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EASTERN RANGES NEWS

October 2026 Issue 4 A community led newsletter published by EVA Inc.



State Member for Monbulk Daniela De Martino shares: "it was a privilege to recognise seven outstanding volunteers from the Eastern Dandenong Ranges through my inaugural Monbulk District Volunteer Awards. Daryl Bristowe, Chris May OAM, Glen Molden, Peta Candy, Garry McGough, Philip Spencer, and Peter Maloney have each made an extraordinary contribution to our community through their dedication, generosity and willingness to help others."



EVA President's Report



Peter Maloney

Two weeks ago I was honored by our local member, Daniela De Martino to receive a Monbulk District Volunteers award - together with 6 others from the Eastern Ranges. See front page.



As Daniela said:
"*The Monbulk District Volunteer Awards were established to acknowledge local people who go above and beyond in service to their communities. While many volunteers do not seek recognition, it is important that we take the time to celebrate their efforts and thank them for the difference they make. These recipients have supported veterans, strengthened sporting clubs, served in emergency services, contributed to local community organisations, and helped ensure our Hills communities remain connected, resilient and welcoming places to live.*"

"Each recipient was presented with a Parliamentary pin and certificate at Parliament House in recognition of their outstanding service.

It was a pleasure to honour them, thank them, share their stories and shine a light on the invaluable contribution they have made, and continue to make, across the Eastern Dandenong Ranges and throughout Monbulk District."

Citizen of the Year Awards Night

The highlight of our EVA year happens on Wednesday October 28th - the annual awards to the local citizens and events of the year.

At the same time community groups are invited to report on the plans for the future.

A great community night not to be missed.

Community Newspaper of Victoria Annual Awards

On October 10th, Lisa Bloore will accompany me to the annual CNAV awards conference in Geelong.



We have nominated for three categories - History, Community Content and Best Design & Layout. Fingers crossed.

EMERALD Village Association Inc.

2026 Citizen of the Year Awards Night

An opportunity for all Emerald Community groups to tell Emerald of their plans for 2026-27

- Emerald Citizen of the year
- Young Citizen of the year
- Group of the year
- Event of the Year

7pm Wednesday

October 28th

The Hills Hub

All Welcome





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Planning, Tourism & Environment Sub-Committee Report

The baton has been passed from Trevor Budge to myself and it would not surprise many that there is a broad range of topics being covered by the PTE sub-committee, a couple of which are RED hot at the moment.

- Green Wedge Management Plan,
- Emerald Town Plan.

The Green Wedge concept was enshrined in legislature in 2003 with the intent protect the land from the peri urban development, ensuring the Green Wedge land would maintain it's; Agricultural, environmental, cultural heritage, conservation, landscape, natural resources or recreational values and "Urban Growth Boundary" established to limit urban growth into the Green Wedge areas.

Cardinia Shire council have a unique situation, with 3 Green Wedge areas within it's boundaries: (A) Western Port, (B) Yarra/Yarra Valley /Dandenong Ranges Green Wedge region and (C) Southern Ranges

The GWMP for (A) Western Port GWMP was passed by CSC in 2017, having begun the exercise in 2010 as a joint venture with Casey Council, Cardinia withdrew from the joint plan in 2015 due to changes in strategic directions by the council and completed their GWMP for their portion of the Western Port Green Wedge on their own.

The Yarra/Yarra Valley/Dandenong Ranges Green Wedge region covers much of Yarra Ranges council area and stretches into Cardinia Shires boundaries with Emerald, Cockatoo, Avonsleigh, Nangana up to Gembrook's Urban Growth Boundary.

The 3rd Green Wedge region, called the Southern Ranges is basically all of the rest of the Hills area north of the Princes Highway (Beaconsfield to Bunyip North then north to the council boundary butting onto the Yarra/Yarra Valley/Dandenong Ranges Green Wedge region.

As Emerald is across the Yarra GW region and marginally in Southern Ranges it creates a few issues. The expectation is that you would have a consistency of planning across both GW areas, but there is no guarantee re consistency as each of the GWAs has different requirements to consider. As these urban areas are within the Green Wedge areas, extra planning overlays for these regions are required to assist town planning balances the Green Wedge requirements with urban growth areas (which complicates the intent of Green Wedge legislation) planning.

As Cardinia Council are required by state government to develop GWMPs for Yarra/Yarra Ranges/Dandenong Ranges & Southern Ranges Green Wedges areas, the council has commenced developing plans for these GWMPs. One of the council's first step's is community consultation, with the first Emerald consultation taking place on September 10. It was to present an overview of the process council will undertake and highlighted some issues Cardinia has identified will be a challenge going forward.

Those who attended the session were very interested in finding out about the objectives the Council were looking to include in the GWMP.

A notable question - creating Urban Growth Boundaries for Emerald & Cockatoo, Michael pointed out that it requires both houses of parliament to approve the change (despite Urban Growth Boundaries at Gembrook and Upper Beaconsfield.

Next step, mid 2027 when Council will conduct Vision and Values workshops for the communities to contribute.

Draft plan is expected at end of 2027 Final to be presented to council for approval mid to late 2028.
Implementation expected 12 – 18 months post approval.
Stressing community input would be taken at Vision & Values workshops as well as input after that date.

Emerald Town Plan Whilst the Green Wedge Management Plans are being developed, the Cardinia Council is also working on an Emerald Town Plan, which is underway utilising Hello City as consultants. Hello City have started consultation and are expected the release an assessment soon. Their recommendations are eagerly awaited.
It would be desirable if the Town Plan incorporated a few of the outstanding issues that evolve around;

1. Green Wedge Management Plan - eg. Urban Growth Boundary around Emerald to coincide with the boundary currently utilised in the Emerald Framework Plan.
2. Emerald Lake Park – Appreciate the value Emerald Lake Park has on tourism to Emerald area, and
3. Impact of Puffing Billy Railroad corridor on the region and growth opportunity it provides for tourism for Emerald and the entire region.

Emerald Lake Park Masterplan – was endorsed by CSC in 2023 recognising the importance of Emerald Lake Park and provided a long term vision for the park. A number of groups (including EVA) have expressed concerns about the plan's capabilities and it's ability to deliver on the proposed budget.

Councillor David Nickell spoke on the issue at the most Council meeting and since that time the Council have announced additional drop in information sessions regarding the plan.

These dates are:

- Oct 14 – 11:30 - 1:30pm Hills Hub
- Oct 15 – 4:30 - 6:30pm at Hills Hub
- Oct 16 – 1:00 - 3:00pm Emerald Park Lake

It would be great if as many locals can attend and provide feedback to the council staff at these sessions.

John Wall
Planning, Tourism & Environment
Sub-Committee Chair



David Nickell - Ranges Ward Councillor - Cardinia Shire Council

Community engagement is underway to develop a Green Wedge Management Plan for our District.

Thankyou to all of the locals who attended one of the community drop-in sessions that Council ran this month, as part of the information gathering phase of the project. This project to develop a plan for how our Green Wedge area will develop into the future is really important. It will inform our planning scheme, investment decisions – and most importantly, the liveability of our District for years to come. Please visit Cardinia's webpage for the project for more details...

Green Wedge Management Plans 2026 | Creating Cardinia

This month has also seen another significant project for the Hills discussed at the September Council meeting. In early 2025, we successfully moved to prevent the demolition of the former café building in Emerald Lake Park, one of the projects for the implementation of the Emerald Lake Park Masterplan. The rescued building has since developed into the highly successful

'Art in the Park'

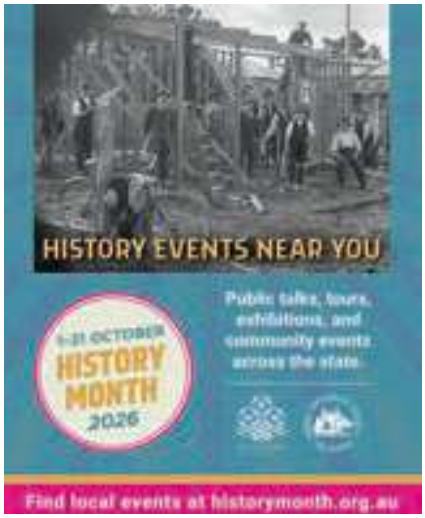
run by volunteers from our local community arts groups for local artists. At the same time, I requested a review of the Masterplan, as changes in the Park's tenants and the viability of some aspects of the Masterplan were a concern.

At the Council meeting on Monday September 21st, the officers report on the review of the Masterplan was tabled – and confirmed that much of the original Masterplan does indeed need to change and requires further work, to prepare for funding bids.

I have asked for an update to the Cardinia webpage – to provide an easy-to-read table, that summarises what's been done, which projects from the Emerald Lake Park Masterplan can continue to be implemented unchanged, which projects cannot continue as originally thought and which projects need more work to make them 'shovel-ready'. It's important to note that work has not stopped on Emerald Lake Park while the review was occurring, but some projects needed to be paused.

These delays have been frustrating, but I believe were necessary – as the review has shown that the Masterplan no longer reflected reality on the ground. Now we can get going again – and focus on winning funding supp

Councillor David Nickell



Neighbourhood Watch
Let's watch out for each other

Neighbourhood Watch Eastern Ranges is promoting Community Safety Month for October.

We will be at several places every Saturday during October to promote Neighbourhood Watch. You can become a member at these venues:

- **Sat 3/10 - Cockatoo IGA**
- **Sun 11/10 - Upper Beaconsfield CFA**
- **Sat 17/10 - Gembrook IGA**
- **Sat 24/10 and 31/10 - Kilvington Drive Emerald (next to Post Office)**

Key safety routines to follow:
*9pm Lock Up Routine. Lock up your car, garage and house every night at 9pm.
*Never leave valuables in your car.
*Become a member of Neighbourhood Watch Eastern Ranges - you will receive updated information on house safety, business safety and family safety.
Resources available on NHW website are valuable tools to have.
*Take your old phones to The Hills Hub, Emerald Library or Cardinia Shire Council Offices for D.V. victims to be given as a safe phone. All phones are re-set before being handed out.
*Lets all connect as one big community to keep each other safe.

Neighbourhood Watch
Let's watch out for each other

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Hills Road Sealing Election Concerns

Ten Questions for State Election Candidates

Residents of Emerald and Cockatoo continue to face a significant backlog of unsealed residential roads. Cardinia Shire data identifies approximately 29.2 km of unsealed roads in Emerald and 16.1 km in Cockatoo — around two-thirds of the roads included in the May 2026 Local Street Sealing Initiative data.

The issue extends beyond road surfaces. Hills residents face challenges associated with drainage, dust, ongoing grading and maintenance costs, emergency access, bushfire evacuation and environmental impacts. Cardinia's community satisfaction surveys have also consistently shown lower satisfaction in the Hills precinct than in other parts of the municipality, with roads a significant contributor.

Residents have been asked to contribute substantial amounts towards some road-sealing projects, with individual contributions potentially exceeding $15,000. The Community Request argues that this approach cannot address the scale of the backlog fairly and calls for greater State Government involvement.

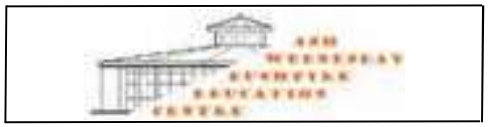
The proposal is for an initial $50 million Hills Road Equity Fund, targeting priority roads in Emerald and Cockatoo, with funding potentially combined with Council, Commonwealth and existing local contributions.

The two main candidates for the Monbulk electorate have therefore been asked the following ten questions:

1. Will you support a dedicated State-funded Hills Road Equity Program for Emerald, Cockatoo and Gembrook?
2. Will you commit to a specific dollar amount rather than simply promising to advocate?
3. Will you support permanent sealing together with appropriate drainage and stormwater engineering?
4. Will you support assessment of road dust, including potential respirable crystalline silica exposure where appropriate?
5. Will you support publication of traffic-volume, gradient, drainage, maintenance and emergency-access data for priority roads?
6. Will you recognise that many households cannot reasonably absorb $15,000-plus contributions during a cost-of-living crisis?
7. Will you work with Cardinia Shire and the Commonwealth to leverage State funding?
8. Will you support restoration or replacement of flexible infrastructure funding mechanisms capable of addressing established-community infrastructure backlogs?
9. Will you provide a public timetable for the first tranche of works?
10. If elected or re-elected, will you report publicly on progress within the first 100 days of the new Parliament?

The questions are intended to give residents a clear basis for comparing candidates' commitments on this long-standing local infrastructure issue. Candidate responses will be published in the November edition of the Eastern Ranges News.

George Trojan



Have you been to AWBEC?
We are heading into our summer and fire season.
Great opportunity to start the talk about ' if we have a fire this year…….
'Bring the family and show them the results of our last fire on Ash Wednesday. The centre is an education centre set up not only to show the devastation that took place but to encourage people to gather information and prepare for any future fire. We are open Sunday's from 11am - 3pm. Come and visit us'.

If you have a spare Sunday once every two months we would like to encourage you to come and volunteer at AWBEC. Please phone Dot 0400 070 197 for a friendly discussion on whats involved.

Dot Griffin





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UPCOMING EVENTS AT EMERALD LIBRARY

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD DIRECTORS

Nominations close Monday 19th October 2026 at 11:59pm.

Emerald & District Co-operative Society Ltd (the Co-op) is seeking passionate, values- driven individuals to join our Board of Directors.

As a member-owned co-operative, Emerald Co-op exists to serve our community and has been a feature of Emerald and the surrounding district for many years. Our Board plays a vital role in guiding the strategic direction of the Co-op, ensuring strong governance and upholding our co-operative values.

