

EASTERN RANGES NEWS

September 2026

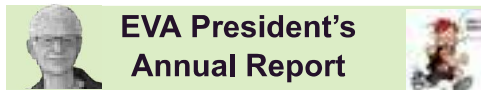
Issue 3



A community led newsletter published by EVA Inc.

Gembrook Cockatoo 2026 Veterans Premiers – Back to Back





EVA President's Annual Report

Another eventful year for EVA. I can report that your EVA committee has been very active in all aspects of its mandate to represent the interests of the residents - planning, resilience, communications and its ongoing relationship with the Cardinia Shire Council.

Here, briefly, is a list of some of the highlights of the last 12 months:

- EVA hosted a meeting attended by the then CEO of Cardinia, Carol Jeffs. The residents of Ambrose, William and Station Streets attended to express their concern re storm damage to the streets. This resulted in a satisfactory council response.
- Heather Bishop led a Hills-wide team to assemble 1500 Resilience & Emergency Management kits. These were distributed to all local primary school families in the Hills region.
- As part of a project led by Fiona Sewell, Recovery Ready Communities Inc. Heather also completed an Emergency Recovery Plan for EVA, for inclusion in the ESEPG Disaster Recovery Plan and the Cardinia Municipal Relief & Recovery Sub Plan matrix.
- EVA's initiative to establish a Neighbourhood Watch - Eastern Ranges program has been an outstanding success, solidifying our relationship with VicPol in the Hills corridor.
- Our Emerald News spread its wings to embrace the whole Hills corridor after the Cockatoo based Hills News had to cease operations due to Brett Barker's illness. The new Eastern Ranges News hit the streets in July and is now accepted as the "Voice of the Hills".
- We embraced David Nickell's initiative to hold a joint meeting of our 3 townships with the CEO of Cardinia, James Collins. It was a great success and the prelude to more joint meetings into the future.
- A little over 12 months ago EVA established a business relationship with Online Lifestyle, a local business that assisted EVA with a new website and social media presence. It has been an excellent team relationship and continues to blossom.
- Dona Martin and I attended the CNAV annual conference in Ballarat last October. An excellent learning experience. We even presented to the 50 delegates our ideas on including humor into their monthly newsletters. We know our cartoons are looked forward to by many readers.
- Our membership has stabilized over the last few months at 227.
- We purchased a new photocopier to print our newsletter and appreciated the financial assistance of the Bendigo Bank and the Emerald Co-Op.
- We had some movement in our Committee during the year. Our Treasurer, Julie Buxton, moved on to try for a seat in Parliament at the November elections. Non Blair and Pat Buoncristiani also needed to focus on other community activities. At the recent AGM, we farewelled our Secretary, Heather Bishop and Chair of Planning, Trevor Budge. Heather has been an outstanding contributor to our EVA and her input will be missed. Similarly, Trevor Budge has made a huge impact on our standing with Council with his knowledge of local government issues. He will be sorely missed.
- EVA financial management took a step up as we now use the well known accounting package - Xero. We thank local bookkeeping firm, In Your Business, for their assistance in making this happen.
- EVA acknowledges the support of all the 50 sponsors of our Newsletter. We could not have achieved our outstanding Newsletter without them.
- We acknowledge the work of Paul Keen, CRAG21 in the Sealing of the Hills initiative. Paul managed to get over 2000 signatures on a petition to the Victorian Government. Fingers crossed.

- Over the past 12 months it has been a pleasure to work with our local Councillor, David Nickell. David has been totally supportive of all EVA activities and it is noted we have similar views on the development of the Hills Corridor.
- EVA initiated the nomination of Non Blair for the Cardinia Stan Henwood Volunteer Award. This award is the top gong in Cardinia. We are very proud of Non receiving this award and her contribution to the Emerald community.
- Over many years, EVA has pushed for an update of the Emerald Town Strategy Plan. The last one was in 2009. Early this year Cardinia commissioned urban design company, Hello City, to undertake an identity survey of the needs of Emerald. This was done and is a precursor to the new Township Strategy Plan.
- EVA was successful in receiving a grant for the purchase of a laptop computer for our Secretary.

