traffic! Thanks to Kevin and Stephanie our portable digital screen is now located at the Emerald Newsagency. EDRA offers member businesses and local community groups to advertise their offers, specials & events on our portable digital screen.

With eye-catching visibility, it grabs attention with bright, motion graphics seen by locals and visitors.
Email ask@edra.org.au

EMERALD NEWS

Help us get the word out to our community.
If you are interested in volunteering with the newsletter and building your skill base/ resume contact us.
E:communications@emeraldvillage.org.au

Get involved in local news!

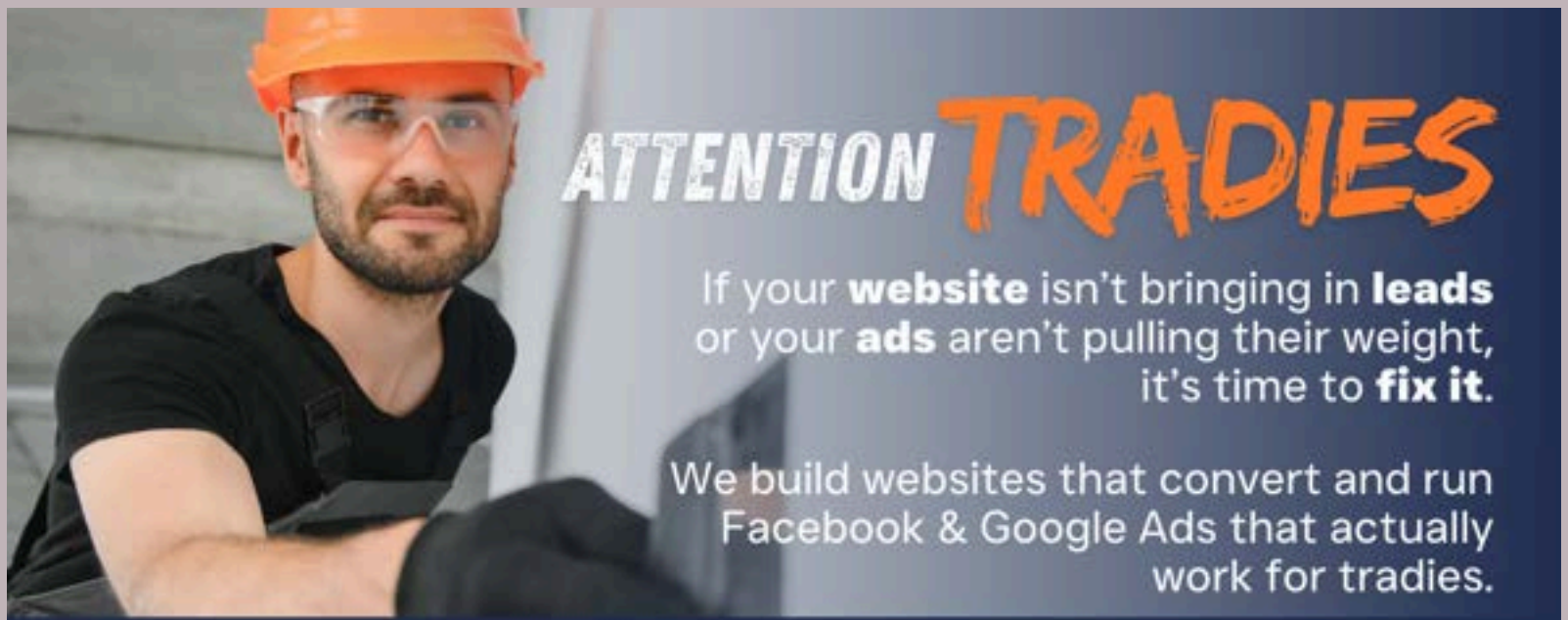
We are looking for assistance across the production of Emerald News particularly in areas of:

- **printing, reporting,**
- **photography, cartoons,**
- **puzzles.**

CNAV
Community Newspaper Association of Victoria
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MEMBER 2026

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Ready to try something new?

Join Scouts

Emerald Scout Groupis welcoming new members tounlock adventure and start their Scouting journey!

Our Section meetingnights 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
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Emerald Scout Group

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St Marks Anglican Church

I was born and bred in Pau (South West France), the city of Henri IV who was Protestant and became Catholic to become king, and famously said: "Paris is well worth a mass." But my connection with king Henry stops there since I did exactly the opposite – I was raised in a nominal Catholic family but I became Protestant to serve the Lord! Before that, I wasn't going to church, I had never read the Bible and I just knew one prayer – I used to say the Hail Mary without understanding a word of it. But everything changed when I started to read the Bible for myself in England and had a personal encounter with Jesus who changed my life.

When I was a child, Jesus was just "little Jesus" until I realised he claimed to be "big Jesus" or God in person, and that he had come to give his life for me and the assurance of forgiveness, freedom and eternal fellowship with him if I simply put my trust in him. Since that day, my lifestyle and priorities have completely changed. Because my dad was a journalist, I always wanted to be a journalist and I even worked for the French Ministry of Defense magazine in Paris but I felt called to a different kind of ministry. So after my theological studies in London and Paris, I worked as a student chaplain in Lyon and as a pastor in Toulouse.

But in God's providence, life's circumstances led me to Melbourne in 2014, where I was ordained as a deacon and as a priest. After serving in Camberwell, Mentone, Dandenong and Sandringham, I'm now the vicar of St Mark's Emerald and I'd love to meet you to get to know you… over a glass of wine or not.

Rev Jonathan Chaintrier





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Emerald Hills Playgroup - who, where, what, when?

Ring the bells, shout from the roof tops, fire up Facebook!

We are expanding to 2 Playgroups in 2026; both Monday and Friday mornings from 9.30 to 11.30am - come join us for fun and friendship…

What is Playgroup? Playgroup Victoria says Playgroup "is an informal gathering where parents, carers and children aged 0 to 5 years come together in a relaxed and friendly environment to connect, play and learn".

Playgoup is an important step between birth and kinder, a vital developmental period where the foundations are laid for the years to come. With a focus on play, playgroup aims to enrich the early years, supporting all areas of development - physically, socially, emotionally and cognitively - in a nurturing and stimulating environment where their primary educators, their primary carers, are close by. Playgroup is an important social connect providing a sense of belonging and support." **Sounds important? It is!**



Who are we? We are a Voluntary group of Mums, Dads, Carers, Nana's and Pa's, Omas and Opas … who share 2 hours once a week, listening to stories, making, cutting, chatting, free play, play-dough, singing and sharing.

Our history? Two groups - some Menzies Creek Mums and the Hills Hub Playgroup - came together to form a dynamic group of families who meet to support each other and their children. Huge thanks to all those Volunteers that made it happen.

We meet at the Children's Centre, St Mark's, 5 Church St Emerald.

In 2025 we had a wonderful year - Getting to know each other in first Term ending with an Easter Egg party and egg hunt. Second Term brought Cath Russell, Music Therapist, who sang and played with us for 8 weeks. Third Term our annual Birthday Party and book giving, as well as lots of activities - painting, new sand for our sand pit (thanks St marks!), play-dough and a ball pit. Fourth Term we ventured out to Myuna Farm to be with lots of baby animals and finished with our Christmas Party and gift sharing. Phew…! Need more information? **Shelley Beardshaw** 0427 465 972

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2026 is a Census Year!

This column has generally focused on history and heritage. This year I'm widening the scope of topics. History and heritage will still feature, but there will also be articles on contemporary issues. This month we look at the forthcoming 2026 Australian Census.

Australia holds a census every 5 years; this year it's on Tuesday 11 August. All households will be asked to complete a form about the people living there. **For the first time**, Australians will be asked in the Census to identify their sexual orientation and sex recorded at birth. Participants will also be able to name up to four cultural ancestries in describing the ethnic make-up of a household.

Australia has one of the most comprehensive and best run census processes in the world. The census is a major tool for planning and delivering infrastructure, facilities and services and for understanding the needs of different groups (children and youth, families, aged persons, ethnic groups, income levels, home ownership, housing type, etc) based on population location. Because the census is undertaken on a regular basis, population trends can also be examined over long periods of time. The census information is used by governments, businesses and researchers. The data is available to the public on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) website.

Cardinia Shire is a rapidly growing municipality. The 1996 census, held shortly after municipal boundary changes recorded the Shire's population at 40,533. By 2021 that figure had grown to 118,194. It is anticipated that the Shire's population in 2026 will be about 137,000 with a projected growth to 2036 of about 175,000. State government policies have focused on population growth, housing and jobs in several metropolitan growth corridors, with the Pakenham corridor being one of the priority areas.

This corridor growth has meant that the Hills communities like Emerald, Cockatoo, Gembrook and Upper Beaconsfield have continued to experience a declining share of the Shire's total population, a trend that is likely to continue.

The EVA Committee is concerned that unless the Emerald community works closely with other Hills communities on common issues to raise our voice, we will be increasingly marginalised. The Hills community's population in Cardinia Shire is not expected to grow over the next decade. Speaking as 'one community' on common issues and advocating for shared priorities, initiatives and actions will be far more effective than trying to go it alone. Watch this space; you will see EVA forging greater links with neighbouring Hills communities, something strongly supported by our Ward Councillor David Nickell.

For those interested in the details of the 2021 Census, results for what was defined as the Emerald locality – see map below defined by the ABS. It presents some interesting reading, and we can compare the Emerald population profile of 5,890 persons to Cardinia as a whole.

Map below - The Australian Bureau of Statistics defined Emerald locality for census purposes.