The Co-op aims to ensure our Board has the right skills, experience and diversity to lead the organisation. We are seeking Directors who:

- Are committed to community-led and sustainable business practices,
- Bring experience in governance, finance, strategy, risk, or community engagement, and
- Reflect the diversity of our membership and community.

Ideally you will:

- Have prior experience on a board or governance committee,
- Skills in financial oversight, legal compliance, strategic planning, or risk management,
- Knowledge of the co-operative sector,
- Demonstrated commitment to co-operative values and community service,
- Ability to understand and contribute to board-level decision-making,
- Relevant qualifications in governance from AICD or the Governance Institute of Australia and/or willingness to undertake director training and ongoing governance development, and
- Availability to attend regular board meetings and participate in subcommittees as needed.

The Board currently meets monthly virtually and/or in person on the 4th Tuesday of each month in the evening.

Three current Directors are retiring by rotation and are eligible for re-election. The Board considered the eligibility and continued contribution of the retiring Directors and endorsed their nomination for re-election at the forthcoming AGM.

The appointment is from the AGM in November 2026 for a 2-year term at which point you may be eligible to stand for re-appointment at the AGM in 2028.

To submit your expression of interest for the role or for more information, please contact Mark Lock, Company Secretary on secretary@emeraldcoop.com.au

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Spring Allergy Alert: Watch Out for Dry Mouth!

Spring brings blooming flowers, but pollen season also triggers hayfever and blocked noses. When allergies strike, we often switch to mouth breathing, leading to reduced saliva flow.

While antihistamines are fantastic for reducing your body's inflammatory burden, they can also increase dry mouth as a side effect. Saliva is your mouth's natural defense against decay and gum inflammation.

Quick Spring Tips:

- Stay extra hydrated with water when taking antihistamines.
- Chew sugar-free gum to stimulate saliva.
- Seek advice if habitual mouth breathing continues!

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Natalie Kabers - Dental Hygienist
AHPRA #DEN0001028636
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Web: www.dentalhygienetoyou.com.au

A Better Bus for Our Hills Communities

Over my time as the local MP, I have heard from many residents calling for better public transport between Emerald and Monbulk. Students travelling to school, sport and part-time jobs, workers commuting to employment, families accessing services, and older residents attending appointments and community activities have all raised the same issue with me. This is why I have launched a petition calling for a direct bus route between Emerald and Monbulk.

Currently, travelling between the townships by public transport can take well over an hour despite it only being a ten-minute journey by car. For many people, those who do not drive or without access to a car, this creates unnecessary barriers to education, healthcare, employment, and community participation.

I asked the Minister in Parliament on the final sitting day for this term what progress is being made to address this issue and will continue advocating strongly for improved public transport options that better connect our Hills communities. If you would like to see this bus route, please support my campaign by signing my petition: www.danielademartino.com.au/petitions/direct-bus-monbulk-to-emerald/

Honouring Community Volunteers

On Sep 11th I was honoured to host the Monbulk District Volunteer Awards at Parliament House, where we recognised 16 outstanding individuals from across our community.

The recipients represent a diverse range of organisations, including emergency services, sporting clubs, veteran support groups, community organisations and charitable services. Among those recognised were volunteers from Emerald, Gembrook, Clematis and Macclesfield whose dedication has made a lasting difference to the lives of others.

Our community is stronger because of people who quietly give so much of their time to help others without expecting recognition. It was a privilege to celebrate their contributions and thank them for the countless hours devoted to our community.

On behalf of the Eastern Ranges communities, I would like to once again thank Daryl Bristowe, Peta Candy, Peter Maloney, Glen Molden, Chris May OAM, Garry McGough and Philip Spencer for the invaluable work they do for our community.

Backing Our Emergency Services Volunteers I recently joined Minister for Emergency Services Paul Edbrooke at Emerald SES Unit to thank local volunteers and hear about new technology and equipment being rolled out to strengthen emergency responses ahead of the upcoming storm season.

This support includes improved communications technology, new equipment to assist with storm and flood responses, and a new truck for the Emerald SES Unit, helping volunteers keep our community safe when severe weather strikes.

The visit also highlighted the VICSES Are You Storm Ready? campaign. As we head into the higher-risk weather season, now is the time to get 'storm ready' by clearing gutters, trimming overhanging branches and securing loose items around your property.

I also had the pleasure of attending the Emerald CFA Annual Presentation Night, celebrating the wonderful contribution of our CFA members at this 80-year-old brigade, including Graeme Legge AM for his extraordinary 75 years of volunteer service.

To all CFA and SES volunteers across the Hills, thank you for everything that you do to keep our community safer.

Celebrating Community Spirit

One of the highlights of the past month was attending the second Sing for Unity concert at the Hills Hub in Emerald - part of a global event celebrating the United Nations International Day of Peace.

Local choirs and community members came together to celebrate peace, harmony and unity through music. It was one of those occasions that reminds you of the incredible community spirit that exists throughout the Hills and beyond. My congratulations to the organisers, performers and volunteers who made the day such a success.

I was also delighted to attend the Macclesfield Landcare Group's 30th anniversary celebrations. For three decades, dedicated local volunteers have worked tirelessly to protect and enhance the natural environment that makes our region so unique. Their contribution deserves enormous recognition.

Welcoming Visitors to the Hills

It was fantastic to see the Puffing Billy Running Festival once again bringing visitors from across Victoria and beyond to Emerald and the Dandenong Ranges.

Events like this support local businesses while introducing visitors to the attractions, hospitality and natural beauty that make the Hills such a special place to live and visit.

Congratulations to all organisers, participants and volunteers who helped make the event such a success once again.

Continued next page

Continued from previous page

Advocating for Local Priorities
A growing number of residents continue to contact me regarding the impact of deer across the Dandenong Ranges.

Deer can damage gardens, farms, fencing and native vegetation, while also creating serious road safety risks for motorists. I have recently raised these concerns in Parliament and will continue advocating for practical measures and funding support to assist landholders with deer management efforts across our region.

I also know many residents remain concerned about the condition of local roads. I welcome the Victorian Government's additional investment in road maintenance, which will repair up to 500,000 potholes across Victoria. October is the start of road repairs season, when the weather is drier so proper repairs (as opposed to temporary patches) can take place. These will start taking place very soon.

Important Reminder for Voters
With the Victorian State Election approaching, I encourage everyone to ensure their enrolment details are up to date by the deadline of 8:00pm on Tuesday 3 November. Taking a few minutes to check your enrolment now will help ensure your voice is heard when Victorians head to the polls.

Daniela De Martino MP
State Member for Monbulk



Road Safety in the Hills



By Ethan Henson: Courtesy Pakenham Gazette

Cardinia residents concerned about road safety and road maintenance as the Auditor-General's road report sparks controversy.

After a staggering road report was released by VAGO on Thu 10 Sep, regarding road conditions across Victoria, members of the public are seeking answers.

53.81 per cent of state roads in Cardinia Shire are considered to be in poor or very poor condition in 2024, but a local believes otherwise.

Paul Keen, resident and member of the Cockatoo Roads Action Group, CRAG21, says the roads are far worse than the VAGO audit claims.

This follows months of CRAG21 pushing a petition with over 2000 signatures to parliament in hopes of getting unsealed roads sealed, in the Hills.

"The data in the VAGO report was primarily taken from up to 2024/5 while even less maintenance has been funded since," Keen said. "Given most of the poor to very poor roads are outer metro to regional, it reflects the fact that the state has inadequately funded roads outside of the inner metro Big Build projects and demonstrates the current inequity for residents outside of inner metro, "CRAG has taken the position with the LNP's $5 billion commitment for roads that the Cardinia Council's LSSI advocacy, "The basis for our state petition to fund the LSSI matches exactly the LNP's criteria for the $5 billion 'Pot Hole Pledge' program, "Therefore, given that the Cardinia request is only around 1.5% of the fund, they should be making the commitment to Cardinia to fund the LSSI."

Adding to the concern, the opposition member for the Eastern Victorian Region, Renee Heath, said that the roads in the hills are unbelievable and unacceptable.

Speaking to parliament, Heath asked the Minister for Transport Infrastructure whether they will commit to funding priority state roads.

"Recently I visited Dandenong Ranges with a local resident and Liberal candidate for Monbulk, Clare Fitzmaurice," Heath said.

"Paul Keen from the Cockatoo Action Group drove us around Cardinia's top five unsealed roads, including Fern Gully Road, View Hill Road, Wright Road, Pinnocks Road, Station Avenue, "Travelling residents are subject to travel on roads that would be considered unacceptable in other parts of metropolitan Melbourne,

"It's a highly disaster-prone area of the state. Unsealed roads compromise safety and emergency access, "Locals around the Dandenongs have been left wanting after Albanese cut all this money from Australians from the Sealing the Hills project."

Cardinia Shire Council have said the findings from VAGO reinforce what the Council have been advocating for, and will continue to push improved road infrastructure as a key priority.

Coffee Xpress
OPEN at Gemco!
Tuesdays & Thursdays
8 – 11am

Project ideas sought for Cardinia Community Grants Program

Community groups across Cardinia Shire are invited to put forward ideas that will improve local facilities, strengthen community connections and deliver lasting benefits for residents.

Cardinia Shire Council is seeking project proposals for its 2027–28 Community Capital Works Grants Program, which supports community-led projects that improve local facilities and help meet the needs of our growing community.

The program gives eligible community organisations the opportunity to turn ideas into practical projects that make facilities more welcoming, accessible and functional, enabling community members to stay active, connected and involved.

Eligible community organisations are invited to submit a simple project proposal outlining their idea and the benefits it would deliver. Council will review all submissions and invite suitable projects to progress to the next stage.

Funding of up to $35,000 is available for community-managed projects that improve community facilities and respond to community needs.

Cardinia Shire Mayor Cr Brett Owen encouraged eligible groups to put forward their ideas.

“These grants help community groups deliver practical projects that make local facilities more accessible, welcoming and useful for everyone,” Mayor Owen said.

“From small upgrades to purchasing essential equipment, the program supports projects that help bring people together and strengthen community connections.”

Funding is available in two categories:

- Minor capital works: for minor upgrades or improvements to community facilities that enhance functionality, accessibility or usability.
- Essential equipment: for major equipment needed at community facilities or reserves. Equipment funded through the program must remain onsite and be available to all facility users.

Applications will be considered for projects valued at up to $70,000. For projects valued at more than $5,000, applicants are required to contribute 50 per cent of the total project cost. Projects valued at less than $5,000 do not require a contribution from applicants.

Project proposals close 9 December 2026. If successful, applicants will be invited to provide a detailed grant application.

An online information session will be held on 14 October 2026 to help interested groups learn more about the program and application process.

For more information, and to register for the information session, please visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/ccwg







Thank you to Community Bank Emerald for the fantastic donation of a Thermal Imaging camera. These are great for search and rescue in smoke as well as identifying hot spots at bushfires. This is an upgrade on the camera that was donated by them 15 years ago.

Shane Miller
Clematis CFA

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EMERALD FIRE BRIGADE

Emerald Fire Brigade presents:
GetFireReady —One Job a Week campaign:

As we head towards another bushfire season, Emerald Fire Brigade is encouraging local residents to start preparing now with our Get Fire Ready — One Job a Week campaign.

Preparing your property for bushfire can seem like a huge task, particularly for those living on larger or heavily vegetated properties. But it doesn't have to be done all at once.

Our message is simple: do one job each week.

Over the coming weeks, Emerald Fire Brigade will be sharing practical tasks that residents can complete around their homes and properties. These will include moving woodpiles away from buildings, cleaning gutters, managing long grass and vegetation, pruning overhanging branches, clearing around homes and sheds, checking access and water supplies, and reviewing your Bushfire Survival Plan.

The idea is to turn bushfire preparation into a series of small, achievable jobs.

We are asking residents to take the challenge seriously and make a start this week. Walk around your property, identify one task that needs attention and get it done. Then, when next week's challenge arrives, tackle the next one.

CFA's bushfire preparedness advice reminds us that preparation is something we need to do before a fire threatens our community and maintain throughout the fire season.

Don't wait for a hot day, a Total Fire Ban or a fire in the area to start thinking about your property. Start now. One job at a time.

Follow Emerald Fire Brigade on Facebook to take part in the weekly challenges and access practical bushfire preparation information and CFA resources.

Together, we can help make our homes, families and community better prepared for the fire season ahead.

EMERALD CFA FACEBOOK QRCODE

PUBLIC MEETING: 17TH November 7.15pm for 7.30pm start.

connectingcockatoo@gmail.com

https://cockatootownship.com.au

VENUE: AWBEC
2 McBride Street Cockatoo

Interest points for meeting:

Seasonal Preparedness

Christmas & Australia Day Planning plus more

Our AGM will be held 23rd February 2027. Some long-term members will be retiring. New Members most welcome – havean input into your town's future.



H5 bird flu is present in wild birds in Victoria.

Cardinia representative Beck Ellis advises, if you see sick or dead birds or other wildlife:

- Avoid contact,
- Record the exact location and what you observed, and
- Report it using the current Agriculture Victoria reporting process.
- Visit the links below for the latest advice.

Cardinia Shire Council is sharing current H5N1 avian influenza (H5 bird flu) information.

Below are links to live information with time-sensitive instructions.

- Cardinia Shire Council – Bird flu emergency
- Agriculture Victoria – H5N1 avian influenza
- Agriculture Victoria – H5 bird flu resources
- Victorian Government – H5N1 avian influenza
- National bird flu information and resources
- Victorian Department of Health – Avian influenza found in birds in Victoria



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Rotary Club of Emerald and District

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT EMERALD AND DISTRICT ROTARY CLUB

RU OK? DAY

On 10 September, the Interact Club at Emerald Secondary College hosted an RU OK? Day initiative, with more than 140 students getting involved. Students were invited to write a kind note to another student, which was then delivered to them in their final class of the day. It was wonderful to see connection, engagement, joy and friendship on display, with a simple act of kindness making a real difference.