2025-26 has been an eventful year for EVA. We have achieved most of the goals we set out to do 12 months ago. I thank our committee for their support and hard work especially our outgoing Secretary, Heather Bishop, who has made an extraordinary contribution to EVA administration.



Heather Bishop



Trevor Budge

EVA AGM

The EVA AGM was held on Wednesday 26th August.

WE welcome on board, Yvette Hayes as Secretary, John Wall as Chair of the Planning Committee, Russell Simpson (Arts) and Kara Montoneri.

Peter Maloney
President EVA

ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION
2026

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EMERALD
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

An Initiative of the Emerald Village Committee

YOU'RE INVITED

**Nominations are open
for
Emerald
Citizen of the Year,
Young Citizen of the Year,
Group of the Year,
Event of the Year**

*Celebrate those
that make a difference*

WE INVITE YOU TO NOMINATE
Outstanding individuals who
strengthen our 3782 community.

Nominate:

CLICK HERE

Enquiries: Peter Maloney 0439 112 204
president@emeraldvillage.org.au
Ray Spencer 0418 569 735
ray.spencer151@gmail.com
<https://emeraldvillage.org.au/awards/>



**David Nickell - Ranges
Ward Councillor -
Cardinia Shire Council**

The first round of community consultation for our long awaited Green Wedge Management Plan kicks off in September. The lack of a Green Wedge Management Plan for our Hills communities is one of the key issues that led me to stand for Council. Without a plan for the future that community has helped create, we risk losing both the very things about the places we live that we value the most, but also missing out on opportunities for positive change and investment where we need it.

Green wedge management plans provide a framework for their sustainable use and development now and into the future – and I'm pleased to report work on a Plan for the Hills is now well underway.

Council is hosting a series of drop-in sessions where community members can speak with staff about the Green Wedge Management Plan and ask questions about the project.

Sessions will be held at the following times and locations (note highlighted times for Hills communities)...

Tuesday 1st September – 6pm to 8pm
Garfield North Community Centre
Tuesday 8th September – 5.30pm to 6.30pm
Gembrook Community Centre
Monday 14th September – 6pm to 8pm
Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Centre
Tuesday 15th September – 2pm to 4pm
Hills Hub Emerald

Each green wedge management plan identifies:

- Environmental and natural resources
- Values and features including Aboriginal cultural heritage that should be protected.
- Preferred future land use
- Type, scale and form of change in the green wedge
- How those changes will be managed and facilitated.

Topics to be looked at include agricultural uses, forestry and aquaculture, tourism and recreation, built and natural heritage, infrastructure sites and renewable and non-renewable resources.

You may live in the actual Green Wedge area yourself, or you may live in one of the townships surrounded by the Green Wedge – but your inputs and insights into what you value about the open areas surrounding the towns in our home District are critical to shape and inform early thinking about the Green Wedge Management Plan.

Please pick one of the dates and times above and get to a session, to make sure the Eastern Dandenong Ranges are well represented and let's build a plan for the future we can all get behind.

For more details, please see the Creating Cardinia website here...
[Green Wedge Management Plans 2026 | Creating Cardinia](#)

Regards, David

Cr David Nickell | Ranges Ward |
Cardinia Shire Council
Phone: 0428 630 155 | Web:
cardinia.vic.gov.au
PO Box 7 Pakenham 3810 | Customer
Service: 1300 787 624



Our Green Wedge Plan

Green Wedges play a critical role in protecting rural landscapes, supporting agriculture and local industries, recognising Traditional Owner connections to Country and ensuring these areas continue to contribute to the health and wellbeing and sustainable outcomes for current and future generations.

Council is preparing Green Wedge Management Plans for the Yarra, Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges, and Southern Ranges regions. In Cardinia Shire, the Yarra, Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Green Wedge region includes land in:

- Avonsleigh
- Clematis
- Cockatoo
- Emerald
- Gembrook
- Mount Burnett
- Nangana

With more areas in the Southern Ranges Green Wedge region.