The following comparative table of selected 2021 Census data for Emerald and Cardinia Shire shows quite remarkable similarities in much of the data, but with some evident differences. For instance, Emerald is a marginally higher income area with an older population with far less people living in rented dwellings compared to Cardinia Shire.

Selected 2021 Census data for Emerald and Cardinia Shire

Category	Emerald	Cardinia
Population	5,890	118,194
Average no. of children in a household with children	1.9	1.9
Average no. of persons per household	2.8	2.8
Median household income	$2,119	$1,874
Median household mortgage	$2,000	$1,868
Average number of motor vehicles per household	2.5	2.1
Percentage of population aged 0-19 years	24.9%	28.8%
Percentage of population aged 30 - 44 years	17.9%	23.2%
Percentage of population aged over 60 years	25.2%	17.3%
Median age	43	34
Birthplace Australia	80.0%	71.5%
Birthplace - England (Emerald), India (Cardinia)	6.8%	4.3%
Birthplace - New Zealand (Emerald) England (Cardinia)	1.2%	3.6%
No Religion	60.0%	43.8%
Long Term Health Condition - Arthritis	9.7%	7.5%
Long Term Health Condition - Asthma	8.7%	9.4%
Own Dwelling with Mortgage	51.4%	50.1%
Rented Dwelling	8.3%	23.0%

You can access a much more detailed census profile of Emerald at https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/SAL20868

Trevor Budge



3MDR SITUATION VACANT

3MDR is currently recruiting for this full-time position:

The Station Manager is a leadership role, responsible for the day-to-day operations that keep 3MDR on the air. This position reports directly to the Committee of Management and leads a team of 1 part-time staff and 100 volunteers. As well as the day-to-day operations, the Station Manager will work to strengthen community connections, engage and work with 3MDR volunteers and provide advice and support to the Committee of Management in the implementation of 3MDR's Strategic Plan.

If you think you might be suitable for this role, check out our ad on Ethical Jobs here.

Enquires to Ben president@3mdr.com

Applications close at 5pm on Friday 6th February.

Planning, Environment Tourism Subcommittee – Focus for 2026

2026 will be a busy year for the EVA. Many planning, environment and tourism projects and initiatives we have advocated for will be on the agenda of organisations we work with - particularly Cardinia Shire Council.

High level review of the Cardinia Planning Scheme – the EVA made a submission and Committee members met twice with Council planners before Christmas to discuss a raft of matters:

- better recognition of the role of Emerald and the Hills communities in the liveability of the Shire,
- east/west roads and traffic,
- better coordinated develpmnet in Emerald, particularly for the land between Main Road & Madigan Way,
- the realisation of the extraordinary natural and built heritage corridor that extends between Emerald and Cockatoo,
- emergency management, drainage, footpaths,
- Emerald Railway Station precinct planning and development.

We will be keen to see how Council frames these issues in their planning scheme.

Cardinia Bicycle and Pedestrian Strategy Review – the EVA made a comprehensive submission. We are still waiting for the meeting with relevant staff we requested. We advocated that the Shire could trial several initiatives in Emerald where the EVA could assist Council to monitor performance. We submitted that Council's current strategy with its emphasis on constructing a few new high-cost lengthy cycling trails was misplaced (particularly given Council's financial position) and that the emphasis should be on small scale targeted improvements to assist people walking and cycling safely around their community and on maintaining, improving & completing existing walking and cycling trails such as the Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail – with a particular focus on completing the section through Emerald. We are keen to work with Council and target several initiatives.

Green Wedge Plan - Council has flagged this plan for development over the current Council cycle with capacity to work for all the Hills communities by limiting fragmented subdivision and development in the rural areas, prioritising works. These include roads, ensuring the landscape & environmental setting, which is a major contributor to liveability, is respected and maintained. If road traffic through Emerald is of concern to you, then limiting housing growth in the east west corridor rural areas should be a priority. The EVA is advocating a consultative approach with a broadly representative advisory committee to work with Council on the Plan.

Emerald Township Strategy – Council has committed to undertaking this work in the current term. The current plan is now 17 years old. Late last year Council released preliminary data from its traffic survey work and relevant crash data. The EVA is looking to the release of the full data set, to assist with further planning inputs to the Strategy Plan.

Puffing Billy Playground Plan – Late last year EVA Committee members met Council representatives to follow up on our submission and hear about progress on the plans for revamping the Playground. Council had allocated funds in its budget for plan preparation. We were informed that Council expected to finalise a plan in the second half of 2026 for Council adoption. The EVA is concerned that there are no funds in the budget to implement the plan. We will be advocating strongly for funds for construction in the 2026/27 budget. The EVA position is that the playground is not only a vital resource for children but that the whole space is in effect the Emerald Village Green/Town Square, as a real multi-generation space and the facilities need to match that role. The role of the Playground relates closely to many retail facilities, toilets urgently need to be modernised, and the area needs to be coordinated, integrated and planned with the whole town centre and Emerald Railway Station precinct and Puffing Billy Railway. An overall strategic approach should also be a core component of the Emerald Township Strategy.

Tourism - Council has given far greater priority to tourism, and allocated funds which include being part of the Tourism East Visitor Economy Partnership with Yarra Ranges and Nillumbik Shires. The EVA is looking to this initiative to drive a greater recognition of the role of tourism and the visitor economy in supporting local job growth and planning to accommodate that growth. In the light of this initiative and Council now recognising the importance of tourism, the EVA strongly recommends that Council revisit its document - Building a stronger economy: Cardinia Shire Council Economic Development Strategy 2023- 2027, and embrace tourism and ensure that the visitor economy in the Hills communities is back on the agenda.

After many years long standing EVA Committee member Howard Winter has stepped down as Chair of the Worrell Reserve Committee which has overseen the progress planning and development of this key facility in the community over many years. **Great work Howard, the community thanks you.**

Finally – and this issue has now been raised a few times – **does Emerald need a public electric vehicle fast charging point** – for locals and visitors? Many towns now boast such a facility. There must be a business in Emerald that can see a commercial opportunity in providing such a facility. With fast charging facilities, businesses can attract more customers. These are popping up in supermarket carparks, outside community facilities and at tourist hotspots. Electric vehicles were 12% of all vehicle sales in Australia last year (in Norway last year electric vehicles were 97% of all sales).

Trevor Budge, Chair
EVA Planning, Tourism and Environment Committee



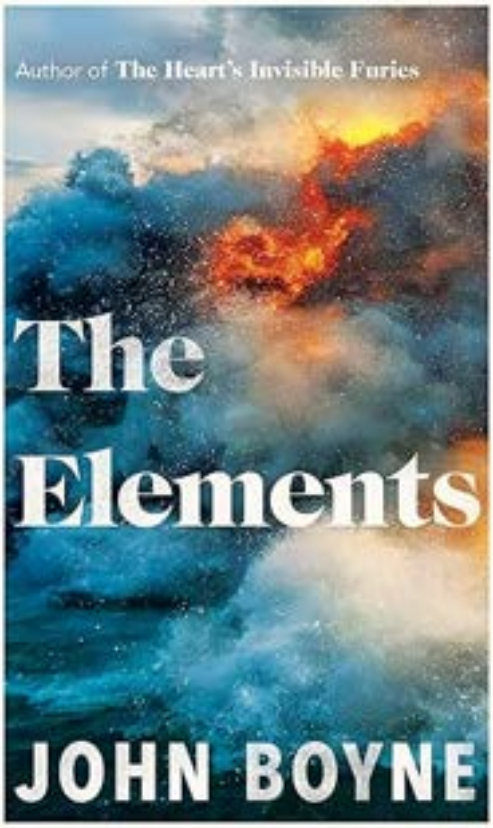
MONTHLY BOOK REVIEW

The Elements
John Boyne

In The Elements, John Boyne once again demonstrates his gift for weaving morally charged narratives around deeply flawed but irresistibly human characters. The novel is structured across four interlinked sections - Earth, Air, Fire, and Water - which Boyne uses not as mere motifs but as emotional landscapes through which his characters must journey. Each element becomes a metaphor for a particular stage of reckoning: grounding, upheaval, destruction, and renewal.

At the centre of each of the four stories is a protagonist whose past choices cast a long, dark shadow over the present. Boyne excels at this kind of character study. Rather than offering tidy redemption arcs, he presents guilt, grief, and forgiveness as messy, nonlinear processes. His prose is characteristically clean yet piercing and the smallest details - an overheard sentence, a familiar scent, a childhood memory - carry tremendous emotional weight.

One of the novel's strengths is Boyne's ability to balance intimate personal conflict with broader social commentary. Whether he is writing about family fractures, personal identity, or the ways history shapes individual lives, Boyne invites the reader to sit with discomfort and ambiguity. Several scenes, especially those tied to the "Fire" section, burn with discomfort and moral intensity and raise difficult questions about responsibility and the cost of silence.



The Elements is a thoughtful, elegantly written exploration of what shapes us and what we must confront to reshape ourselves. It is a novel that lingers, not because of twisty plot mechanics, but because of its unflinching look at human imperfection and possibility.

Lyn Watson
Grace and Louie Book Club



A woman approaches a man and says :
"Excuse me Sir I'm doing a little survey, can I ask you questions?"
The man says :
"Yes of course"
Woman: "If you're travelling in a bus and a female gets on the bus and she's got no available seat, would you give up your seat for her?"
Man - "No."
Woman: "What if the lady that got on the bus was pregnant would you give up your seat then?
Man: "No."
Woman: "What if the lady got on the bus was a senior lady would you give your seat then?"
Man: "No."
Woman: "You are one selfish man, you have no manners. Who do you think you are?
Man:
I am the Bus Driver"

Where/What Am I?