EARLYACT TEAMS

The EarlyAct teams at Emerald Primary School and Gembrook Primary School have also been busy working on projects to support students in Africa. Both teams have written letters to students overseas and are raising funds to help provide access to education, food and clean water.

Our members have been equally busy, raising funds by parking cars at a Hot Rod Show, assisting with the Puffing Billy Fun Run and hosting a Trivia Night. These fundraising efforts enable us to continue supporting projects that make a difference both in our local community and further afield. We also recently packed 300 school kits to be sent to students in developing nations, providing them with essential supplies and the tools they need to support their education.

If you'd like to be part of this vibrant and active club, we'd love to hear from you. Contact us on 0408 195 767.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Candlemaking & High Tea Join us for a fabulous afternoon of candlemaking, high tea and great company!
Saturday 24 October | 3.30pm–5.30pm
$60 per person
Gemco, 19 Kilvington Road, Emerald
Register: Try Booking

Rotary Kids Fun Run with Puffing Billy
Sunday 29 November
Join us for the Rotary Kids Fun Run with Puffing Billy, supporting the needs of children at Angliss Hospital and Eastern Health. For more information, visit: Emerld Rotary

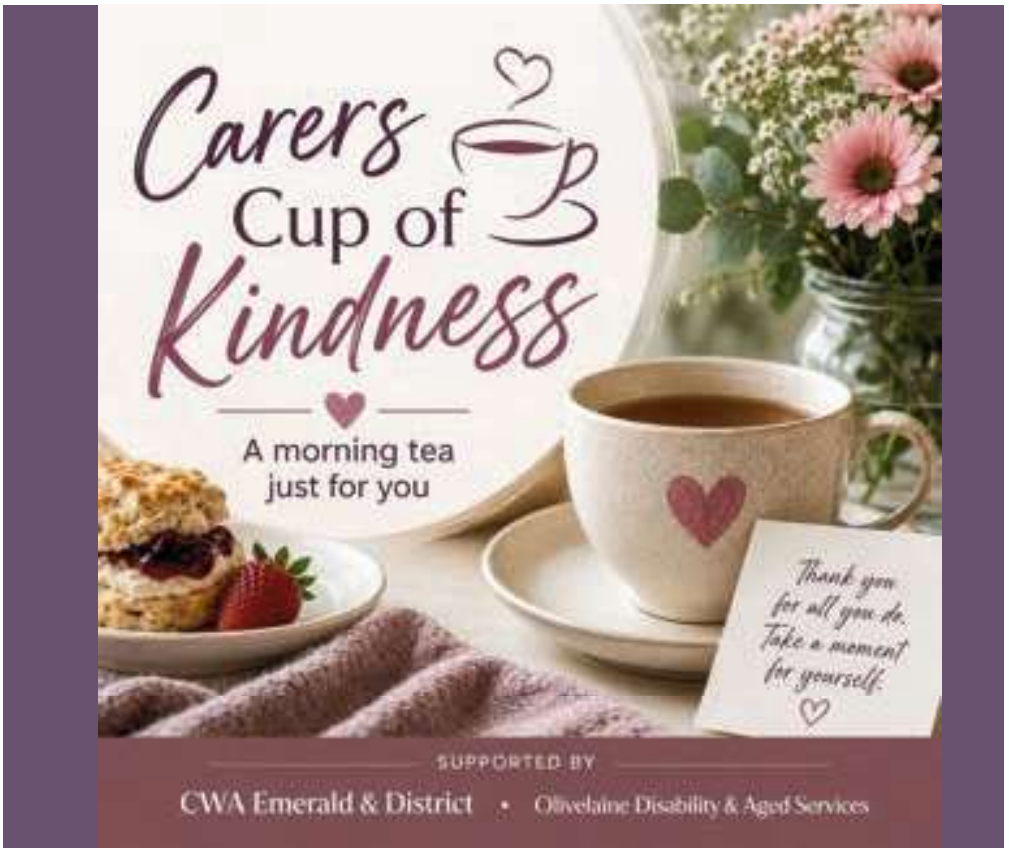
The Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc.
Emerald District Branch



As part of Carers Week, we're inviting local carers to enjoy a special morning of connection and pampering in partnership with the Cockatoo Community House and CWA Emerald District

Monday 12th October,
10am to 12 noon.

Book here - Cockatoo Community House



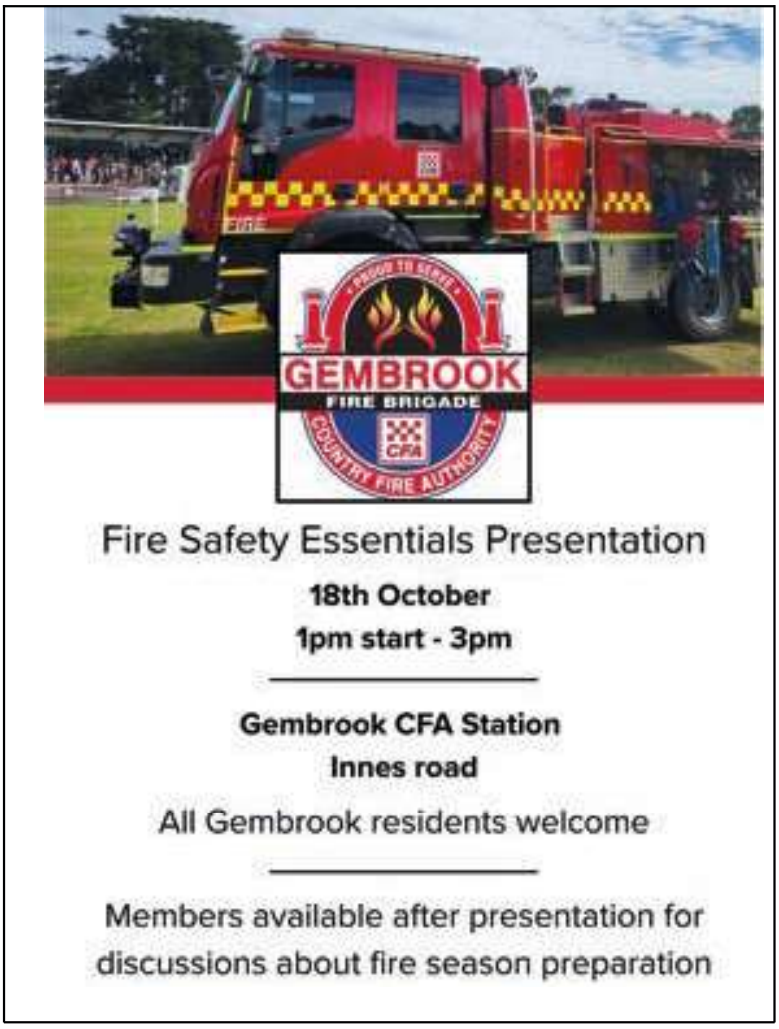
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ART IN THE PARK
Emerald Lake Park's
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Free entry
OPEN THU - SUN 11 am - 4 pm



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





The De Bortoli Wine Box Exhibition

The background to the idea of having this exhibition came about last year when local artist Christopher Tabecki found two lovely wooden wine boxes from the Yarra Valley De Bortoli winery in a charity shop in Yarra Glen. Seeing how useful such boxes would be to artists like himself, he wanted to see if he could obtain a few more. He decided to go straight to the source and contacted the De Bortoli Winery, and was delighted when they said that as they no longer required the boxes he could have a substantial number.

Right from the start Christopher's intention was to hand them around to fellow local artists in the area who he knew would make good use of them. Artists like to collect "stuff" as reference materials for future works and these boxes were perfect for doing just that.

He offered the boxes to members of the Emerald Arts Society and the Emerald U3A with the optional proviso that an exhibition would be staged in year's time based on the "stuff" stored in the boxes, or just inspiration of the box itself.

It has been wonderful to see the different mixed media interpretations which have been produced. The exhibition will run for three weeks at the Cardinia Hills Hub Art Space and we hope you will enjoy visiting it.

Chris Tabenski



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PROBUS

Make new friends. Stay active. Enjoy retirement.

Landmarks light up throughout October

October is Probus Month. Landmarks across Australia will glow blue and yellow to celebrate and mark 50 years of Probus in Australia. Along with other landmark lightings around the state, the Cardinia Cultural Centre will be illuminated in blue and yellow for the occasion. These landmarks will honour five decades of connection and community, while highlighting the important role Probus plays in supporting the social wellbeing of older Australians.

Probus clubs across Australia welcome retirees and semi-retirees who want to stay socially connected, active and engaged after leaving the workforce. Members enjoy friendship, shared interests, social activities, travel opportunities and lifelong learning.

Last month, ten members, some joined by their partners, thoroughly enjoyed a tour of the MCG and the Australian Sports Museum. The group walked along the boundary line of the hallowed turf, relaxed in the comfortable corporate box seats and toured the Long Room. After exploring the museum's memorabilia displays, they finished the day with lunch at the Hugh Trumble Bar & Café.

Activities this month include the 'Elvis and Friends Show with Andrew Portelli', followed by a buffet lunch at the Ferntree Gully Hotel. The regular monthly lunch will be held at the Paradise Valley Hotel in Clematis, and later in the month the club's annual bus trip will take members to Sorrento on the Mornington Peninsula for the day.

Each month the club offers interesting guest speakers at its meetings as well as the opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities and outings. The club is non-fundraising and purely a social outlet for retirees to stay active in the community.

Interested in any of these activities? Emerald Ladies Probus invites retired or semi-retired ladies to come along to a meeting to learn more. The club meets on the third Monday of each month at the Emerald RSL, commencing at 10am. Its next meeting is on Monday 19 October when the guest speaker will Lorraine Smith, talking about the 'Journey of a Lost Manuscript'. Visitors are welcome to enjoy morning tea and meet the club's members.

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

Linda McIvor



EMERALD FIRE BRIGADE

Emerald Fire Brigade

On the 5th September Emerald Fire Brigade held its annual Presentation Night. This night was particularly significant being our 85th anniversary protecting the community.
We would like to congratulate all award winners on the night in particular:

- 15 Years – Capt Klaus Brodeck
- 25 Years – Lt Mitch Buxton
- 35 Years Life Membership– Kate Griffin
- 50 Year Life Membership – FF Trevor Ireland
- 75 Year Life Membership –



- NSW Premier's Flood Emergency Citation – FF Mick Hamilton
- National Medal - Shane Merrett
- National Medal – FF Daniel Sawyer
- 1st Clasp – FF Adrian Trimnell
- 3rd Clasp – FF Trevor Ireland
- 4th Clasp – Ian Woodhouse
- Brigade Life Membership – Jody Yandle
- Brigade Life Membership – Trevor Ireland

Thankyou also to Kate Cashin Photography for photographing the night for us

More photographs on next page





Visit Nobelius Heritage Park in Crichton Road and learn about its historical features and significant trees.

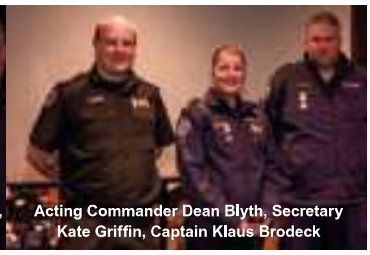
You will find an **audio tour** on the Emerald Museum website.

Open

- Sun 12.00-3.00
- Wed 10.00-3.00
- Or groups by appointment.



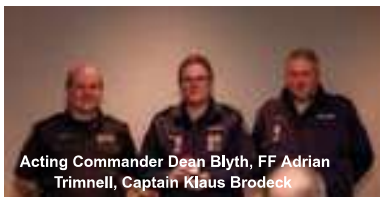

Acting Commander Dean Blyth, FF Trevor Ireland, Captain Klaus Brodeck


Acting Commander Dean Blyth, Secretary Kate Griffin, Captain Klaus Brodeck


Acting Commander Dean Blyth, Captain Klaus Brodeck


Acting Commander Dean Blyth, Ian Woodhouse, Captain Klaus Brodeck


FF Bianca Walker, Captain Klaus Brodeck, Kat Walker


Acting Commander Dean Blyth, FF Adrian Trimnell, Captain Klaus Brodeck


Daniela de Martino, guest speaker




Jody Yandle, Captain Klaus Brodeck


Acting Commander Dean Blyth, FF Trevor Ireland, Captain Klaus Brodeck



Thankyou Sam at Emerald Stock Feed & Pet Supplies

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PETS OF THE MONTH



Here are our 3 beautiful girls.

The sausage dog is 3 years old and has a heart condition, her name is Dixie.

The pug is 11 years old and a rescue dog.

The black and white princess is Bella, another rescue dog who was so badly treated it took her 1 year to trust us. She is also 11.

We love them all. Andrea Eliott - Gembrook

May - Sept winner Scottish Highlander.





PET OF THE MONTH

TO ENTER: SEND A PHOTO AND BRIEF STORY ABOUT YOUR PET.

EACH MONTH THE SELECTED WINNER WILL FEATURE AND WILL BE INVITED TO COLLECT A GIFT FROM EMERALD STOCK FEED & PET SUPPLIES.

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EMERALD FIRE BRIGADE

Courtesy Facebook article fro CFA District 12

As Victorian residents begin making the most of the warmer conditions to prepare their property for the fire season, emergency services are encouraging landowners to register their burn-offs online.

The quickest and easiest way to register your burn-off is by using the Fire Permits Victoria website at www.firepermits.vic.gov.au/notify.

While spring is an opportune time for landowners and residents to take advantage of the favourable weather to undertake burning off activities, more than 62 per cent of burn-off registrations in Victoria are still coming through via phone.

This can lead to longer wait times for residents seeking to notify their burn-offs, as Triple Zero Victoria call takers focus on higher priority calls.

Triple Zero Victoria's Chief Operations Officer, Paul Santamaria, encourages the community to take the very simple step of planning ahead, registering their burn-off online during Spring. "We are still seeing high notification by phone in some areas including Lara, Olinda, Healesville, Mt Evelyn, Monbulk, Langwarrin, Yackandandah and Wonga Park and we encourage these communities to register online," Paul said. "*When everyone does their bit and registers a burn-off online it reduces unnecessary calls and helps our Triple Zero Emergency call takers remain available to focus on emergencies and high priority calls. "If you are planning to burn-off more than two hours from now, registering online will always be the fastest and simplest option.*"



If for any reason you need to start your burn-off immediately (within two hours), you can still register by calling 1800 668 511.

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan AFSM said to avoid unnecessary callouts for emergency services this spring, residents are urged to register their burn-off activities on the Fire Permits Victoria website.

"*By registering your burn-off online, it allows CFA, emergency services and the public to understand that the fire is not an emergency,*" Jason said. "*Receiving notification allows us to manage the fire risk effectively and avoid placing unnecessary strain on local brigades and Triple Zero (000) call takers.*

"*So far this year CFA crews have responded to more than 200 escaped burn-offs - we ask landowners to have enough people and water on hand to monitor, contain and extinguish their burn-off safely at all times and only burn off if conditions are favourable.*"

The website allows you to notify emergency services of your burn-off, and also check and apply for a permit, if necessary. For more information about burning off safely, visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au/burnoff.

Before burning off, make sure you:

Check and Follow regulations or laws by your local council.

Notify neighbours if generating smoke

Check the weather forecast for the day of and a few days afterward.

Postpone if high fire risk conditions develop. Establish a fire break of no less than three metres.

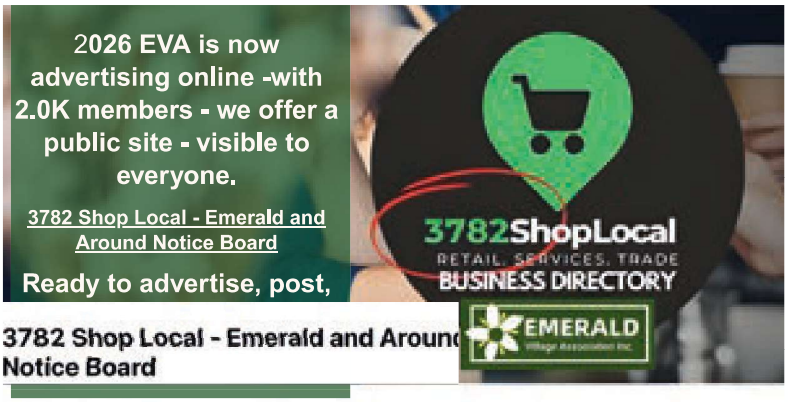
Have people to monitor, contain and extinguish the burn safely and effectively. **Never leave a burn-off unattended.**

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Be Prepared for the Unexpected
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PROTECT
RESPOND
RECOVER
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6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
The Hills Hub Emerald
400A Belgrave-Gembrook Road, Emerald
BJS INSURANCE
Learn about BAL ratings and what they mean for your home
Understand BPA insurance and what 'uninsurable' means
Discover the best ways to modify or mitigate your insurance policy
Find out what's covered and what's not in flood versus leak situations
Fernlea Community House and Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre invite you to join us for a FREE informative evening featuring expert presentations and Q&A sessions.
Light refreshments provided
DISASTER LEGAL HELP VICTORIA (DLHV)
Get expert advice on trees and neighbour disputes - common issues and solutions
Learn essential legal steps to take before a disaster strikes
Prepare yourself for the unexpected with expert guidance
Scan Me!
Reserve your spot by scanning the QR code, visiting https://www.socialplanet.com.au/activity/view?id=52207 or contact Fernlea Community House on 5968 3895 (Option 1)
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ADVERTISE WHERE LOCALS LOOK. EVA CONNECTS YOUR BUSINESS WITH A 90% HILLS-BASED AUDIENCE AND STRONG WEEKLY ENGAGEMENT.
EMERALD
EVA Facebook Page – over 300 visits every month, from locals aged 25 to 65
Local audience – more than 90% of our viewers live in and around the Dandenong Ranges
Monthly visibility – our combined socials reach up to 30,000 views every month
Weekly engagement – community posts average 1,000+ views every week


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,
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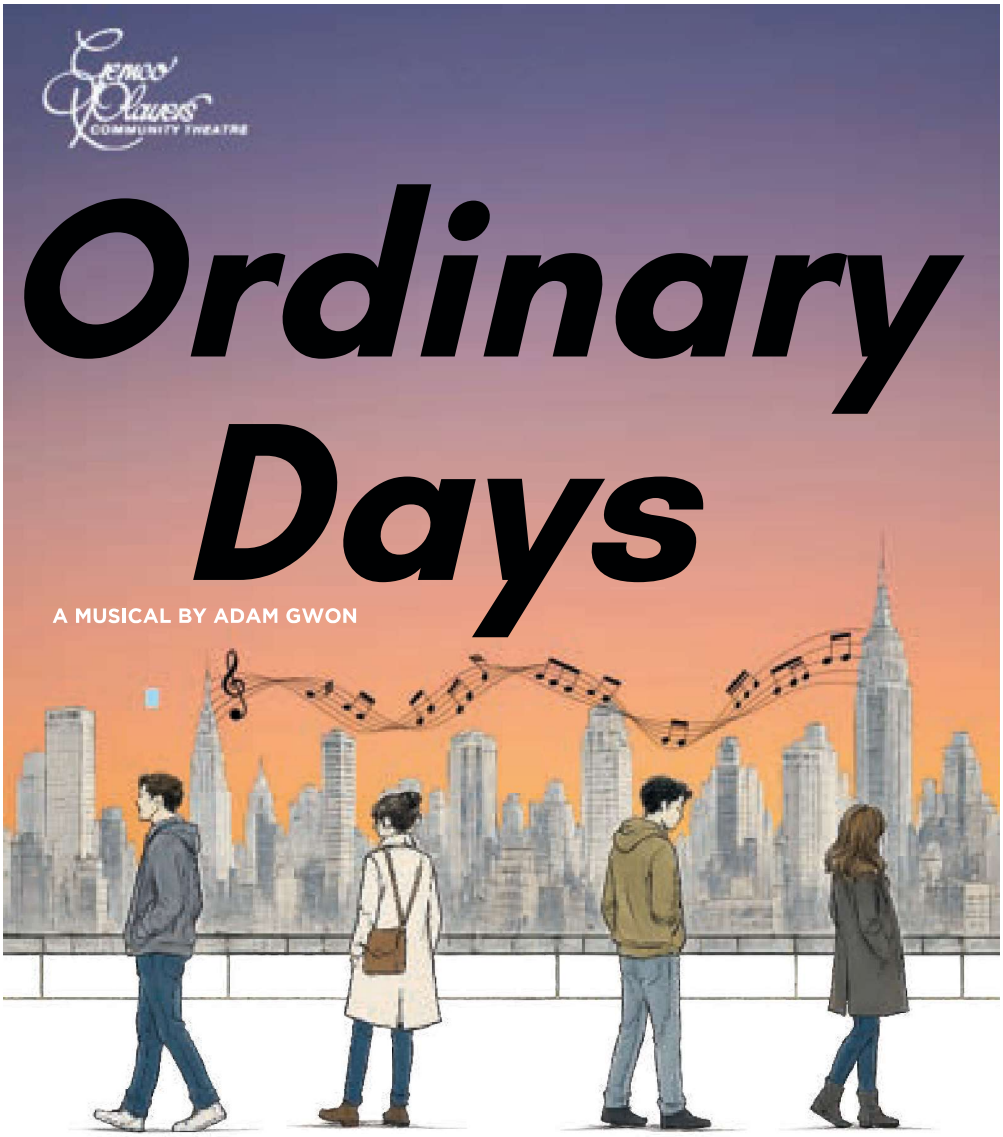

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Gemco Players COMMUNITY THEATRE | THE GEM COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE



From one of musical theatre's most exciting new composers comes Ordinary Days, a refreshingly honest and funny musical about making real connections in the city that never sleeps (but probably should at some point).

Ordinary Days tells the story of four young New Yorkers whose lives intersect as they search for fulfillment, happiness, love and cabs. Through a score of vibrant and memorable songs, their experiences ring startlingly true to life. Ordinary Days is an original musical for anyone who's ever struggled to appreciate the simple things in a complex place. With equal doses of humor and poignancy, it celebrates how 8.3 million individual stories combine in unexpected ways to make New York City such a unique and extraordinary home.

Heartfelt, witty and beautifully layered, Ordinary Days is a contemporary musical that follows four New Yorkers - Deb, Warren, Jason and Claire - whose lives quietly intersect in small, unexpected ways. As they navigate love, loss, purpose and connection, their stories unfold through a vibrant, contemporary score that captures the rhythm of everyday life in a big city.

Intimate and deeply moving, this must-see musical is also full of humour and heart - a reminder that even in life's rush, the smallest moments can be beautiful.

Directed by: Mandy McGarrigle
Musical Direction by: Margie Gemmell

"A story about community, hope… daily magic." — The Scoop

"Adam Gwon's sensational new musical is a breath of fresh air." — Chicago Theatre Review

"Ordinary Days" is presented by permission of ORiGiN™ Theatrical, on behalf of R&H Theatricals, a Concord Theatricals Company.







Another makeover at Elephants Rock
- Margie Gemmell -





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Ted Krzywokulski Paintings:

BENEATH THE SURFACE:

Beneath The Surface presents a body of work that navigates the complex terrain of memory, trauma, and emotional resonance. These paintings are not simply abstractions; they are layered records of a life shaped by displacement, war, and the long echo of experiences that resist resolution.

Ted's early years as a refugee in post-war Germany, followed by conscription into the Australian Army and deployment to Vietnam, form a quiet but persistent presence within the work. Rather than depicting these histories directly, the paintings translate them into texture, gesture, and colour. Buried lines, over-painted surfaces and hidden marks create a sense of depth — a visual archaeology of the mind.

Colour becomes a psychological register. Some canvases pulse with bright, urgent hues; others retreat into muted, contemplative tones. This oscillation mirrors the way memory behaves: vivid one moment, elusive the next. What emerges is a deeply felt visual language — one that invites viewers to slow down, to sense the emotional undercurrents and to experience for themselves the subtle tensions and quiet revelations held within each layer. The works do not offer answers; instead, they open a space for reflection, empathy, and connection.

Beneath the Surface *invites viewers to engage critically, recognising that meaning is never fixed but negotiated through the act of looking.*







The Hills Photographic Society

This month at Hills Photographic Society, we have had 2 meetings focusing on helping members improve photography by trying new things.

The first meeting for the month centred around video presentations from several well known photographers on subjects such as Getting camera settings correct, Getting your exposure right, Wildlife Photography and Street photography focusing on common objects rather than people. Presenters consisted of Simon D'Entremont, Danielle Carstens, and Sean Tucker. All can be found on YouTube.

Our second meeting for the month saw our intrepid members walking around Emerald on a cold night. They were given a list of 12 things to concentrate on, including shadows, one source of lighting, intentional camera movement, light trails etc. This challenge was designed to get people out of their comfort zone and stretch their wings. Night photography can be very challenging, we all learnt new skills. Some members photos from the night are included here.

Hills photographic society meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, at the Hills Hub in Emerald at 7.30 - 9.30 pm. If you are interested in photography you can attend up to 3 meetings to check us out before deciding if you would like to take out a membership. We welcome all skill levels , the club is made up of beginners right through to professional photographers, with many levels in between. Our aim is to help people get the most out of their cameras in a fun and friendly atmosphere. We have hands-on workshops, visiting speakers, competitions, exhibitions, talks by our members, tutorials and outings, both daytime and evening.

For more information on our club, please go to: www.hillsphotographicsociety.org.au which lists upcoming events, and find us on Facebook at Friends of Hills Photographic Society. Come along to a meeting and check us out, we would love to see you.

Pauline White
Vice President



Elly Dickinson



Kathie Thomas



John Weeks



Paul Bianco



Pauline White

Hills Photographic Society are holding a portrait exhibition of members of the local community to coincide with Seniors month. Fri, Oct 23rd - Sun, Nov 1, 11 am to 4 pm. At Art in the Park Gallery, Emerald Lake.





Cardinia Shire Council

2027 Australia Day Awards

Do you know an individual, communitygroup, volunteer, young achiever or local hero who goes above and beyond to make our community a better place? Nominate them for a 2027 Cardinia Shire Australia Day Award!

Now is the time to celebrate the people whose dedication, kindness, leadership and community spirit make a real difference in Cardinia Shire.

Whether it's a long-time volunteer, an inspiring young person, a community organisation, or someone quietly making a positive impact behind the scenes, we want to hear their story.

Help us recognise and honour those who make our community stronger, more connected and a great place to live. Submit a nomination today and give a deserving person or group the recognition they deserve.

For more information, visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/australiadayawards

More information
1300 787 624 | cardinia.vic.gov.au mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au
Translating and Interpreting Service 131 450 (ask for 1300 787 624)

Cardinia







WHERE ARE WE?

I spend a great deal of my time walking around our town of Emerald.The tennis courts and the Hills Hub for U3A are my regular destinations.