The aim of this segment is to make local Emerald residents more aware of the beautiful environment we live in and to encourage people to get out and enjoy it. We do have many great walks around our town.

The Lake, Pepi's Land, the old golf course, along the trail to Clematis are some of the many options, or if you want to improve your fitness try the Emerald Lake Park run every Saturday morning at 8.00

Each month I will endeavour to include some ideas of local places to walk to and see. This month's photo is certainly an amazing plant, over 2m in height (when I walked past). What is it? Replies to me and the first correct answer earns a cake and coffee from the Captains. Possibly the only cake shop that sells Fish and Chips

Dick Bartley
dickbartley08@gmail.com

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The Hills Photographic Society

We are ready for another photographic journey through 2026

Coming up this year we have:

22nd January – First night for 2026 – 'Social Night'
12th February – Competition Night – Set Subject 'Architecture'
26th February – Guest Speaker – Kim Wormald, speaking on 'Ethical Bird and Wildlife Photography'
12th March – No Meeting – Possible overnight trip away on the 13th
26th March – Competition Night – Subject 'Open'

While we were on a break over Christmas, some members visited Cardinia Reservoir to photograph the super moon, which unfortunately didn't make an appearance. The sunset was a beauty though, and also the cutest duck family paddled by.





One of our members went into the city to check out the new train stations. They are worth having a look at and Town Hall was the most impressive, with the orange cathedral like ceilings. They have also reopened the art deco arcade under Flinders Street.





Michael Kavanagh
Publicity Officer – Hills Photographic Society
Mob 0411 036 328



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:
Hills Photographic Society

See our Facebook Friends at:
Facebook Page

CARDINIA SHIRE COUNCIL



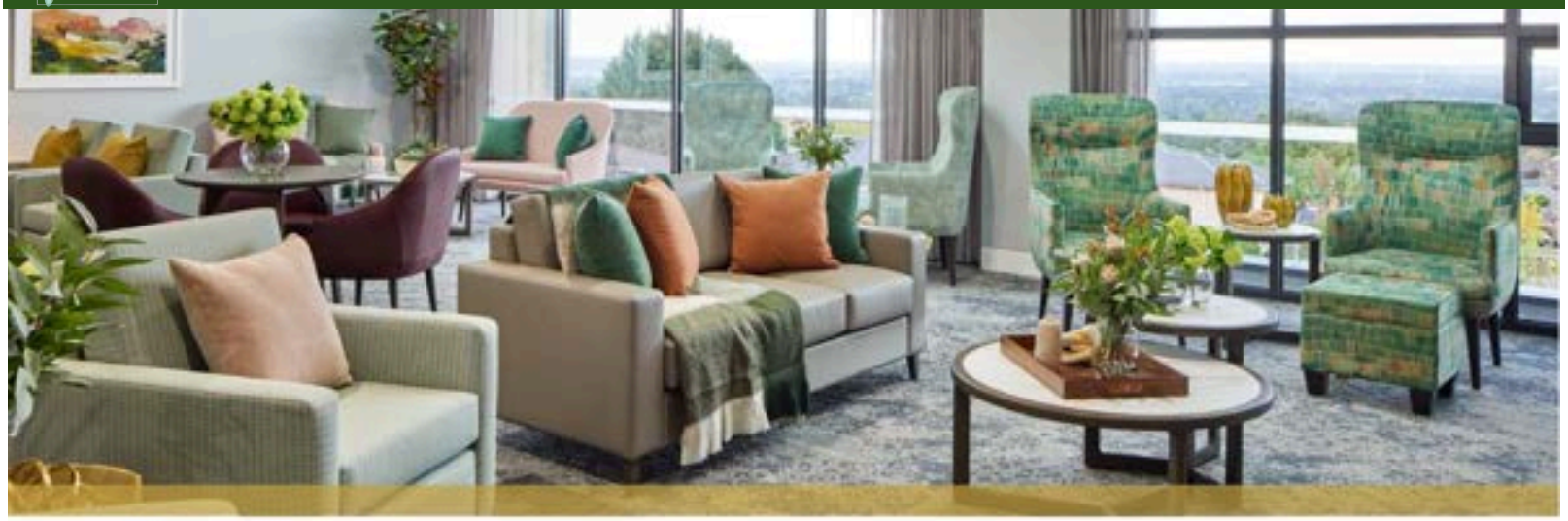
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On Valentines Day spend a romantic evening at the Mount Burnett Observatory.
On this special evening the Universe is yours.
Enjoy a welcome drink and nibblies upon arrival.
Have an up-close and personal look at our telescopes as our experienced guides escort you around the Mount Burnett Observatory facility.
Hear about the past, present and the future of the observatory.

START TIME: 8pm until 10pm
DATE: Saturday the 14th of February
DURATION: Two (2) hours
TICKETS: $150.00 per couple



TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

One (1) drink voucher per person (Vouchers are not transferable)
No one under the age of 18 will be admitted. Physical ID showing proof of age is required at the gate or entry will be refused and ticket price forfeited.
Digital ID will not be accepted.
Cancellation 48 hours or less is non-refundable
Bookings can be made via our website: https://mba.org.au/
Mount Burnett Observatory – 420 Paternoster Road Mount Burnett

2XL Mentoring program

WE ARELOOKINGFORVOLUNTEER MENTORS!

2XL Mentoring is for children grade 2-6 aiming to enhance developmental abilities, social skills, self-confidence, resilience, and ultimately tohelp kids excel in life!
If you want to make a difference in a child's life come along to:

MENTOR INFORMATION NIGHT

7PM, Thursday 5th February, 2026

StLuke'sCockatoo, 1-3McBrideStreet Light supper provided

For more information contact Naomi at:
naomi.dewar@echo.org.au

HCSI Hills Community Strengthening Initiative

In partnership with: St. Luke's COCKATOO & GEMBROOK, ECHO YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES, Anglicare Victoria

Eastern Dandenong Ranges Business & Tourism



ADVERTISE FREE

Reach locals & tourists' foot traffic!

Thanks to Kevin & Stephanie our portable digital screen is now located at the Emerald Newsagency. EDRA offers member businesses and local community groups to advertise their offers, specials & events on our portable digital screen.

With eye-catching visibility, it grabs attention wth bright, motion graphics seen by locals and visitors every day.

Email ask@edra.org.au

FREE COMMUNITY LISTINGS

Your free membership provides your group with:

- a FREE full-page listing on the easterndandeongranges.com.au website to promote your group.
- Login to the website to add your events at anytime.
- Promotion of your groups events on our social platforms; easterndandenongranges, emeraldvillagedirectory, gembrookcockatoovillages.
- Promotion on our portable digital display.

This is an opportunity to spotlight your group, and to help your group connect more effectively with the community.

Are you interested in being a volunteer carer for graves at **Emerald Cemetery**. Just come along. We meet at the Cemetery each Mon and work 10 - 11.30; then stop for a cuppa, biscuits and a chat.

Further information call: Graeme Fergus

- Ph| 5968 5612
- M| 0437 543 515

Faye Robins

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



Booking Cardinia

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

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

Cardinia

Rotary Club of Emerald and District

Happy New Year.

With a break of 2 months there is so much news to share - commencing Sunday 30th November. We held one of our signature events the *"Rotary Kids Fun Run with Puffing Billy"* (Kids raising funds for Kids) for the 22nd time since 2002.





The inclement weather did not impact the enthusiasm of the runners and their parents. With over 300 registrations and strong local business support the event was a huge success. Since its inception we have raised more than $812,000. The final tally for 2025 is still to be confirmed however we hope to increase to at least $850,000. This year's funds will support the creation of a "Healing Mural" for the Children's ward at William Angliss Hospital and will be painted by artist Tess Dawson.

In readiness for disasters and in consultation with Fiona Sewell, Operations Manager of Recovery Ready Communities Inc. Emerald, Rotary's Ken Miller has prepared an Emergency Recovery Plan guided by internationally renowned local disaster recovery and community resilience consultant Anne Leadbetter OAM. Rotarian Vicki Van Den Bergan participated in 2 Workshops on Building Recovery Readiness along with representatives from CFA, SES, ECEST (Emerald & Cockatoo Emergency Support Team), Cardinia Shire Council, the Lions Club, RSL, EVA, EDRA, the Community House plus Gembrook and Upper Beaconsfield townships. **The role of the Emergency Planning Group** is to prepare for possible events such as bushfires and storms and prioritise a local response that is ready to be carried out. The aim is to have a "whole of community" approach thereby ensuring that trusted community leaders and effective planning is in place ahead of time. Without a tailored plan, decisions will be made for us by external agencies unfamiliar with our local conditions and needs. As we are all aware Victoria experienced a recent Bushfire Disaster in late January, causing huge devastation that will take a long time to recover from. As such Emerald Rotary in keeping with other Rotary Clubs, has donated funds to assist their recovery.

Melbourne's ever-changing weather put on a "hot one" for the **Carols by Candlelight evening at Emerald Lake** on Friday 12th December. For a 2nd year Rotary ran a BBQ along with the other stalls and music.
We will be back in 2026.



The first week of December saw 16 Rotarians (including a few partners) travel to Tasmania to undertake **the "Three Capes" Trail walks.** More than 42km was walked through a variety of coastal and bush settings, climbing in aggregate over 2,000m and on one walk climbing up and down steps more than 4,000 times. The walks were challenging, the scenery awesome and the weather good and Rotarians, as they always do when there are challenges, banded together and helped everyone complete the daily walks. Will there be another? Of Course!