Have you noticed the great work people do to establish gardens on their nature strips? Fantastic! Makes Emerald a better place to live. These photographs are in the same street. Thanks to the residents who make this happen. Let me know if you can identify this nature strip in the town: Send your response - Include with your answer, your name, email and daytime phone number, to Dick Bartley: dickbartley08@gmail.com

The first correct answer earns a free coffee at

Captain's of Emerald

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES to DICK BARTLEY

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Johns Hill Landcare Group

News about National Wattle Day and Emerald Star Bush.

Wattle Day event – Well unbeknownst to me there were 3,000 additional runners in Emerald on the morning we decided to hold a Community Planting event for National Wattle Day in Pepisland. How exciting for those runners to see a banner announcing Johns Hill Landcare and displays of Wattles and Emerald Star Bush. We waved and encouraged. Some runners even stopped to have a chat, a cup of tea and cake or drink of water. Some runners shouted 'Landcare' as they ran past.

After the runners trickled away we focused on the main task of putting 50 shrubs and grasses into some old revegetation plots from 2007. A couple of people remembered that Emerald Primary School was involved in planting the original plots. The students would now be in their late twenties and the tube stock are massive trees.

Emerald Star Bush - has been listed as Endangered on the federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999. There are about 6000 plants in the wild and it is restricted to the Emerald-Monbulk area of the southern end of Dandenong Ranges.

Johns Hill Landcare supports the promotion of Emerald Star Bush and is working on preserving it by ensuring about six reserves have robust and self-sustaining colonies. These reserves include: Avonsleigh Common, Clematis Reserve, VicTrack site along Belgrave-Gembrook Rd Emerald, Bob James Reserve (old Emerald Quarry), Hogan Park Emerald, sites near Emerald Secondary College. There are other local sites in Wrights Forest and Rawhitti Rd, Emerald.

Emerald Star Bush flowers in September and October and this has been the time when surveys are completed around the Emerald area. Johns Hill Landcare would welcome support in promoting Emerald Star Bush and performing surveys.

Community Connections – Johns Hill Landcare would like to thank Cardinia Shire Council for preparing the plot in Pepisland for National Wattle Day. Fundraising for Emerald Lions by providing morning tea for National Wattle Day. Fernlea Community House for initiating the Community Advisory Panel.

Julie Thompson

Johns Hill Landcare Group
Find out about us at:
www.johnshill.org.au or
text 0447 345 528

See image next page



Emerald Star Bush
Naomi Creek



Emerald Primary School planting in 2007 – Deb Mitchell



Please put these photo credits under the pics

Johns Hill Landcare Group Image



Wattle Day Community Planting with Nina, Liz, Sas and Eric 2026 – Julie Thompson



50 YEARS Cockatoo and District Bowls Club

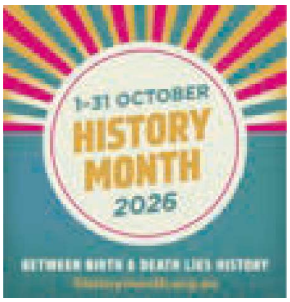
COME DOWN AND TRY LAWN BOWLS! Mon 12th Oct-12.00pm

Anyone in the Hills interested in trying bowls? Come down to the Cockatoo & District Bowling Club and try your hand. We are having an open session on Mon 12th Oct starting from 12pm. Don't worry if you have never tried bowling before, club members and experienced bowlers will be there to help. A great opportunity to meet new people, try something new or continue from where you left off years ago. Included will be a sausage sizzle / BBQ. Looking forward to seeing new faces!

Looking ahead, pennant competitions commence late Oct, so plenty of competitive action back to the greens. With social bowls, training, tournaments and pennant all on the calendar, there is plenty happening at Cockatoo Bowling Club.

And with daylight savings approaching, we recommence our barefoot bowling, providing a relaxed and social way to enjoy an evening with friends, family and fellow club members. Barefoot Bowls start Fri 9th Oct and will continue through daylight savings. Sessions start approx. 5.30pm and cost $5.00 per social bowler. Sausage sizzle available with gold coin donation.

Whether you are an experienced bowler or simply looking to try something new, the club offers a friendly and welcoming atmosphere for everyone. For further information email cockatoobowlsclub@outlook.com or call 0483842992.
Location: 2 McBride St Cockatoo.





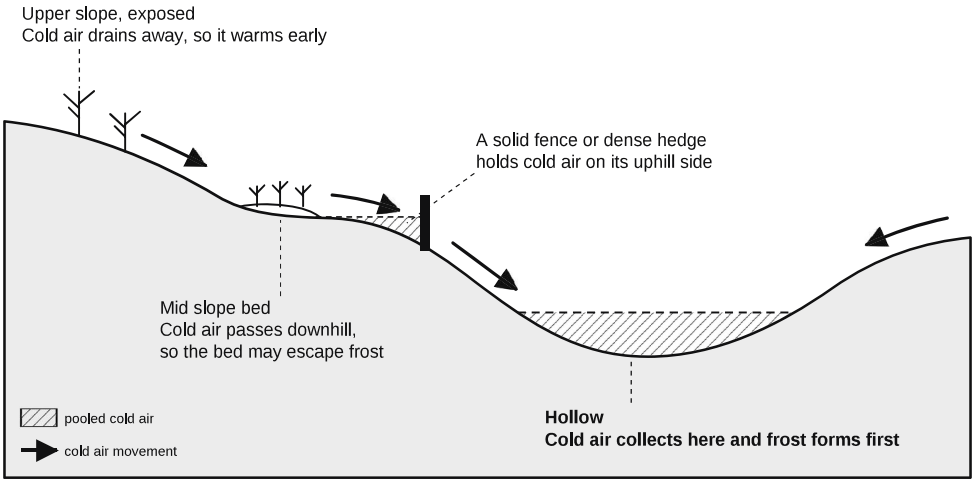
Reading the signs of spring in a Hills garden

By Tim Le Grand, Kanga Gardening

Spring in the Hills does not move through every garden at the same pace. A sunny slope may be putting on new growth while a shaded bed below it remains cold and wet. Even within one block, planting dates can need adjusting.

Bureau of Meteorology records show cooler spring temperatures at Ferny Creek than at Melbourne's Olympic Park, but individual gardens vary.

Cold air on a clear, calm night



On clear, calm nights, cold air can drain downslope and collect in hollows or behind barriers. *Diagram is schematic, not to scale. Artwork by Kanga Gardening.*



Photograph by Tim Le Grand.

Daytime warmth and overnight frost risk are worth considering separately. A sunny position can warm sooner, but it is not necessarily protected from frost. On clear, calm nights, cold air flows downhill and can collect in hollows or behind solid fences and dense barriers. A low, sheltered corner may be colder overnight than a more exposed bed further up the slope.

Watch where frost settles and where it lingers after sunrise. That pattern can help you choose a position for tender plants, rather than assuming the warmest spot in the afternoon is also the safest overnight.

Check the conditions in each part of the garden before choosing where to plant.

Drainage matters as well. In saturated soil, water occupies the spaces that would otherwise hold air, restricting oxygen available to roots. If a bed repeatedly stays waterlogged after rain, investigate the cause before planting into it. Avoid walking or digging there while the ground is soft enough to squash underfoot.

For tomatoes and other tender summer vegetables, wait for warmer soil and for the risk of frost to pass. Check the local forecast, allow nursery seedlings to adjust gradually to outdoor conditions, and have protection ready if cold nights return.

Use the conditions on your block to decide when to plant. Your warmest bed may be ready before the one beside it.

Keep a few notes this spring on frost, persistent wet spots and when growth begins. Next season, you will have a planting guide that accounts for the differences between your beds.

Tim Le Grand runs Kanga Gardening, maintaining gardens across Melbourne's south east and outer east.
kangagardening.com.au

Sources:

- Bureau of Meteorology, climate statistics for Ferny Creek and for Melbourne (Olympic Park). Both published tables show lower spring mean maximum and minimum temperatures at Ferny Creek. The two records start in different years (Ferny Creek 2011, Olympic Park 2013), so the article makes the general comparison only and claims no exact difference. Values read 10 Sept 2026.
- Royal Horticultural Society, Frost damage. Cold air draining downslope and collecting in hollows and behind barriers, frost risk to tender plants, and protective measures.
- Royal Horticultural Society, Waterlogging and flooding. Reduced oxygen to roots in saturated soil, the effects of prolonged saturation, and keeping off wet soil.
- Sustainable Gardening Australia, Tomatoes. Warm soil, a sunny position and free drainage for tomatoes.

Halloween

SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER

AT EMERALD RSL

Trick or Treat..?

Best Dressed Costume Competition 7-7.30PM



CLUBROOMS AND BAR

OPEN 5PM TO 10PM

ALL WELCOME!

Enquiries: Tanya 0409 358 777 secretary@emeraldrsl.com.au

HALLOWEEN

Face Painting
EMERALD BAZAAR

3pm – 6pm

$10 per face part proceeds to The Emerald Lions Club



TRICK OR TREAT

Neighbourhood Watch Eastern Ranges

Emerald Post Office

3pm – 7pm

Come along and get individually wrapped lollies for trick or treat!

121 WOORI YALLOCK RD COCKATOO

Decorations & Lollies

Griffs Place

McBride Street, Cockatoo

Scavenger hunt & trick or treat



Emerald RSL

Join us for a spooktacular evening



Trick or Treat from 5pm

Come dressed to impress and ready for a good time!
Best dressed costume competitions 7 – 7.30pm!

Enjoy Fielderberry Farm ice-creams and waffles & Twista Family potato twists in our carpark area!

Trick or Treat at Gembrook Op Shop



Home of the Brookers

Gembrook Cricket Club

Matt Hemingway

As they prepare for the season start on October 3rd, the Gembrook Cricket Club has played two pre-season matches.

Against Warragul at Gembrook Oval, Gembrook won 3/105 to 9/102, led by Charitha Ranasingha's making 40 retired not out and Luke McGennisken's 3-15 with the ball.

Travelling to Iona, Gembrook made 108 with new coach Andrew Hilder and Jack Dobson each making 23 retired not out and Trav Thickens taking 1-1 as Iona made 124.

In Round 1, the 1st XI plays the Mountain Gate 1st XI, the 2nd XI plays the Ferntree Gully 3rd XI and the Vets XI plays the Wantirna South Vets

To join the Gembrook Cricket Club, please contact us via gembrookcc@gmail.com or on 0401 662 768 – with 3 teams playing on Sat a 40s team playing fortnightly on Sunday's and Blasters for the kids on Thursday nights, the Gembrook Cricket Club has a spot for you.

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Alma Treloar Community Complex
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The BASE - 7 McBride St, Cockatoo



IGA
Cockatoo

Every Friday evening we have Cannibal Creek Bread delivered.
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Community Garden Visitor & Business Information

Volunteer at the BASE

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0419 584 498
EasternDandenongRangesBASE

Lynne Trensky, EDRA



Cockatoo Over 50's

at the Cockatoo Over 50's Centre
Alma Treloar Reserve, Pakenham Rd, Cockatoo

October 2026

5th | Catered Lunch - pre booking required
12th | Craft with Marg- BYO Lunch
19th | Guest Speaker - Steve from Mind Cafe giving a tech talk. Will be present all morning to assist with any queries
26th | Outing – Aida Tree Walk, hosted by Halls Outdoor Group
** Special mention: ***Hills High Tea - Wed 7th Gembrook Hall 1pm*** **

Mondays 10:30am –2:30pm
$2 a session and an Annual Full Membership of $12. Toasted sandwiches available for purchase for $6 unless otherwise specified.

Other Activities...



Line Dancing with Kathy Smith
Tuesday 10am—11:30am Beginners/Upper Beginners
Thursday 10am—11:30am Absolute Beginners
$10 a session with no Annual Associate Membership
Everyone is welcome! Open to all ages

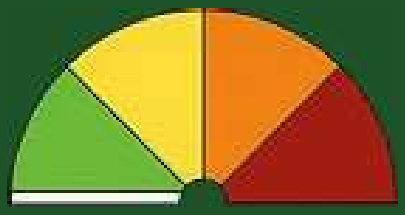


Chair Pilates with Jeanette
Fridays 10am—10:45am
$7 a session and an Annual Associate Membership of $6
Feel free to walk in and join us for any of the above sessions
Please contact Dot on 0400 070 197 for further information

Podiatrist Appointments
- Please phone Dot 0400 070 197
- Next appointments at Over 50's Centre is on Wednesday October 14th 10am – 1pm

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

CFA



To check Fire Danger Ratings click here.

Musical Notes

Inc: The Lyrebirds Community Choir


Huge crowd in attendance


The Lyrebirds

On Sunday the 20th of Sep, The Lyrebirds hosted their much anticipated 2nd annual "Sing for Unity" concert and what an amazing day it was.

The community really got behind our event this year, so much so that The Hills Hub in Emerald was at full capacity.

With over 260 attendees, over 100 performers and over 75 people singing together on the one stage for the finale it truly was a momentous occasion that no doubt will continue to grow each year.


The Grand Finale

Cardinia Shire Councillor Samantha Potter was our MC for the day, Mayor Brett Owen opened the event and State MP Daniela De Martino praised our community event and assisted with the Welcome to Country.

We thank our performers, The Over the Hills Singers from Emerald U3A, The kids from Tune In Group Music what an amazing performance, local trio Bella Sorena with their exquisite vocal harmonies that had the crowd enthralled, The Sweet Sassafras Community Choir ably led by their Director Suzy who are always a joy to listen to and a delight to watch, My amazing choir The Lyrebirds of course, what a delight it is always to sing along side you all.

We are so blessed to have our Director Dalys, Pianist Steve and Cellist Tom. Even I had the opportunity to perform as a solo singer guitarist performing some original songs, one written especially for this day. Luckily for me, even though it was the first time performing it I didn't forget any of my lyrics.


Elise Turnedge

Thank you to our major sponsor The Emerald Lions Club, who stepped in at the last minute with insurance coverage! There was a real risk the day would have to be cancelled after our previous insurance coverage fell through on the Tuesday beforehand. Thanks also to: First National Real Estate (Advertising) She'll be right on the Night (Staging), Cardinia Shire Council, OSO Entertaining (Sound), James Hughes (Videography), and Jordy Scott (Photography) check out our facebook page for all the event details over the coming weeks. Until next time

Elise Turnedge


Bella Sorena - Brooke, Katherine and Dalys

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

1-31 OCTOBER HISTORY MONTH 2026

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY VICTORIA

firstnational Ranges

Supported by Cardinia Shire Council

Cardinia

Emerald Museum

October is History Month and the theme is *The Places That Made Us*.

The Emerald Museum preserves and promotes our local history so local people can feel more connected to the place they live. This shared historical knowledge can be a source of pride and help to unify a community.

In the spirit of the theme of History Month, the new photo display in the foyer of the Hub remembers the contribution of the Gembrook Nurseries (also known as Nobelius Nursery).

In its heyday, just before World War 1, this nursery was considered the largest in the Southern Hemisphere and exported hundreds of thousands of trees to five continents. The nursery extended from beyond the former Emerald Country Club to the north to Paternoster Road to the south. This included the land which later became the Country Club and Emerald Lake Park.

Its founder, Swedish immigrant Carl Axel Nobelius 1851-1921, was a gifted and dedicated horticulturalist and a brilliant businessman. At its height, his nursery employed more than eighty people. He successfully advocated for the building of a railway line (now known as Puffing Billy Railway) to service the isolated hills communities. He gave generously back to the Emerald community supporting local sports teams and social activities and providing a loan for the building of the Emerald Mechanics Institute – the ultimate forerunner to Emerald Hub.



His nursery not only played a large part in the early economic and social development of Emerald but caused it to become well-known far beyond the immediate district. Inner city parks, streetscapes and gardens including the Botanical Gardens and the Fitzroy Gardens were planted with Nobelius trees as were many Australian World War 1 Memorial Avenues.

The Nobelius Heritage Park which is located on remnant land of the original nursery is a tangible reminder of the nursery as well as of other early Emerald industries.

During History Month, make a plan to explore this beautiful and historic park in our own back yard. An audio tour of the Park is on our website. You can also visit the Emerald Museum, which is located there, on Wednesdays 10.00-3.00 and Sundays 12.00-4.00. And don't forget to check out our display in the Hub foyer.

Anne Carter
Emerald Museum



FERNLEA Community House

Welcome to Term 4! We have our biggest line up yet, with a massive 30+ classes, workshops and events happening across our 6 pillars. You will need a cuppa to sit down with the poster!

"Art, Craft and Creativity", "Life Skills", "Community and Connection", Physical Activity and Health", Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience" and "Environmental Stewardship" can all be searched on our website to find your area of interest. You will see each of them include a heap of free activities this term too!

For those keen gardeners out there, we are kicking off our Gardening club, in association with Mitre 10, Build One Design and Construction, and the financial assistance from Australia Post. With another of our wildly popular "Ladies on the Tools" sessions, we will be framing up our wicking beds, running a wicking bed workshop (free for participants in the framing,) and then launching the Garden Club, which will run on alternate Sundays and Tuesdays.

Our social groups continue, with music and games nights, as does our intergenerational playgroup for local families and seniors.

Our Food Pantry, which runs 4.5 days a week now, is supporting a huge number of local families through these tough times, and we are beyond thrilled to receive a big helping hand from Bendigo Bank, to keep extending this service through the next 6 months. Rotary has also stepped in to help top our meat supplies for families, as supplies have been very low through Food Bank. Alan, at Emerald Village Meats, has, as usual, excelled himself with his help and generosity with this too. Arslan and his awesome team at Emerald Fruit Barn have donated some incredible boxes of fruit and some incredible boxes of fruit and vegies to make sure everyone is ticking their daily fruit and veg intake! PLEASE pop in and see us if the weekly shop is causing you stress. This service is here for the broader community – healthy food is a fundamental human right and priority, and we are here to help.

Our free Mental Health Counselling Clinic is running smoothly on both Thursdays and Fridays – you don't need an appointment – just pop in between 9.30 and 3.30 if you need to chat with someone. Unlike some other services, there are no age restrictions - teens are welcome too.

A series of free talks is offered – from teaching you how to use emergency apps over the summer to keep safe, an informative insurance in the hills talk that covers that same bushfire and storm risk issue, and a chat from our friends at Bendigo Bank on how to spot and avoid a scam. Jump in and register now.

Cont. next page

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Cont. from previous page

As the festive season approaches, we'd like to remind you we have a stunning venue for hire – a hall, a lounge, and kitchens for each for catering. Kids parties are perfect here too, with a fenced playground and all sorts of toy packs for hire too. Follow this link for more information. Fernlea Community House

We also have some great Christmas Gift making sessions for everyone, and Vision Board workshops for teens, which both look like being heaps of fun and will book quickly – so get in fast.

Finally, a reminder that membership invoices roll over each financial year automatically unless you advise us in writing. Please check your in box and finalise those last few outstanding payments. This membership (less than the price of a coffee and sandwich!) is the foundation for what allows us to offer so many free events to benefit the broader community, and to be a safety net for when you are in need. We are so very grateful for your support.

Can you use our usual QR code too for bookings along with the live links

Warmly, **Kerry McGregor**
she/her
Manager - Fernlea Community House









Open Thurs 2-3pm and Sun 2-3.30pm during the school term at Fernlea Community House, Emerald





Emerald Medical Centre
Your medical home

Tired All the Time? When Fatigue Is Worth Talking to Your GP About

We all feel tired from time to time. Busy schedules, work, family and the occasional poor night's sleep can leave us running on empty. But what if you're getting enough sleep and still waking up exhausted?

Persistent fatigue isn't a diagnosis itself. It can have many causes and, sometimes, it's your body's way of telling you something needs attention.

It's not just how long you sleep. More than one in four Australian adults average less than seven hours of sleep a night, according to recent ABS data. But the number of hours you sleep is only part of the story. Sleep quality matters too. Someone may spend eight hours in bed but still wake exhausted if their sleep is repeatedly disrupted.

Sleep apnoea, for example, causes repeated interruptions to breathing, often without the person realising it. Loud snoring, waking unrefreshed, morning headaches and excessive daytime sleepiness can all be clues.

What else can cause fatigue? Iron deficiency/anaemia, thyroid problems, diabetes and certain vitamin deficiencies can contribute to low energy. Medications, alcohol, diet and physical activity can also play a role.

Mental health matters too. Stress, anxiety and depression can affect sleep, concentration and energy, sometimes presenting as physical tiredness rather than an obvious change in mood.

Importantly, there isn't one single "fatigue blood test". Your GP will usually start by asking about your symptoms, sleep, medications, lifestyle and medical history. Blood tests, a sleep study or other investigations may be appropriate.

Feeling tired doesn't necessarily mean something is wrong. But if fatigue is persistent, worsening or affecting your everyday life, it's worth discussing with your GP rather than simply putting it down to being busy or getting older. Sometimes the most useful health check starts with a simple question: "Why am I always so tired?"

Dr Nasir Bhuiyan, General Practitioner & Jonathon Somers, Occupational Therapist & Clinical Coordinator, Emerald Medical Centre



Gembrook Craft Group

Gembrook Craft group has two needle felting workshops in October:

- Wednesday October 14th - Join us as we needle felt a house.
- Tuesday October 20th - Here we will create a flat needle felted scene - perhaps a landscape or scene own choice.

Both workshops will be at the Craft Cottage, 3 Redwood Road, Gembrook, from 10am - 2pm, and cost $40 each.
Email for a registration form: gembrookcraftgroup@gmail.com

Norma Breukers



The Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc.
care empower contribute

In September, Emerald District CWA joined the other West Gippsland CWA branches for CWA Day in Berwick. This was an opportunity for community members to learn more about the different branches, what we do and how we fundraise. We had a fantastic day, meeting new people and raising some funds from sales of potted plants, homemade preserves, cakes, & cards.

The Melbourne Royal Show is running until 4 October. If you're heading to the Showgrounds, stop by the CWA Tea Room for some tea & scones! In 2025, the CWA Tea Room sold a whopping 17,831 scones, raising money for women, children and families across Victoria.

If you are interested in learning more or becoming a CWA member, we encourage you to come along to one of our meetings.

We meet on the third Wednesday of every month, and our next meeting will be on Wednesday 21 October, 7pm, at 79 Pakenham Road Cockatoo (the Cockatoo Community Complex).

Follow us on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/CWAEmeraldDistrict
You can also reach out to us via email: cwaemeralddistrict@gmail.com





Rotary District 9815
High Performance Marketing Team









Since 1936
Clematis CFA

Clematis Volunteer Fire Brigade

A LITTLE CLEMATIS HISTORY — YES, WE REALLY ARE 90!
As we head towards celebrating 90 years of the Clematis Fire Brigade in 2026, we thought we'd share a little piece of our history.

We occasionally hear the question: "How can Clematis Fire Brigade be 90 years old when CFA isn't?" The answer is pretty simple, like many brigades, our brigade is older than CFA.

Clematis Fire Brigade was originally formed as a Bush Fire Brigade in 1936, years before the CFA came into existence. And thankfully, we don't just have to rely on stories passed down through generations to prove it.

Newspaper records from 1936 document the formation and registration of the Clematis Bush Fire Brigade. One report records:

- "CLEMATIS.—A fire brigade has been formed here..."
- It even names our original officers, including Captain L. R. Kent, along with Lieutenants F. Wendlandt, J. Ansell and A. Stewart.

On 1 July 1936, The Age reported eight new bush fire brigades had been registered, specifically naming Clematis among them. On the same day, Shepparton Advertiser reported that the Bush Fire Brigades Committee had endorsed the registration of the Clematis brigade.

So where does CFA fit in? Before CFA existed, Victoria had hundreds of local bush fire brigades protecting their communities. These brigades operated under the earlier Bush Fire Brigades system, with the Forests Commission playing an important role in the organisation and registration. CFA was established later, bringing Victoria's existing rural and regional firefighting organisations together under a new authority. Clematis didn't begin with CFA, we became part of CFA.

So when we celebrate our 90th anniversary, we're not celebrating 90 years of CFA. We're celebrating 90 years of a fire brigade at Clematis. But for 90 years, the purpose has remained remarkably similar: Neighbours volunteering to protect neighbours.

1936–2026 | 90 Years of Clematis Fire Brigade

Newspaper records from 1936, preserved through the National Library of Australia's historical newspaper collection.


BUSH FIRE BRIGADES.

New Registrations.



Clematis CFA - in action





Emerald Arts Society
ANNUAL
ART EXHIBITION
Members exhibit their many talents in:
Oils, Acrylics, Watercolours, Pastels, Printmaking, Drawings, Still Life, Sculptures, Ceramics and Other Media
Under 10's
Under 15's
Under 20's
emeraldartssociety.com.au

NOVEMBER CUP WEEKEND
4 DAYS
SAT, SUN, MON, TUES
HILLS HUB, EMERALD
10am to 4pm DAILY
info@emeraldartssociety.com.au

Gembrook Seniors



HIGH TEA FOR ME	October 7 **Hills High Tea** FREE EVENT Delicious Food	Venue: Gembrook Community Centre 1.00pm to 3.00pm with special guests. Senior groups from within Cardinia attending, all welcome.
FRIENDS TO MEET & GREET	October 14 **Seniors Lunch $15.00** noon	Venue: Gembrook Community Centre Students from Gembrook Pre-School willbe coming to sing and say a special hello during lunch.
LUNCH WITH SENIORS	October21 **Club Officer Hotel Lunch**	Special lunch - carpool 11.15am from Gembrook Community Centre Noon
LET'S PIZZA TOGETHER	October 28 **Pizza Lunch** noon	Station House Pizza Gembrook $20.00 pizza and drink
FREE BBQ in the PARK	November 4th **BBQ Lunch** noon	Gilwell Park for Seniors and Gembrook Pre-School students, all welcome, BYO drinks, all catered for

Just let us know you're coming; we'd love to see you!

For further information and all bookings - Sandra: 0409 525 246



CRIME STOPPERS .com.au 1800 333 000 Victoria

If you see anyone purchasing vapes anywhere other than a pharmacy, call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000,

or submit a confidential report online at Crime stoppers





Can your garden help local wildlife thrive? Cardinia Shire Council is encouraging residents to sign up for its free Gardens for Wildlife program.

Cardinia Shire Council is encouraging residents to sign up for its free Gardens for Wildlife program and discover how simple changes at home can make a big difference for local wildlife.

To inspire more residents to get involved, Council has released a new Gardens for Wildlife video showing how local gardens can create welcoming habitats for native birds, bees, butterflies and other wildlife.

The free program, delivered in partnership with the Cardinia Environment Coalition, provides residents with practical support to create wildlife-friendly gardens at home. Participants receive a voucher for six free indigenous plants, access to workshops and planting days, regular gardening tips and guides, and opportunities to connect with like-minded gardeners. They can also help shape future program activities by sharing ideas and feedback.

Cardinia Shire Mayor Cr Brett Owen said Gardens for Wildlife was a rewarding way for residents to connect with nature while supporting local wildlife.

"As Cardinia Shire continues to grow, programs like Gardens for Wildlife help residents play an important role in supporting local wildlife and creating more nature-friendly spaces across the community. It's a simple way to connect with nature and help create a greener, more wildlife-friendly shire." Mayor Owen said.

Whether residents have a large backyard, a small courtyard or even a balcony, every outdoor space can provide food, shelter and habitat for local species.