And then there was our annual Christmas lunch on Sunday 14th December with more than fifty members and families at members Roy and Ali's house. With a combination of outside catering for the Spit roast and members supplying nibbles and desserts we were well catered for and the Bad Santa stealing of gifts was hilarious – there still is a mystery as to where a pink stuffed cockatoo has "flown off to."

Since my December article I have been able to obtain a photograph showing how successful our **Nesting Hollows in Wrights Forest** have been. You should be able to see a Rosella mother with 6 eggs visible. How heartwarming is that?





Rotary, continued

School wise there are a few events to mention: A fabulous night at the EPS Graduation. The grade 6 graduating kids did EPS proud, we can't wait to see where their life takes them. The Citizenship Awardees were Hudson McLeod and Grace Yeomans. We also gave awards to Cockatoo PS, Gembrook PS, Macclesfield PS, Selby PS and Menzies Creek PS. And coming in 2026 we will be commencing an Interact club at Emerald Secondary College. This has been in the planning phase for a while, however thanks to the tremendous effort of the Youth Committee and support of ESC Principal James Barut, we are finally there. The Interact club will provide another service pathway for our youth and links very nicely with our EarlyAct clubs.

Not forgetting our senior citizens, the Community group arranged for the writing of individual Christmas cards and wrapping of calendars for all residents at Lifeview Emerald Glades. These were delivered by 3 Rotarians and 1 ex Glade's therapy dog Onslow.

The last Club event for the year was **a trip to Monbulk Bowling Club** to enjoy a session of Barefoot Bowls and a meal in the Bistro – a great end to our events for the year.



Barefoot Bowls

To ease members into the New Year on Saturday 17th January we embarked on our 2nd bus trip to the holiday home of member Melinda in Cowes. The weather wasn't as hot as last year however it didn't stop us going down to the beach and walking into town in search of their market. Outside catering for lunch and dinner allowed us to really enjoy the day. It was a great fellowship day and has helped to ease us back into weekly meeting again.

Now it is business as usual. 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

Our first event for 2026 is the "Gembrook Classic and Custom Car Show and Swap Meet" on Sunday 22nd February at the Gembrook Recreation Reserve – save the date. And the next Rotary Debutante Ball is on Saturday 13th June – applications opened 1st January and will close 16th March. Practises commence 30th April.

Dates for your calendar:

Sunday 22nd February Gembrook Classic and Custom Car Show and Swap Meet"

Sunday 24th May. Mental Health Forum – Cardinia Cultural Centre

Saturday 13th June "2026 Rotary Debutante Ball" at Cathies Lane Receptions

Shalini Penny, Publicity



Gembrook Classic and Custom Car Show & Swap Meet

Sunday 22 February 2026

Pre-1990 Classic, Custom, Vintage, Veteran & Hot Rod Cars

Gembrook Recreation Reserve

Display Cars arrive from 8am
Spectators from 9am - 2pm
$10 per person - under 12's free

MARKET STALLS - Contact Ian on 0418 366 418
SPONSORSHIP - Contact Kris on 0412 399 001

Rotary Emerald and District

In association with Mr Excited

https://www.emeraldrotary.org.au/5395/Page/gembrook-classic-and-custom-car-show

https://www.facebook.com/gembrookclassicandcustomcarshowandswapmeet/

Rotary Debutante Ball

Rotary

A Project of The Rotary Club of Emerald & District Inc

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

Fernlea Community House

Welcome to Fernlea Community House 2026

We hope you've had a refreshing break and are excited to get involved with your local community. This year, we've got plenty of opportunities to learn new skills, meet people and have fun.

Get involved:

- Spot our program posters with QR codes around town or visit www.fch.org.au to book activities.
- Our beautiful spaces are available for hire for parties, rehearsals, counselling and more. Email Lucy at teamadmin@fernlea.com.au
- If you have questions or want to learn more about what we do here, **chat with a House Host most days or catch Kerry between 12–1 pm.**

Work/life balance at Fernlea:
Staff and House Hosts are taking a proper lunch break from 1:00–1:30 pm daily, and phones will be switched onto answering machine. You're welcome to join us with your lunch to connect and relax.

Your House, your voice:
We'll soon call for Advisory Panel members. Your ideas will help shape everything we do here—so get involved and make your mark.



Older Men's Discussion Group: After a trial session back in Senior's Week last October, this group is set to proceed this year. On the fourth Tuesday of each month, beginning in February, local men can find friendship and shared experiences post-retirement, hosted here at the Community House.

What's on:

- Community Games Night: Thursdays from 5th Feb – bring something for a shared grazing platter and join the fun.
- Gardening Club: Join us and Mitre 10 to get your hands dirty and grow something great.

Kerry McGregor - FCH

The starting point

'SHOOFY B'

A mate said, "Come on and join the Group",
So, I turned up and sat beside another old coot.
About 10 or 12 chaps around a large table,
And most of them looked really quite able.
The chap up front said we could have a turn,
To talk about our lives so we all might learn.
I was invited to speak to the entire room,
But I declined and said I'd listen till noon.
I was lost in thought as it went man to man,
Shared stories about real life, no need to ban.
With lots of laughs and a touch of sorrow,
I started to think about a brighter tomorrow.
We stopped for a coffee and an informal chat,
In small group, we gathered to chew the fat.
I met other men all wearing name tags,
As a chap named Tom passed out the teabags.
We restarted and moved on to the discussion subject,
The title of which was "Mutual Respect'.
I was impressed by what we all had shared,
And the depth to which the whole group cared.
My interest was raised, and I see what's at stake,
So, I will return next month for a 'second take'.

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Emerald RSL

Veterans Lunch

It was so good to catch up with fellow Veterans over a fantastic lunch at Emerald RSL on Saturday 6th December 2025. Huge thanks to everyone in attendance, with special mention to:

- Mel Wilson for catering, aided by Lynne and Milly
- Guest speaker Drew Maddison, Hawthorn RSL President and VFF committee member
- Guest speaker Eamon Hale, Hawthorn RSL Vice President and RSL Victoria State Executive member

We are so very grateful to be the club we are, and fortunate to be in a position where we can provide support and social events like this lunch for our Veteran community.

welfare@emeraldrsl.com.au







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



Happy 90th birthday!

Happiest 90th birthday wishes to veteran, club stalwart and local legend Ken Hall!



Farewell Dee Elliott

Thanks Dee for your contributions to Emerald RSL and for your time on the Committee! Enjoy your sea-change and new home, we wish you and Ralph all the best!





Thanks for the music!

Special thanks to Paul Rothville & Chris Cullen (and their helpers) for organising and co-ordinating live music at Emerald RSL for many, many years!

December's gig was their last event. Now they can relax and enjoy a beer - or two!!

Anzac Walk and Anzac Place

Open, accessible and available year-round are Emerald's Anzac Walk and Anzac Place – have you checked them out?

In 1921 an 'Avenue of Honour' was created in Emerald to commemorate the memory of 32 young local men who lost their lives in WW1. Thirty two trees were planted in Heroes Avenue each with a memorial plaque.

These plaques were rescued when the trees were cut down due to road widening in the 1950s. In 2014, the Emerald RSL set about bringing the Avenue of Honour back to life with an Anzac Walk that starts at the Cenotaph in the centre of Emerald and finishes near the clubrooms of the RSL at our Anzac Place Memorial and the Statue of the Unknown Soldier. We encourage locals and visitors alike to do the Anzac Walk audio trail and listen to the stories of the 32 diggers and how they lost their lives. When visiting the Anzac Walk you can listen to the Audio Trail via a QR code.

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

Once scanned the story will come to life. Simply walk up Anzac Walk and activate each story in sequence. This can be done in both directions.

LEST WE FORGET

Trades and Services EVA has opened trade/service advertising in print and/or online

2026 EVA is now advertising online -with 2.0K members - we offer a public site - visible to everyone.

3782 Shop Local - Emerald and Around Notice Board

Ready to advertise, post, promote, share listings, websites, and more …



EVA also offers trades and service advertising opportunities in print via our Emerald Newsletter

For details on how to advertise locally in print, contact Pete Maloney: president@emeraldvillage.org.au

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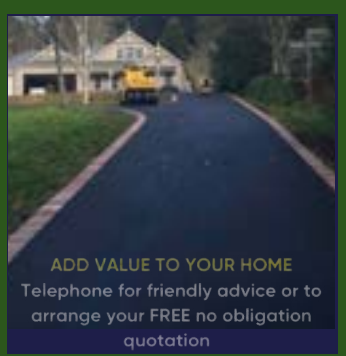
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Ready to advertise, post, promote, share listings, websites, and more …



EVA also offers trades and service advertising opportunities in print via our Emerald Newsletter

For details on how to advertise locally in print, contact Pete Maloney: president@emeraldvillage.org.au

Looking to advertise your trade/service in print and/or online click here

Friends of Emerald Lake Park

Would you like to be part of making Emerald Lake Park a great place to play, walk and relax? The Friends group would love to welcome you to our team of volunteers.

We work alongside the Cardinia Shire teams who maintain and improve the Precinct.

In February, come and join us at 9am in the Lakeside carpark on:

- Saturday February 7
- Sunday February 15
- Thursday February 19

We supply the tools and plan the work that will be tackled each time.

You'll need to wear clothes that protect you from the sun and potentially scratchy plants.

Each working bee ends around 11am with a cuppa and a chat. Across the year we work in the garden beds around the Lake, under the large trees in the arboretum areas and also in the bush areas that surround the lakes.



Fairy Wren

In working to maintain and improve the area we remove small weeds like forget me nots, thistles and comfrey as well as tackling the regrowth of trees like sycamore maples, holly, cestrum and blackberries.