Residents can watch the new video, learn practical ways to support local wildlife and sign up to the free Gardens for Wildlife program at www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/gardensforwildlife



COCKATOO COMMUNITY BUS

Affordable · Flexible · Community-run

NEED TRANSPORT FOR YOUR GROUP?

The Cockatoo Community Bus is available for local residents, clubs, schools and community groups needing reliable self-drive transport.

PERFECT FOR

- Community groups
- Church outings
- School activities
- Social clubs
- Family events
- Day trips and local excursions

WHY USE OUR BUS?

- ✔ Self-drive convenience
- ✔ Comfortable 12-seat capacity
- ✔ Affordable community model
- ✔ Supports local connection and independence

COMMUNITY FOCUSED

By the community, for the community. The bus operates on a set donation basis to help keep transport affordable and available for local groups.

Your donation contributes to fuel, servicing and maintenance so the bus can continue supporting the community.

A security deposit applies and is returned where there are no unexpected expenses.

Duration of Usage	Minimum Donation*	Security Deposit
4 Hours	$50.00	$1,000
8 Hours	$90.00	$1,000
24 Hours	$130.00	$1,000
48 Hours	$250.00	$1,000

BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES

Email: bookings@ccb3.com.au

Phone: 0493 646 318

1st Cockatoo Scout Group







Friends of Lake Emerald Park

Damage to our Lake Precinct. At the Thursday working bee in September, we made a disappointing discovery in the native revegetation area below Superman Corner. A large section of the area that had been cleared late last year and replanted in autumn this year has been destroyed by e-dirt bike riders building a racing track. A track has been ploughed through the cleared area, plants and tree guards destroyed and the zone wrecked. A second area on the same slope but closer towards the Packing Shed has been damaged in the same way. The photos show only a small part of the damage.

We are reporting the damage to the Council and Neighbourhood Watch. If you see this happening as you walk through the Lake zone, please report to Council immediately.





Working bees Sat. Oct 3. Meet 9am at Lakeside carpark. We will tackle sycamore maple and other weed growth along the Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail.
Sun Oct 11 Meet 9am at Lakeside carpark. We will tackle sycamore maple and other weed growth along Wishing Well Track.
Thu Oct 8. Not the usual 3rd Thu. Meet 9am at the Packing Shed in the Nobelius Heritage Park. Staff from a local corporate group who helped with the original planting will join us. We will tackle the damage done by the dirt bikers in the area mentioned above.
Annual General Meeting Sat Nov 7 at 10.30am at the end of a shortened Sat working bee. With reasonable weather the meeting will be at Lakeside picnic shelter near the Lakeside carpark.
We ask all members attend; the meeting documents will be emailed before the meeting.
We welcome anyone interested in the work of the group. You will need to be a member to vote but can join on the day.
If you are not yet a member but plan to attend, please email us at friendsofemeraldlakepark@gmail.com we can send you the agenda and other useful documents. friendsofemeraldlakepark@gmail.com. www.felp.com.au



Pakenham Probus members visiting the Emerald Museum

The Dancer, Gulsen Ozer - finalist in the Portia Geach Portrait prize for women artists



I am thrilled that my portrait, The Dancer, Gulsen Ozer is a finalist in the Portia Geach Portrait prize for women artists opening Friday 18th September at the S H Ervin Gallery, Sydney, running through November 1.

Like the criteria for the Archibald Prize, the subject needs to be from the Arts and culture, Science, politics etc.

I have been a finalist before, some time ago. Perhaps my greatest satisfaction comes from the wide range of themes for Awards in which I have been a finalist. These range from landscape to figure and contemporary still life subjects.
It is expensive, however to have works couriered interstate.
Sue Jarvis

3781 Needlework Project

Join the 3781 Needlework Project

Do you enjoy needlework and feel like joining a friendly local project?



A group of local needleworkers is creating a special piece featuring houses and landmarks from Nangana, Cockatoo, Fielder and Mt Burnett. It is a lovely opportunity to meet others, contribute to a community project and enjoy a relaxed afternoon of stitching.

The group meets fortnightly at the Cockatoo Over 50s Centre at Alma Treloar Reserve.

October meeting dates: 7th & 21st
1.00 pm to 3.00 pm

New participants are very welcome.

For more information, contact Dot on 0400 070 197







Alabaster Church – Hills All Welcome

You're invited to be part of an exciting new church (reaching Monbulk, Emerald, and into Gembrook). We are actively seeking men and women of all ages who are committed to being a lifelong follower of Jesus Christ and to discovering their God-given purpose, along with others who are on the same journey.

Where: Hills Hub, 400a Belgrave – Gembrook Rd, Emerald
Meeting times
- **Connect Group**: 10:00 am Sunday, Sept 6th and Sept 20th
- **Weekly Prayer Meeting**: 10:00 am each Tuesday
- **Worship Night**: 6:30 food and 7:00 pm start, Upstairs Training Room Wednesday 9th Sept and Thursday 24th Sept
- **Main Service/Interest Meeting**: 4:00 pm, Sunday 27th Sept

Celebrating the victory of the Cross of Christ through praise, worship and intercession!

Ps Paul Magno – mob: 0412 155 326;
Ps Phil Cogger 0412 492 889 Web: alabaster.org.au

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

Emerald RSL

Congratulations Emerald RSL members!
Congratulations to Monbulk District Volunteer Award recipients:
Peter Maloney, Daryl Bristowe, Chris May OAM.

Congratulations to CFA / Emerald Fire Brigade award recipients:
Graeme Legge AM 75 Year CFA Life Member Medal
Ian Woodhouse 4th Clasp National Medal
Trevor Ireland 50 Year CFA Life Member Medal, Emerald Fire Brigade Life Member Medal & 3rd Clasp National Medal.

Your dedication is greatly appreciated and your outstanding contributions to our communities is amazing!

Live music

- Sunday Sippers with Des Jones singing the hits of Elvis, Buddy Holly, The Beatles, and more!

Sunday 11th October
Doors open 1.30, music from 2-5pm
Entry $5 each

- Lipstick Grenade playing rock & grunge hits from the 90's & 00's

Friday 16th October Doors open 7pm, band starts at 7.30pm. General entry $20, Emerald RSL members $15 each

Halloween
Sat Oct 31st 2026 - Join us for a spooktacular evening of trick-or-treat fun! Our Clubrooms and bar will be open from 5pm to 10pm. Come dressed to impress and ready for a good time! Best dressed costume competitions 7 – 7.30pm! Enjoy Fielderberry Farm ice-creams and waffles & Twista Family potato twists in our carpark area!

Remembrance Day Emerald RSL's Remembrance Day service will be held at the town centre Cenotaph (outside the Commonwealth Bank) on Wed 11th November, at 10.30am.
What is Remembrance Day?
Every year on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, we pause to remember those who died in global conflicts all over the world. To mark the moment in 1918 when the guns of the Western Front fell silent, ending World War I. A minute's silence at 11am, and it is customary to wear a red poppy as a symbol of remembrance.

Please join us as we remember. Lest we forget.

Poppy Appeal The Poppy Appeal is an annual fundraising campaign that has been running for over 100 years, organized by RSL Australia. It is held in the lead-up to Remembrance Day, honouring the service and sacrifice of Australian veterans. The funds raised through the appeal are crucial for providing support to veterans and their families, including mental health services, financial assistance, and community programs.

Keep an eye out around town and say g'day to our dedicated volunteers as they decorate our town with poppies, and when they're selling Poppy Appeal merchandise.

Our website is www.emeraldrsl.com.au and our Facebook page is Emerald RSL Sub-Branch Inc.
Our clubrooms and bar are open for patronage Tuesdays 5 – 7pm and Thursdays 5 – 10pm, everyone welcome!
Tanya Jogan
secretary@emeraldrsl.com.au
Emerald RSL Sub-branch Inc.





Wreath Making Night

Tuesday 10th November

from 5 to 7pm

Bring a flower, stem, sprig or gumnuts – any fresh, dried or handmade pieces are welcome!





Together we will make a beautiful and meaningful wreath that will be laid at our Remembrance Day Service, Wednesday November 11th

Feel free to ask Tanya if you have any questions



Gembrook RSL

Gembrook RSL is open Every Friday from 4pm till late!

Join us on Friday 9th October for a special night at the Sub-Branch. Veteran Mel will be sharing her story about taking part in Running for Autism this October.

We're also hosting Bev's Wacky Auction with the theme "Communication" — every dollar raised will be donated to this great cause.

Don't forget our Meat & Veg Raffle — 3 tickets for $5! Plus enjoy our famous PotLuck meals, home-cooked by our wonderful members.

Come along, meet our veterans and friends, share a meal, be part of our community. Everyone is welcome

President Nev Bryant

Monday Night Bingo

- 6.45 pm Doors open
- $3 per book (15 games per session, 2 Sessions)
- Raffles $2 per ticket (all prizes donated)
- 7.30pm Eyes down first session (15 games)
- 8.30pm First session ends
- 8.40pm short break and raffle draw
- 8.45pm Eyes down Second session (15 games)
- 9.30pm Second session ends

Come along and support both clubs for a fun night out





Cockatoo RSL

OCTOBER



- Fri 2nd Karaoke
- Sat 3rd Open
- Sun 4th Live music
- Fri 9th UNO
- Sat 10th Poker



- Sun 11th Open mic
- Fri 16th DJ night, theme Hippie
- Sat 17th Pool comp Sun 18th live music
- Fri 23rd Darts comp
- Sat 24th Trivia night



- Sun 25th Live music
- Fri 30th Doubles pool,
- Sat 31st Halloween Karaoke
- Sun 1st Nov Live music

We are a collection point for your eligible container returns, did you know that for every 10cents you receive, the RSL receives an additional 5cents per container

Open 6pm-midnight Fri and Sat nights.
Kitchen opens 6.30pm
Open 12.30-6pm Sunday.
Live music every Sunday 1.30 - 5.30pm. kitchen 1.30 - 5pm

41

Carol Thompson, President









Flaura & Fauna Feature
Pauline White

Healesville Sanctuary

Most people will know me as a bird photographer after previous articles in the newsletter, but I also love photographing all types of wildlife and nature.

These shots were mostly taken at Healesville sanctuary, the dingoes were at Melbourne zoo. Tasmanian devils are particularly challenging to photograph, as they move very quickly, zooming around their enclosure.

On my last trip, I was lucky enough to see a koala that was awake and munching on leaves, they are normally snoozing and curled up in a ball. Healesville Sanctuary is a great place to practice nature photography, especially the wetland area, as there are many species of birds that you don't see in many places in Victoria, including a Black necked stork (formally Jabiru) and a blue winged kookaburra, normally found up north.

For anyone who hasn't seen it, there is a birds in flight show, called Spirits of the Sky, at 12pm and 3pm. It features native birds, including a Black breasted buzzard, Barking owl, and various parrots. It is well worth a look if you are going to the sanctuary.

Pauline White















Properties for Sale from sponsors of Emerald Village Association

firstnational REAL ESTATE | Ranges

Current Properties:

- 1-3 Nobelius Street, Emerald
- 45 Kilvington Drive, Emerald
- 6 Durban Road, Emerald
- 3 Bower Court, Emerald
- 171a Stewart Road, Emerald
- 225 Belgrave-Gembrook Road, Emerald
- 10 Victor Road, Clematis
- 8 Kennedy Road, Avonsleigh
- 475 Belgrave-Gembrook Road, Avonsleigh
- 8 Cherry Road, Avonsleigh
- 11 Cherry Road, Macclesfield
- 6 Rainy Hill Road, Cockatoo
- 335 Evans Road, Cockatoo
- 10 Caroline Avenue, Cockatoo
- 50 Bedford Road, Cockatoo
- 6/13 Vista Court, Gembrook
- 2/17 Station Road, Gembrook
- 2780 Gembrook-Launching Place Road, Gembrook

BARRYPLANT EMERALD 5968 4522



- 191 Spillers Road, Macclesfield
- 435 TsChampions Road, Macclesfield
- 433-437 Bel Gem Road, Emerald
- 68 Beaconsfield Emerald Road Emerald
- 3 Grandview Avenue, Emerald
- 26 Pinnocks Road, Emerald
- 291-295 Belgrave Gembrook Road, Emerald
- 289 Belgrave Gembrook Road, Emerald
- 81 Jardine Road, Macclesfield
- 3 Ladd Square, Emerald

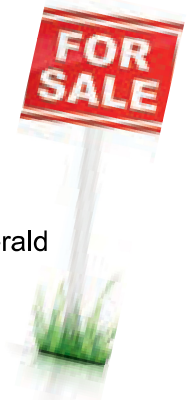
BELL REAL ESTATE

Commercial

- JL Automatics – 13 Kilvington Drive, Emerald
- Gembrook Cottages – 91 Main Street, Gembrook

Residential

- 12 Arthur Road, Cockatoo
- 180 Evans Road, Cockatoo
- 250 Phillip Road, Cockatoo
- 751 Woori Yallock Road, Cockatoo
- 14 Agnes Street, Gembrook
- 70 Warwick Road, Gembrook
- 1 Ladd Square, Emerald
- 189 Swales Road, Macclesfield
- 80 Jardine Road, Macclesfield
- 8 Cherry Road, Avonsleigh
-



Land

- 47 Pakenham Road, Cockatoo
- 36 Seaview Road, Cockatoo
- Lot 3 Amphlett Ave, Cockatoo
- 13 Outlook Road, Emerald
- 70 Beaconsfield-Emerald Road, Emerald
- 3 Sunnyside Terrace, Emerald
- 7 Brookdale Road, Emerald
- 33 Selby–Aura Road, Menzies Creek
- 2 Russell Road, Gembrook
- 14 Blackwood Lane. Gembrook

Rotary Club of Emerald & District's Golden Hour Cafe

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



https://www.emeraldrotary.org.au/page/rotary-golden-hour-cafe

An affiliate of UMBRELLA Dementia Cafés

Rotary Emerald and District



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

Olinka Edwards,
Deputy Controller Community Engagement.
Emerald SES

SES

Outlook
an inclusive society for all

Provide First Aid - HLTAID011

Be prepared for any medical emergency

This is the standard first aid certificate required by most Australian workplaces. Acquire the knowledge and practical skills to step up, take control, and save a life when an injury or illness occurs.