In 2025, we organised the removal of large weed trees from a site up near Superman corner which we then planted with native vegetation that will be at home there. At regular intervals this year we'll revisit the site and maintain the area to make sure that the new plants have settled in well.

The working bees are scheduled on the first Saturday, second Sunday and third Thursday of each month. This year, the Sunday working bees for February and March have been set back one week to make life easier for volunteers to fit it into their family life.

If you would like to learn more about the Friends, please email us at friendsofemeraldlakepark@gmail.com

Anne Deschepper



EVA congratulates Alan Clayton OAM for service to conversation and the community.

As pictured above and reported by the Star Mail on Tuesday 27th Jan 2026, Macclesfield conservationist Alan Clayton was awarded an OAM for more than a decades work 'involved in conservation across the Dandenongs and Yarra Valley', with particular mention of his work with Victoria's own bird emblem, the critically endangered helmeted honeyeater, including life membership of the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater Inc.

If you would like to read more of Alan's achievements the Star Mail's interview is well worth seeking out, and if you are interested in supporting one of Alan's greatest causes please help stop the birds' extinction by donating using the QR code below.

We are all proud of you Alan. Well deserved.





INTRODUCING PET OF THE MONTH:

Ninja resident pest control manager





These doggies also belong to Sam.

Ninja is pictured here on the front counter at Emerald Stock Feed & Pet Supplies. A sign in close proximity warns that Ninja can be grumpy, pat at your own risk.

Proprietor Ms Sam Bottone rescued Ninja and her mother from Forever Friends Animal Rescue when she opened the business 13+ years ago. Both cats were feral when she gave them a home and the older cat never became approachable. Ninja was only a kitten so could adapt easily, and now woe betide any mouse or rat that is tempted into the premises overnight.

Congratulations Sam, on operating a successful and essential business for the district.

If you have a pet that deserves a bit of recognition:
SEND A PHOTO OF YOUR PET TO THE EDITOR along with 50 or so words.
president@emeraldvillage.org.au

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Sunday 9:30am - 12:30pm

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Lyrebirds Choir

The Lyrebirds had a wonderful end to 2025 with many songs shared and social celebrations to finish off our most epic year ever.

The choir sessions are due to start back on Monday the 9th of Feb. 7.15pm at St Lukes Church in Cockatoo.

Right NOW is a great time to come along for a first trial night. Your first night is always free! We welcome all people of all vocal ranges and abilities. We would love to see you.

The start of the year has been an amazing one. We were thrilled our "Sing for Unity" concert was nominated as event of the year in Cardinia Shire.



Most of the committee were able to attend the awards night, and although not successful in taking home the honour, just to be nominated was enough for us.

The event however, was awarded as event of the year at the local Cockatoo awards held on the 26th, as well as the choir itself being awarded as "Community Group of The Year" We thank all our committee, all our members and all other well deserved nominees. See you all on the 9th.

Elise Turnedge





Message from Daniela

A Safe and Happy Year to You All

Over the past few weeks, Victoria has faced an extraordinary mix of challenges - fires, flooding, and intense heat. Whilst we have been fortunate across the hills, we know all too well the realities of living in an area prone to climate-related disasters.

My deepest thanks goes to our wonderful CFA and SES volunteers, many of whom continue to deploy on strike teams across the state. Their commitment to protecting lives and property, often in very difficult conditions, is extraordinary, and we are incredibly grateful for their service.



Please continue to monitor VicEmergency warnings and Fire Danger Ratings throughout the fire danger period and ensure your bushfire plan is ready to enact.

This edition will reach you just as students are commencing a new year at school. I hope everyone has enjoyed a restful break, and I wish all students, teachers, and staff a smooth and positive start to the year.

For those unaware, public transport is now free for all under-18s and free on weekends for Seniors Card holders across the entire state, a welcome support for many households.

As always, my office is always here to help. If you need assistance with state government services or local issues, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Wishing you all a safe and happy year to come, **Daniela**





Emerald Ladies Probus Club



The Emerald Ladies Probus Club is marking a significant milestone in 2026 as Probus clubs across Australia celebrate 50 years of fun and friendship.

Founded in Australia in 1976, Probus has grown into a network of social clubs that bring people together through shared interests and regular activities. Today, Probus supports more than 90,000 members across 1300 clubs throughout Australia with each club reflecting the unique character of its local community.

The benefits of Probus have been widely recognised by all levels of government with the Governor General of Australia highlighting the significant contribution Probus makes to the lives of older Australians saying "as a community, you make a lasting contribution to wellbeing across cities, towns and regions nationwide. I have seen and continue to celebrate the profound impact of Probus in the lives of many of my family members, and in the communities I have visited across Australia."

Probus is about friendship and staying connected and our club provides a welcoming space where retired or semi-retired ladies can meet new friends, stay active and have fun. We're very proud that Emerald Ladies Probus has been in existence for 38 of the 50 years that Probus has been in Australia and we'll be celebrating with a lunch at the Pink Hill Hotel in Beaconsfield on Tuesday 3 February. **During February,** we're also heading to the movies to see 'The Choral', we'll be walking at Blackburn Lake and we'll be making hexagon flowers at our monthly craft session.

We meet on the third Monday of each month at the Emerald RSL, with meetings commencing at 10am. Our next meeting is on Monday 16 February. If you're a retired or semi-retired lady you're welcome to join us for morning tea and listen to our guest speaker Peter Wilmot who will speak on the Boer War and the books he has written.

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

Linda McIvor



Free Platform Help Fight Crime Together

Emerald residents and businesses can join Australia's first national security camera register, helping Victoria Police solve crimes faster while maintaining complete privacy control.

The Safer Places Network, recently launched in partnership with Neighbourhood Watch Victoria, allows camera owners to voluntarily register their CCTV locations on a secure platform. When crimes occur nearby, police can quickly identify registered cameras and request footage directly from owners – dramatically reducing investigation times.

With the increase in criminal offences across Victoria this year, the platform addresses a critical need. Currently, police spend up to 6 hours per investigation locating CCTV evidence through door-knocks and public appeals. This new system could cut that time to minutes.

How It Works:

- Register your camera location at saferplaces.com.au
- Police see camera locations only
- If an incident occurs nearby, police may contact you to request footage by phone, email or SMS
- You decide whether to share – maintaining full control

The platform is completely free and uses bank-level encryption to protect your data. Over 22,000 cameras are already registered nationwide. By participating, Emerald Village can strengthen its community safety network and support more efficient policing.

Register today at saferplaces.com.au

David Bartlett







This **Disaster Fund** has been started for the community to access in the time of a natural disaster. So far, we have a total pledge of just over $45,000 in the event of a natural disaster.

Our region has experienced repeated natural disasters over the past several decades, including the devastating Ash Wednesday fires, the Black Saturday bushfires, major flooding in 2009, the 2019–20 bushfire season, and the widespread storms that struck our hill communities in 2022 and 2024. These events have repeatedly highlighted the need for rapid, coordinated, and community-led response and recovery. To address this, the Foundation has taken a proactive step by establishing a dedicated Natural Disaster Relief Fund. The aim is simple: to build a reserve of committed philanthropic pledges that can be activated immediately in the event of a local emergency, enabling early relief and effective support for those most affected. Criteria for eligibility to access funds will, be based on each individual event and added to the website at those times.

We invite you to pledge your support, which would only be called upon in the event of a locally declared disaster. This is a practical, forward-looking approach that enables swift assistance, rather than waiting for post-disaster fundraising appeals.
Follow the QR code to pledge your support today, or get in touch: Email: admin@cardiniafoundation.org
Phone: 03 5945 0766
https://cardiniafoundation.org/natural-disaster-fund/

On behalf of Cardinia Shire Council





Eastern Dandenong Ranges THE BASE

Hot Desks & Room Hire

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Artists Space & Workshops

Community Garden
Visitor & Business Information

Volunteer at the BASE

hello@edrabase.org.au
0419 584 498
EasternDandenongRangesBASE

Lynne Trensky, EDRA



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Melbourne GIN Festival



In the spirit of this Festival, Emerald News presents four Gin makers in close proximity, for your consideration. Listed in order of the best food on offer at the premises.

In case you aren't up with the latest intricacies of gin distilling, take in this from Tiny Bear:

'The production process for Tiny Bear gin begins with an unconventional step of using kale, water, sugar, and yeast to create a kale wine. We use kale to provide nutrition to the yeast in the fermentation process. This creates a higher-quality alcohol in the kale wine. Once the kale wine has been produced, the next step is to distil it to create a neutral spirit. The neutral spirit, which is similar to vodka at this stage, is infused with traditional gin botanicals, with juniper berries being a key component, as well as the botanicals unique to to a Dry Gin blended with some Lemon and Cucumber which are distilled together to create our distinctive gin.'

1. **GinFinity, 68 Monbulk Rd, Belgrave**



2. **Loaded Barrel Distillery Unit 7/9 Hi-Tech Pl, Rowville**



3. **Tiny Bear Distillery, Factory 7, 10 Henderson Road Knoxfield**



4. **Ancient Wisdom Distillery 6 Trinity Way, Pakenham**



Lions Emerald and District

Lions Emerald and District and ready for a busy and engaging 2026.

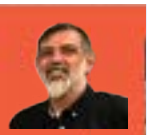
It has been a busy, at times hectic even devastating time for many in the wider districts. Bushfires are of course always of concern and as Lions we always ready to assist where we can. If you are willing to donate to the Lion's Disaster Relief Fund please scan the QR code below.

Please take care and stay alert.



100% of funds donated by the public through fundraising go directly to the projects for which they are intended.