You will gain: skills in CPR & AED, trauma & injury care, medical emergency response including how to spot the signs of and manage asthma attacks, anaphylaxis, choking, and strokes, and also scene management by mastering the DRSABCD plan to keep yourself safe while managing a crisis. Includes CPR.

Saturday 31 October OR
Wednesday 18 November
9.30am - 11.30am Cost: $150

Provide Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation - HLTAID009

Learn the ultimate lifesaving skill

Gain the confidence and hands-on training to rescue someone in sudden cardiac arrest. Designed for workplaces, community members, and volunteers.

You will gain: skills in the DRSABCD protocol by learning the exact action plan used by professionals to manage medical emergencies, hands-on CPR, AED training and real-world scenarios.

Saturday 31 October OR
Wednesday 18 November
9.30am - 10.10am Cost: $70

Mixed Media Art

NEW

Join local artist Leanne Beyer (www.cheekybirdartstudio.com.au)

Explore the beautiful possibilities of combining watercolour with drawing mediums in this relaxed and creative class. Experiment with line, texture, colour and layering as you discover how different materials can work together to create unique artworks.

Wednesdays commencing
14 October for 8 sessions
1pm - 3pm Cost: $110
Centre will provide materals list

Caravanning for Newbies

Interested in getting into caravanning or just bought a van and have a lot of questions?

The topics covered could save you time, making your holidaying easier and more enjoyable. Learn about trying before you buy, the different types of caravans, and the pros and cons of buying new versus used.

Discover what to look for in a tow vehicle, tips for towing on the open road, and essential modifications, accessories and tools. You'll also learn what to take with you, how to reverse a caravan, and tips for packing up and setting up.

The session also covers caravan maintenance and storage, along with planning your holiday so you can travel with greater confidence.

Tuesday 27 October
6pm - 9pm Cost: FREE
BYO USB stick

Acrylic Painting

Join local artist Criss Chaney (www.crisschaney.com)

Learn how to mix vibrant, harmonious colours and create depth through layering. Each week builds on the last – from monochrome studies and colour harmony exercises, to your own multi-layered final piece. This class offers a supportive space to experiment, learn and grow.

Fridays commencing
23 October for 5 sessions
12.45pm - 2.45pm Cost: $130
Centre will provide materals list

Get your Boat and Jet Ski Licence

Training provided by Australian Boating College

No pre-study required. Complete your in-class course and test on the same day. Course covers Victorian marine regulations, collision avoidance rules, safety equipment regulations, buoyage system and reading the weather. Present your certificate to Vic Roads to purchase your licence. No further testing is required at VicRoads.

Choose one session Cost: $150

Tuesday: 5.30pm - 9pm
22 December

Wednesday: 5.30pm - 9pm
7 October OR 21 October, 4 OR 25 November, 9 December

Saturday: 8.30am - 12pm
10 OR 24 October, 14 OR 28 November, 12 December

Aged Care Information Session

You are invited to attend an informative session hosted by Mentis Assist - Care Finder Program,

You will learn about: how to register for aged care services, the assessment process for aged care services, the various funding options available to help you continue living at home and the Care Finder Program – who is eligible and the support it offers

Wednesday 11 November
10.30am - 11.30am Cost: FREE

mentis

Smartphone Basics

Would you like to feel more confident using a smartphone?

This friendly, practical course will help you make the most of your phone at a comfortable pace. Learn everyday skills including calls, messages, photos, email, internet browsing, video calls, maps and apps. Designed specifically for seniors, sessions include clear explanations, patient guidance and hands-on practice. No previous experience is required, and there are no silly questions!

Cost: $10

Apple Phones
Thursdays commencing
22 October for 2 sessions
9.30am - 11.30am

Android Phones
Thursdays commencing
12 November for 2 sessions
1pm - 3pm

Christmas Table Centrepieces

NEW

Celebrate the festive season by creating a beautiful Christmas-inspired table centrepiece using fresh flowers, foliage and natural decorative elements. Participants will learn how to design a low arrangement suitable for entertaining, incorporating seasonal textures, berries, seed pods, pine cones and festive foliage.

All participants BYO: low bowl or decorative container, secateurs, gloves and apron.

Friday 11 December, 10am - 12pm
Cost: $30 BYO flowers & foliage OR $80 flowers & foliage supplied - we supply seasonal flowers, foliage and decorative natural elements will be provided

Supported Classes

www.outlookaust.org.au/event-category/supported-classes/

These programs are specifically designed for people with an intellectual disability to learn practical life skills while developing confidence and social skills in a supportive group.

iPads

Improve your understanding of technology

Expand your understanding, skills and use of different programs using digital devices.

Mondays commencing
5 October for 7 sessions
(No session 2 November)
10am - 1pm Cost: $35
Location: Foundation Learning
4A Malcolm Crt, Narre Warren

Literacy and Numeracy in the Kitchen

This course focuses on numeracy and literacy skills needed in the kitchen

Engage in a variety of hands-on cooking activities which can assist with everyday life skills. Eat afterwards with class.

Thursdays commencing
8 October for 9 sessions
10.30am - 1.30pm Cost: $35 plus $63 for ingredients
Location: Outlook Community Centre

Life Skills for People with a Disability

Improve your social skills and health/wellbeing. Activities will also focus on building literacy and numeracy for everyday life.

Wednesdays commencing
7 October for 11 sessions
10am - 2pm Cost: $35
Location: Foundation Learning
4A Malcolm Crt, Narre Warren

Creative Ability (Art)

Express yourself through art

For individuals with additional learning needs, this supportive class uses creativity to build essential skills. Learn diverse mediums while fostering basic literacy, communication, and social skills. Boost resilience, confidence, and express your unique imagination in a fun environment.

Tuesdays commencing
6 October for 9 sessions
(No session 3 November)
11am - 2pm Cost: $35 plus $90 materials
Location: Outlook Community Centre

www.outlookaust.org.au/event-category/computer-training/

Microsoft Office - Intermediate

Get more from Microsoft Office with practical skills you can use every day

Take your Microsoft Office skills further with practical tips for Excel, Word, Outlook, PowerPoint and more. Explore useful features across desktop and web versions using real-world examples. Ideal for people with some experience or those who completed the beginners course.

BYO USB stick. Includes course notes.

At Outlook Community Centre
Fridays commencing
16 October for 8 sessions
9.30am - 12.30pm Cost: $45
OR
At Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Centre - phone 03 8768 4400
Mondays commencing
19 October for 8 sessions
9.30am - 12.30pm Cost: $45

Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence is reshaping our world and is the way of the future

Learn to navigate AI with a balanced approach through real life examples that show how to use it to your advantage, while becoming aware of its flaws and the risks that come with this emerging technology.

Thursdays commencing
12 November for 4 sessions
9.30am - 12.30pm Cost: $25

Get Tech Savvy - with Edie

Keep up to date with the digital world

Ask your questions about computing technology which frustrate or make you curious. As we learn from each other, these sessions are for beginners or those with some experience. Includes computers, phones and tablets.

Use your own iPads and computers or use ours.

Tuesdays commencing
6 October for 8 sessions
(No session 3 November)
10am - 12pm Cost: FREE
Supported by Be Connected

Be Connected

Introduction to Artificial Intelligence for Seniors

Curious About AI?

Join us for a relaxed introduction to artificial intelligence (AI). No technical experience needed – we'll explore practical tools, ask questions, and see how AI can help with everyday tasks, hobbies, learning, and staying connected.

Monday 26 October
10am - 12pm Cost: FREE
Location: Pakenham Library

HOW TO ENROL IN A PROGRAM

In Person: 24 Toomuc Valley Road, Pakenham
Online: www.outlookaust.org.au/events/
Telephone: 1300 617 649 (select option 2)
Email: communitycentre@outlookaust.org.au
Payment: Cash, cheque, EFTPOS, card - online, phone in person.











Sudoku

Rules: Fill a 9 × 9 grid with numbers from 1 to 9 so that each row, column, and 3 × 3 box contains every number exactly once. Solution in this edition.

9	2	1		5		3	4	
	5			3				
6		3		2	4			9
	3		4			8		1
8								5
	9			8			7	
3			7			2		6
							45	
	8		1		3		5	7



Join us for a physiotherapist-led, chair-based exercise session. Enjoy 1 hour of gentle movement, followed by tea, coffee, and a friendly chat, hosted by Care Connect.

Care Connect is your local, not-for-profit in-home care provider. We're here to make life easier for our clients by connecting them with the care they need to live the life they love.

Fernlea Community House

Thursday 22nd October 2026 | 10:00am

Bookings are essential:
To secure your place,
visit https://www.trybooking.com/DNOIK
call 1800 940 633, or scan the QR code

careconnect.org.au

Neighbourhood Watch
Let's watch out for each other



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

Cardinia

You're invited to attend

NHW Eastern Ranges Meeting Cockatoo

Where:
AWBEC
Cnr McBride St & Pakenham Road
All welcome!

Tuesday 13 October 6.30 pm

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

Neighbourhood Watch
Let's watch out for each other
Eastern Ranges
PROUD TO TAKE PRIDE

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

1st Cockatoo Scout Group

With Christmas closing in, we have launched our pre-ordering & pre-payment of Christmas Trees, one less thing to stress over at the busiest time of the year.
$100.00 a tree.

Free delivery to 3781, 3782 & 3783.
Trees available from 28th Nov 26
Just scan the QR code to order.

1stcockatoo@gmail.com
Group Leader –
gl.1stcockatoo@scoutsvictoria.com.au





CARDINIA SHIRE COUNCIL

Volunteer Training Workshops

Connected Communities

Upcoming Volunteer Training sessions.
Book a place via our website at Volunteer Training Calendar or email us at connectedcommunities@cardinia.vic.gov.au

Volunteer Learning Bytes

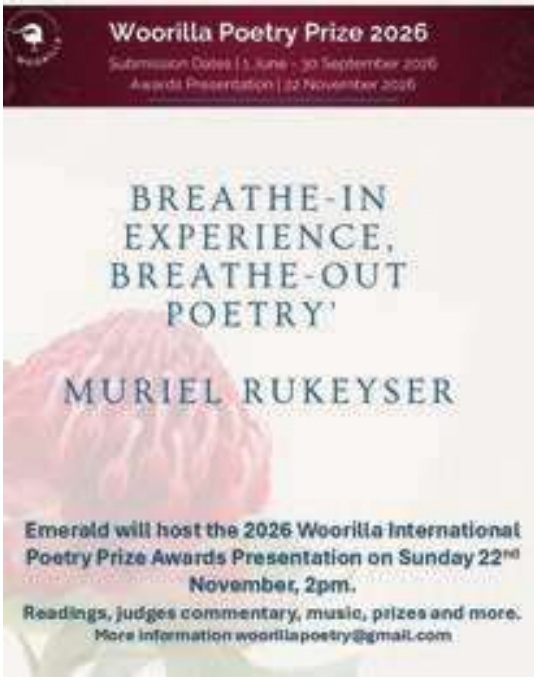
Did you know that Council offers a suite of free online training modules for volunteers?

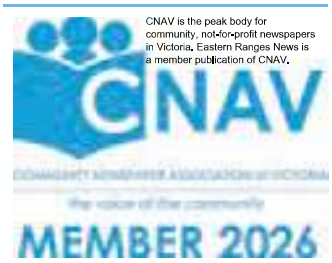
These learning modules equip volunteers with key skills to enhance their community impact.
Topics include: Conflict of Interest, Financial Records, Successful Meetings, Contractor Management, Difficult Conversations, and Governance &Risk Management.

For more information visit:
cardinia.vic.gov.au/volunteering

Family Violence & Bystander

This training will provide volunteers with a supportive introduction to understanding family violence, including what it can look like and the many different forms it can take.
It will help volunteers build the knowledge, confidence and skills to recognise family violence, respond safely and respectfully, and understand how to connect people with appropriate support services.
When: Wed, 25 November 2026
Time: 7pm - 8:30pm
Location: Council Chambers, Cardinia Shire Council Civic Centre, 20 Siding Ave Officer or Online-Microsoft Teams











Supported by
Cardinia Shire Council

Cardinia

CARDINIA SHIRE COUNCIL
Report issues relating to
Council services that
require attention.
mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au

The EVA acknowledges the financial support of the Cardinia Shire Council in making the publication of Eastern Ranges News possible.

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

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Leanne Terrington: bushbabieswildlifeshelter@yahoo.com

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- **Full Page - $300**
- **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: president@emeraldvillage.org.au

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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.



Neighbourhood Watch - Eastern Ranges

1 Say hi A friendly hello builds connection, connected streets are safer streets.

2 Do what you can
Lock up every time – Report suspicious behaviour – Improve lighting and visibility at home – Keep an eye out when neighbours are home and away

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
@nhwvic
FIND OUT MORE

Subscribe now

GET "Eastern Ranges NEWS" IN FULL COLOUR STRAIGHT TO YOUR INBOX

emeraldvillage.org.au

Our thanks Paul Bianco and the Hills Photographic Society for photographs of committee members throughout Eastern Ranges News

Thank you

PRINTING ENQUIRIES



EVA offers printing services to local organisations
A4 colour - 25 cents; A4 mono - 5 cents
A3 colour - 40 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.