Please give generously.



Dave Jordan
President- Emerald & District Lions Club

EMCAR Automotive

Darren Gavin
Owner/Manager

297 Belgrave- Gembrook Road
Emerald 3782

info@emcarautomotive.com 5968 6031

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

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

I AM A PROUD LOCAL WITH PRIDE

Emerald Museum

Volunteering at the Emerald Museum

Brooke, a student majoring in history, was looking for cataloguing opportunities in a heritage field when she came across an ad for the Emerald Museum on the Seek Volunteer website. An email exchange led her to visit the Museum one Sunday afternoon to chat with the volunteers on duty about the role and what it entailed.

Brooke has now been volunteering with the Museum for about six months. She comes on Wednesdays mainly to do cataloguing and on the occasional Sunday to help out with visitors.

Brooke is an expert sleuth. She explains 'I enjoy working on cataloguing especially researching and finding out the story of an item and being able to share that with the world.'

A recently donated item which has caught her attention was a fur pyjama case c.1930s which was given to Emerald resident Elaine Morris (nee Nobelius) when she was very young. The pyjama case is in the shape of a monkey - but quite a strange-looking



monkey to 21st century eyes. 'I was surprised by what was valued regarding the style of children's toys at that time,' Brooke says.

An extra surprise was discovering two petticoats and other ladies' undergarments c.1940s inside the pyjama case. The monkey was apparently used for other storage purposes after its young owner had grown up!

Emerald Museum volunteers can assist with various tasks of their choice at the Museum. Meeting and greeting visitors and showing them around is high on the list. Training and support are provided.

Volunteers just need to be over the age of 17 and to have or be able to apply for a Volunteer Working With Children check.

Brooke reflects, 'I enjoy contributing to recording and storing our knowledge of the past. I believe local collections can be very meaningful to their community.'

If you would like to know more about volunteering at the Museum, you are welcome to visit us at the Nobelius Heritage Park on Wednesdays 10.00-3.00 or on Sundays 12.00-4.00.

You can also email the Museum on enquiries@emeraldmuseum.org.au or visit our Facebook page.

Anne Carter



On Air: 40 years of 3MDR, Mountain District Radio

Playlist by *ON AIR: 40 Years of 3MDR*

Welcome to 3MDR's 40th birthday podcast series. To learn more about Mountain District Radio head to 3mdr.com

This podcast was produced by Community Radio 3MDR.





Outlook

an inclusive society for all

Outlook Australia Community Centre
communitycentre@outlookaust.org.au
24 Toomuc Valley Rd, Pakenham
Ph (03) 5940 4728



Join Mary in recreating the aromatic flavours and delights of the Middle East.
You will learn to make roasted eggplant dip. You'll prepare kofta baked with vegetables, as well as zucchini and stuffed grape leaves served with lamb. You will make Middle Eastern rice pudding and knafeh (a traditional pastry).
Share and eat what you make with your classmates after.

Fridays from 6 March, 3 sessions
10.30am – 1.30pm
Cost: $95



Customise Your Easter with Digital Art

Join award-winning digital artist Figgy O'Connell in creating a range of creative and fun designs that are uniquely you this Easter.

You'll learn how to create colouring pages, mandalas, patterns, Easter baskets, egg cups, and an array of other decorations to share with your loved ones – all while learning about the digital art app Procreate as you go! Guided by Figgy O'Connell, a self-taught and award-winning digital artist, this course is suitable for all skill levels.

iPad, with Apple Pencil and Procreate provided, or BYO.

Fridays from 27 Feb, 5 sessions
10am – 11.30am Cost: $100
Or $35 for one session
Contact the centre to book 1 session



Guitar – Intermediate

Do you know a few guitar chords? Want to learn more and sing along? Guitar can be used as a creative outlet. Sharpen your concentration and enjoy the calming therapeutic experience. Your tutor Paul has over 30 years experience.

Thursdays from 5 Feb, 8 sessions
12:30pm – 2:30pm
Cost: $110

Full Program Guide







News update from Emerald Secondary College

Welcome back!

ESC staff are excited to welcome new year 7 faces to their first year at high school along with all older students for what we hope is a wonderful academic year full of great learning experiences in 2026.

Open week 2026
Emerald Secondary College is hosting an open week in February, and we warmly encourage anyone interested in learning more about the college to please register to come along. The school will be hosting presentations in the performing arts centre, and conducting tours of the college with students, staff and the leadership team.

Monday 9th February
Tuesday 10th February
Wednesday 11th February

Presentation and tours: 9am-11am

Bookings: 03 59685388



Please note that this is a fully inclusive event. The Hills Hub venue has ramp or lift access to all areas, and organisers want to express that this will be a welcoming space for everyone - including LGBTQIA+ folk and neuro divergent folk. If you have any additional access needs - please contact organisers and we will work hard to meet your requirements.

Kara Montoneri

Emerald Secondary College Reunion Fundraiser

Emerald Secondary School Council and Alumni, are hosting a reunion event to mark the recent 40th birthday of the college. A great excuse for a party!

We would love to see as many past students and staff as possible for an evening of stories, laughs and nostalgia while raising some funds for the old stomping ground.

This is a strictly ticketed event! All money raised will directly fund student programs and resources at Emerald Secondary College.

Ticket price includes entry, a drink on arrival, finger food and a ticket for the door prize. Access to the art installation 'Kids these days!' situated in the upstairs art space included.

Fundraising and activities on the night will include raffles, quizzes and merch ordering/sales. ESC local legends Michael Huberts and Ben Bush will be hosting us for the evening, with drinks for sale across the bar. Come have a catch up, check out the old photos, listen to some 80s/90s/00s tunes and relive some of the good times we had while navigating all the challenges that came with being a teenager!

ESC Reunion Fundraiser
Hills Hub Emerald
Sat 21st February 2026
6:30pm-11:30pm

Tickets Via Eventbrite – or go to 'Emerald Secondary College Alumni Association' on Facebook for more information.





Hills Hub Artspace: 'Kids These Days!'
In celebrating the recent 40th birthday of Emerald Secondary College, a small photography collection from the archives has been installed in the upstairs gallery space at the Hills Hub.

The collection seeks to celebrate all the wonderful young people who have come through the doors of Emerald Secondary College, many of whom are still contributing to our local community decades later.

A must-peek for all local people who have had any connection to ESC over the years. Please take the time to pop in and visit and interact with the display by adding your own kind words or memories via the sticky-note message board. There are several very familiar faces in there!

Exhibition 'Kids These Days!'
Free entry
Running: Wednesday Jan 28th – Monday Feb 23rd 2026

Opening times:
Mon-Fri: 9:30am – 2:30pm
Sat 21st Feb: 4pm-6pm

EMERALD SECONDARY COLLEGE

Mens Shed

Looking back on 2025, the Emerald Men's Shed had a successful year. There was a new sign put in our window, so now, for those passing by, there is no doubt where our premises are. Financially we made a small profit on our operations. Thanks must go to those friends who purchased the various item we made, such as bird feeders, possum boxes and repaired bikes. Thanks also to those friends who donated timber to made into various items. One major project was to make a portable stage for the Monbulk College.

Our membership stands at 47 including two NDIS clients and 16 ladies. We were successful in winning two grants; one for an oscillating band sander and one for a table router. They will help in ensuring items we make are to the highest quality.

We look forward to another successful year in 2026.



Mrs. Wile E. Coyote



ART IN THE PARK

Emerald Lake Park

- a Pop-up Gallery in the old tea rooms

OPEN THURS - SUNDAY
11 am - 4 pm

Our pop-up Art Gallery now that a two year lease agreed between Council and the alliance of creative groups occupying the building.

All artworks are for sale and can be taken home at the time of purchase.

The Gallery shop is also selling a large collection of bespoke artist creations. Items include cards, prints, pottery, jewellery, resin products, small artworks and much more.
A great place to grab an authentic gift that represents this region.



As we welcome in the new year, Fernlea Community Care looks forward to supporting the local community and inviting you to experience our Day Respite Centre located in Emerald and Pakenham and In-Home Care support services.

Our Day Respite Centre is a safe, friendly, and supportive space where guests can connect with others, enjoy meaningful activities and feel cared for by our compassionate staff. Each day offers engaging programs designed to promote wellbeing, independence, and social connection in a warm and welcoming environment.

We also offer in- home support, where our staff provide the support needed inside the comfort of your own home. Fernlea's services extend beyond the Emerald and Pakenham zones and can support clients across a broader catchment area. Whether you are seeking social connection, support or a little extra help at home, Fernlea is here for you. Spaces are available now.

For more information or enquiries, please contact Fernlea Community Care on (03) 5968 3895 or email compliance@fernlea.com.au

Erin Nation - Fernlea





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Emerald & District
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Our Complete Home Loan offers 100% offset on fixed and variable home loans. Which means you could own your home sooner.

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Community Bank · Emerald & District 5968 8831



Bendigo Bank **Bendigo Bank Community Bonus Program**

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30 Old Beaconsfield Road, Emerald
4 Durban Road, Emerald
339 Belgrave Gembrook Road Emerald
10 Victor Road, Clematis
10 Anne Street, Emerald
2 Lawsons Road, Emerald
67 Beaconsfield Emerald Road Emerald
28 Beaconsfield Emerald Road, Emerald
3 Ladd Square, Emerald

BELL REAL ESTATE

14 View Street, Avonsleigh
5 Curtis Road, Emerald
15A Avon Road, Avonsleigh
189 Swales Road, Macclesfield
8 Cherry Road, Avonsleigh



13 Outlook Road, Emerald
70 Beaconsfield- Emerald Road, Emerald
7 Brookdale Avenue, Emerald
3 Sunnyside Terrace, Emerald
31 Avon Road, Avonsleigh

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

PAVED Festival returns!!

The PAVED Festival returns on Saturday 11th April 2026 and will run through to Saturday 18th April.

PAVED celebrates the performing and visual arts and has something for everybody. With performances of music, dance, film, visual arts, poetry, literature, craft, skill workshops and more.

The Hive Wine Bar in the old railway carriage at Gemco will pop up again nightly, with music performances and good times. Drop into the Hive after work or after dinner, meet up with friends, share a drink, a charcuterie or cheese platter and enjoy the beautiful setting.

Don't tell anyone, but we may have a few practice runs leading up to the official opening. You could be the first to experience the Hive this year.

The festival will kick off musically on Saturday evening 11th April with Benoit's album launch at the GEM Theatre. Benoit wowed the audience last year with his Bob Dylan tribute wowing again with his own compositions.

The Funfest family day will launch the festival proper with an official opening, rides, music, food court, market stalls and a host of kids' activities in the GEM Theatre precinct. Be sure to get wristbands online before you arrive, for the best value and the most fun. There will also be stacks of free kids' activities, roving street performers and surprises galore. There are still some spaces for food, general merchandise and community group stalls. Email info@pave.org.au if interested.

The GEM Theatre will host a series of outstanding musical shows throughout the week. The Women in Song event returns after a short hiatus featuring four female singer songwriters sharing the stage, singing and storytelling.

After the success of last year's classic album concert, Ash Naylor returns with his band, the Spaceship to reprise some of his (and probably your) favourite Jimi Hendrix numbers.

One event of special note will be Beck Sian and the band's performance of Kate Bush's 1978 debut album, The Kick Inside, in its entirety, with a few extra surprises. Kate and Beck are cousins through Beck's father.

The night promises to be a magical celebration of Kate's work, which has played an instrumental role in Beck's own musical journey. Gemco theatre will also host a very special screening of the acclaimed film, The Message of the Lyrebird. This award-winning film explores the lyrebird's remarkable vocal abilities, including the possible impact of human encroachment on their songs. The film will be augmented by a musical performance by our own Lyrebirds Choir, beautiful art exhibitions and a Q&A by one of the film's cast members.

There will be workshops and school holiday activities across the week. Art and photography exhibitions will also feature in a number of venues throughout Emerald, so look out for the 2026 PAVED programme to provide the details.

Regular updates of festival events, ticket links, venues and times can be found at www.pave.org.au. Be sure also, to follow our socials for announcements and all the latest updates. The full program should be out by the end of February, but in the meantime, book early for the events you see advertised because they are already selling fast!
If you are a local business that would like to support the festival in return for great promotion, check out our website for sponsorship packages.



The Fire Danger Period for Cardinia has been declared for the following dates:

- Started 17/11/2025
- Ending 01/05/2026

Applications for permits during a Fire Danger Period will be considered based on local and expected conditions.



Permits may or may not be granted.
Fire Danger Period Permits

Find out what you can and can't do during our Fire Danger Period, *and* on days of Total Fire Ban, when fires in the open air are legally restricted.

The VicEmergency App (and website) brings together emergency information and warnings from agencies including:

- CFA
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions
- Fire Rescue Victoria
- Life Saving Victoria
- Victoria State Emergency Service.

The Vic Emergency app is your friend during our summer fire and storm danger period. Everyone living in the Hills should have this app on their phone with alerts set to your personal preferences.



Fire danger periods, Fire Danger Ratings, Warnings and Total Fire Bans – what do they mean?

Fire Danger Periods

A **Fire Danger Period** is a time when CFA restricts the use of fire in the hotter time of the year. The rules help prevent fires from starting. The Fire Danger Period can go for several months, and the start date and end date are different for each local government area (shire or council).

Total Fire Ban days

Total Fire Bans are called for one or more days when the fire risk is very high. On Total Fire Ban days all fires* are banned.

Fire Danger Ratings

Fire Danger Ratings tell you how dangerous a fire would be if one started. You use them to determine what actions you need to take to protect yourself and others from bushfires and grassfires.

Warnings

Warnings tell you when a fire has already started, so pay attention to them especially on hot, dry days with high winds.

Visit **cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions**

In restricted circumstances where fires are essential, a special Total Fire Ban permit may be available. Check CFA's website for details on how to apply. Without a current Total Fire Ban permit, the use of fire on Total Fire Ban days is subject to penalty.

Scan the QR code to find out more.
Together we can stay safe from fires.

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

Sudoku

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

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



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

Puffing Billy Toy Library INC.

Little Rascals
Tiny Tots
Zero Waste



Puffing Billy Toy Library now located at Fernlea Community House

Cr David Nickell Report





Well – straight into it…
Cardinia has released the Agribusiness Audit report for community review and feedback, after a process run through 2024 and 25, which involved many landowners from across the Shire.

The Audit certainly emphasizes the continued important role of – and potential for agriculture in Cardinia, including here in the Hills.

Audit findings will inform the development of an Food and Agribusiness Strategy for Cardinia – commencing with the establishment of an Food and Agribusiness Advisory Committee.

One of the primary reasons I stood for Council, was to see more emphasis being placed on better understanding agriculture and supporting our farming families in Cardinia and the Hills, so I am very pleased to be reporting these important early steps.

If you are involved in, have an interest or expertise in food and farming, please take some time to read the Audit and provide some feedback. Expressions of interest to serve on the Food and Agribusiness Advisory Committee are also being called for – please consider nominating – as it is important that we have people experienced in farming in the Hills represented on the Committee, as well as the flats.

Please find a link to the Audit Report, a brief feedback survey – and Committee expression of interest details on the Cardinia website here… Food & Agribusiness Audit & Strategy | Creating Cardinia

Summer Weather and Fire Danger Period

With dangerous weather and multiple emergencies already this year, please take care to ensure your bushfire plans are up to date and well-rehearsed. Anything can happen on days of dangerous fire weather and you need to be as prepared as you can be.

As recently as Jan 9th, a fire in Seville East was quickly contained, after local Yarra Valley Brigades scrambled and thankfully brought it under control before it spread further South on the strong Northerly wind. I believe without that quick and decisive action, the consequences for our District would have been dire indeed, on that day.

Take care - and let's enjoy the rest of summer.

Cr David Nickell





Future Recycling Transfer Station,
30-32 Exchange Drive, Pakenham
30 Exchange Dr, Pakenham

Saturday 7 February: 8am - 2pm
• Sunday 8 February: Closed
• Monday 9 – Friday 13 February: 7:30am - 3:30pm
• Saturday 14 February: 8am - 2pm



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.

Supported by Cardinia Shire Council

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

Input / Feedback / Contribute

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

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Dona Martin: publication@emeraldvillage.org.au
Lisa Bloore Social media: communications@emeraldvillage.org.au
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Emerald News accepts commissioned and classified advertisements to support publication expenses. Please read our terms and conditions, editorial policy, and booking form if you are interested in contributing.

- **Full Page:** $250
- **Half Page:** approx. 90 x 277 (V) 190 x 134 (H) $150
- **Quarter Page:** approx. 90 x 134mm $75
- **Business Card:** approx. 50 x 90 mm $35

Advertising booking form available EVA Website
Return to: evanews3782@gmail.com

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As a not-for-profit newsletter we rely on such sponsorship. Emerald News now provides opportunity for local residents and businesses to participate in ad hoc advertising. If you want to sell or promote something please refer to our website for prices of the various sizes of advertisements.

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CANAV is the peak body for community, not-for-profit newspapers in Victoria.

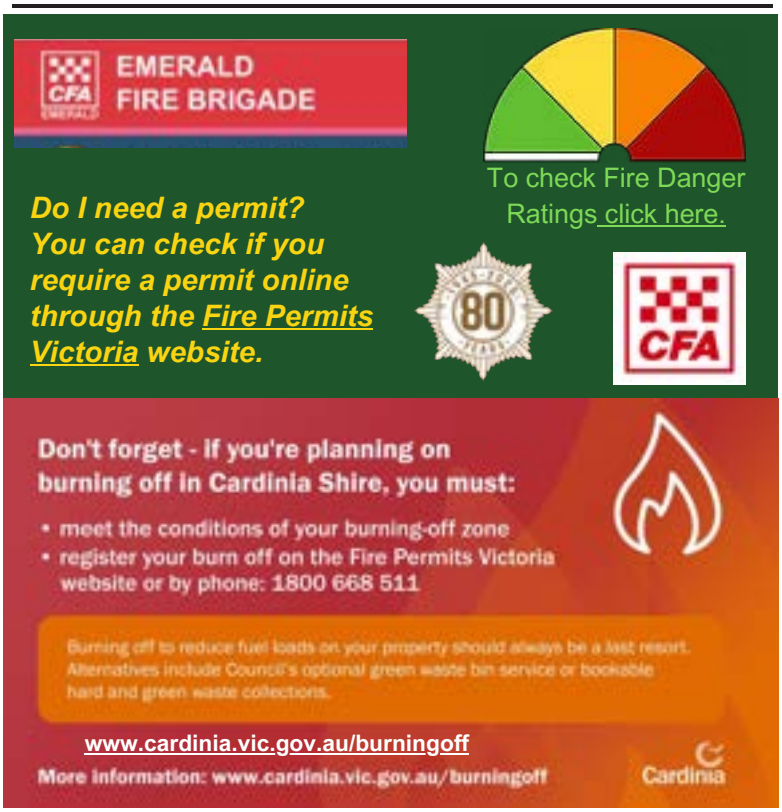
Emerald News

To read the full colour version visit Emerald News.

Hard copies available:

- Hills Hub
- Emerald Newsagency
- AutoPlus
- Ritchies IGA
- Emerald Library
- Woolworths

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



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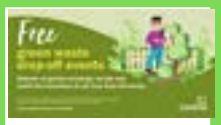
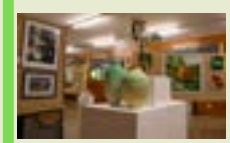


EVA offers printing services to local organisations
A4 colour - 25 cents; A4 mono - 5 cents
A3 colour - 30 cents; A3 mono - 10 cents

For booklet printing like this Newsletter or half size, contact Peter Maloney for a quote.
president@emeraldvillage.org.au
Financially support your village association.

FEBRUARY Calendar of Events

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9:30 - 11AM PB TOY LIBRARY AT FERNLEA COMMUNITY HOUSE ALABASTER CHURCH IN FEB- 1ST, 8TH & 15TH 10 - 12NOON @ HILLS HUB 	2 9:30 - 11:30AM EVERY MONDAY - EMERALD HILLS PLAYGROUP AT 5 CHURCH ST EMERALD EMERALD SECONDARY COLLAGE ARCHIVE EXHIB IN ARTSPACE, HILLS HUB UNTIL SAT. 21ST FEB	3 2PM & 3PM - WEEKLY TECH HELP ONE-ON-ONE, EMERALD LIBRARY  1ST & 3RD TUES MTH 6-7.30PM CREATIVE HAVEN - CRAFT GROUP AT THE LIBRARY. ALSO 1ST SAT MTHLY 12:30-2:30 PM 	4	5 EVERY WEEK 11AM - 4PM, THURSDAY - SUNDAY. ART IN THE PARK GALLERY IN THE OLD PB CAFE AT EMERALD LAKE. 6PM EVERY THURSDAY , COMMUNITY GAMES NIGHT, FERNNLEA COMMUNITY HOUSE 7PM MENTOR INFORMATION NIGHT, AT ST LUKE'S COCKATOO	6 9:30 - 11:30AM EVERY FRIDAY - EMERALD HILLS PLAYGROUP AT 5 CHURCH ST EMERALD	7 8:30 - 1:30 1ST SAT MTHLY COCKATOO COUNTRY MKT, ALMA TRELOAR RESERVE FELP WORKING BEE 1ST SAT MTH 9AM-2PM KALLISTA MARKET 6:00 – 10:30 PM GEMCO, ROARING TWENTIES MURDER MYSTERY DINNER & SHOW 
8 	 • SATURDAY 7 FEBRUARY: 8AM - 2PM • MONDAY 9 – FRIDAY 13 FEBRUARY: 7:30AM - 3:30PM • SATURDAY 14 FEBRUARY: 8AM - 2PM  7.15PM AT ST LUKES CHURCH - LYREBIRDS CHOIR FROM TONIGHT, WEEKLY	10 EVERY TUES 7PM ROTARY MTG @THE PARADISE HOTEL.	11 10AM - 2ND WED MTHLY, BOOK CHAT, EM LIBRARY  NHW EASTERN RANGES 6:30PM AT GEMBROOK RSL  EMERALD MUSEUM RE-OPENS TODAY 10AM-3PM ON WEDNESDAYS & SUNDAYS	12 HILLS PHTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY ON 2ND & 4TH THURS MTHLY 7:30- PM HILLS HUB COMPETITION NIGHT – 'ARCHITECTURE' 7:30PM AT ST MARKS, COMMISSIONING SERVICE, REV JONATHAN CHAINTRIER 	13 EVERY WK 11AM - 4PM, THURSDAY - SUNDAY. ART IN THE PARK GALLERY IN THE OLD PB CAFE AT EMERALD LAKE. 	14 9AM TO 4-2PM  8-10PM BUBBLY BENEATH THE STARS, MT BURNETT OBSERVATORY  2 - 7PM 10-12NOON ART & PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIB, UPPER BEAC VILLAGE FESTIVAL 
8.30-1.30 3RD SUNDAY MTHLY EMERALD PRODUCE MARKET FELP WORKING BEE  15 EMERALD MUSEUM OPEN 12- 4PM	16 10AM, 3RD MONDAY MTHLY. PROBUS CLUB AT EMERALD RSL	17  1ST & 3RD TUES MTH 6-7.30PM CREATIVE HAVEN - CRAFT GROUP AT THE LIBRARY.	18 9:30 - 11AM EVERY WED PB TOY LIBRARY AT FERNLEA C/ HSE	19 9AM-11AM FELP WORKING BEE, MEET AT E/LAKE CARPARK - 7, 15 & 19 EVERY THURSDAY, RSL EMERALD OPEN 5- 7PM 	20 EVERY WEEK, 11AM -4PM THURS- SUN, ART IN THE PARK GALLERY IN THE OLD PUFFING BILLY CAFE AT EMERALD LAKE. 	21 8AM EVERY SATURDAY, PARK RUN AT EMERALD LAKE  ESC SCHOOL REUNION 
22 ON SUNDAYS, EMERALD MUSEUM IS OPEN 12-4PM , OR BY APPOINTMENT 9AM - 2PM GEMBROOK CLASSIC & CUSTOM CAR SHOW AND SWAP MEET" - GEMBROOK RECREATION RESERVE  9AM - 2PM 4TH SUNDAY MTHLY, GEMBROOK MARKET, GEMBROOK COMMUNITY CENTER	23 	24 9:30AM EVERY TUES FROM TODAY - FACILITATED 'OLDER MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP', FERNLEA COMMUNITY HOUSE 	25 10AM - 4TH WED MTHLY, MOVIE MORNING, EMERALD LIBRARY 	26 7:30- PM HILLS HUB HILLS PHOTOGR SOCIETY, GUEST SPEAKER – KIM WORMALD, 'ETHICAL BIRD AND WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY 	27	28 8AM EVERY SATURDAY, PARK RUN AT EMERALD LAKE PARK 
1ST MARCH 2PM FACILITATED DEATH CAFE AT FERNLEA COMMUNITY HOUSE	2	3 EVERY TUESDAY, RSL EMERALD OPEN 5- 7PM 	4 9:30 - 11AM PB TOY LIBRARY AT FERNLEA C/ HSE	5  EVERY WEEK 11AM - 4PM, THURSDAY - SUNDAY. ART IN THE PARK GALLERY IN THE OLD PB CAFE AT EMERALD LAKE.	6	7 1ST SATURDAY MTHLY @ GEMCO 7PM-11PM 

UPPER BEACONSFIELD VILLAGE FESTIVAL

Sunday 15th February 9am-3pm

TOWER RUN UPPER BEACONSFIELD

Bring the kids, bring your mates—this one's for everyone!

Enjoy live acts, market stalls, tasty food trucks and the tower run, plus an art + photography exhibition—proudly centred on a zero-waste focus.



Art & Photography Exhibition

Entries invited from visual artists of any medium in both adult & youth categories. Lots of great prizes to be won including $300 for the Best in Show!

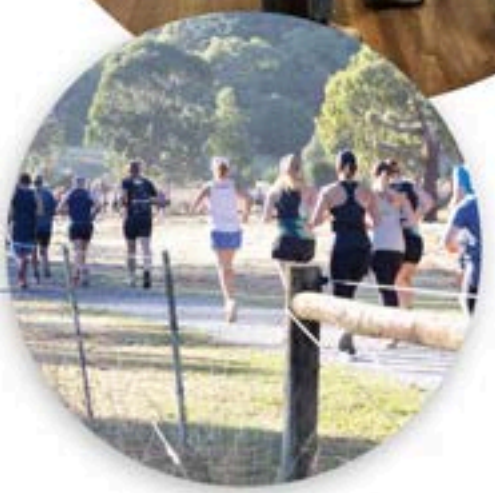
Open 2 days! Sat 14 Feb 3pm – 6pm and Sunday 15 Feb 9am – 3pm.
Enter Now! Submit your entries online (fees apply) by 9 February.



KidsFest Rides

All-day pass only $15!

Rock climbing, Laser Tag, Drop Slide, Cup & Saucer, Face Painting and more!



Tower Run/Walk

Run or walk the scenic tower track through the heart of Upper Beaconsfield. Four runs to choose from: 1km, 6.5km, 13km and 21.1km half marathon. **Sign up now!**



Market Stalls, Food Vendors & Free Activities

Animals of Oz, Tennis Try Outs, Men's Shed Kids Woodworking & Craft, Busking, Community Group Displays, Dog Show Competition, Stage Acts & more!

GET ALL THE DETAILS HERE

STALL HOLDER APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

Huge thank you to all our Sponsors

Top Sponsors: Cardinia, Peake, myexpert, Upper Beaconsfield, LEISURE POOLS, rmbl, ACRE RIDGE, DOGOOD

Sponsors: Emma Vulin MP, Wellington Village, JR PROPERTY, KAYE, BRAD BATTIN MP, zeemo, LA ROCHE AIR, STIHL, CASEY, Montague Farms, RSL


Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

Flaura & Fauna Feature: our beloved, boisterous, Cockatoos


Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoo

Photos taken by Pauline White


Red Tailed Black Cockatoo - a perfect landing




The beautiful Major Mitchell

Australia is home to 14 cockatoo species, of which 11 exist in the wild only in Australia.

You're invited to attend

NHW Eastern Ranges Meeting Gembrook - RSL

Where:
49 Main Street
Gembrook

Wednesday Feb 11th - 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

I AM A PROUD LION WE SERVE WITH PRIDE

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