Each plan responds to the unique features and functions of these green wedge areas, including their agricultural uses, forestry and aquaculture, tourism and recreation, built and natural heritage, infrastructure sites and renewable and non-renewable resources.

To learn more and share your thoughts, community members are encouraged to attending for one of four upcoming drop-in sessions.

Registration is not required.

The feedback gathered during this initial stage of engagement will inform the development of the Draft Green Wedge Management Plans. Further community consultation will be undertaken in 2027.

To learn more and get involved please visit: [Creating Cardinia](#)



Planning, Tourism & Environment Sub-Committee AGM Report

The Committee focused on several strategic matters.

The need for a new Township Strategy – a campaign that EVA has pursued over the last 4 years including in submissions to the Council budget. We are grateful that Cr Nickel has pursued this matter and secured funding. The Council has commenced a strong community consultation process – a method we have advocated. EVA continues to lobby for a fully open consultative process.

The need for a Green Wedge Management Plan. Again, we are grateful that Cr Nickel has secured funding, and this has now commenced. The first round of public consultation commences next month.

Allocation of dedicated funds for the Emerald Lake Precinct Masterplan implementation and the Puffing Billy Playground Design.

We continue to advocate a consultative program to allocate funds (that have been earmarked by Council since 2019) to widely supported initiatives that have gone through an open consultative approach.

Submission on Council's proposed new Bicycle and Pedestrian Strategy – it is understood that this matter is on Council's Meeting September Agenda

Strong support for the initiative of an Eastern Ranges Hills Communities approach. The EVA recognises that common issues and problems need coordinated advocacy approaches. e.g. strategic road sealing and drainage works, emergency management and coordination, energy and climate resilience, green wedge planning, road safety, improved public transport, township strategies and delivering the Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail as Australia's first walking and cycling, heritage / arts / environment trail with an operating tourist railway.

The EVA has agreed an 11-point plan of action priorities – in summary

1. Coordinated approach between the communities in the Hills corridor
2. New Corridor Township Strategies
3. A Traffic Management Plan for Main Road – Emerald and Madigan Way –
4. Community input to the draft Puffing Billy Park Design,
5. Increased Resources for targeted Roads/Drainage Repairs, New Sealing and Maintenance
6. A Hills Corridor Sustainable Tourism Management Plan
7. Progressive Implementation of the Emerald Lake Precinct Master Plan –
8. Upgrading, presentation improvements, improved maintenance and completion of the Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail
9. A priority list of minor works in and around the Town Centre
10. A designated local business park(s) in the corridor
11. Opportunities to downsize and age in community.



www.rangesfn.com.au
1660 Burwood Hwy, BELGRAVE
Shop 2/24 McBride St, COCKATOO

THANK YOU
THANK YOU



Thank you to all EVA members who have assisted with and been part of the Sub-Committee work over the last year.

This will be my last report as I am stepping down as the Chair. John Wall has kindly agreed to take on the role, and I know he will continue the work of the Sub-Committee

Trevor Budge

TREVOR



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Emerald Museum

Groups at the Museum The Museum has had a busy month with visits from different community groups.

The Maroondah Walkers called in towards the end of their hiking trip from Avonsleigh. The weather was atrocious, but this group always walks regardless of the weather. They welcomed the warmth of the Museum interior and the opportunity to find out more about the area they had been walking through.

A group from **Salisbury House** in Upper Beaconsfield also visited. They enjoyed seeing objects and equipment that they could remember from their childhood. One of the visitors was very pleased to recognize one of the Museum exhibits – a stump puller which he and his wife had donated to the Museum more than twenty years ago. It had belonged to his father-in-law.

Most recently, **Pakenham Probus** visited. One of this group recalled that their forebears had had an apple orchard stocked with trees which they believed had been sourced from the Nobelius Nursery. We are waiting for more information so that we can research that story. It's always interesting to find out where trees from the Nursery took root.



Pakenham Probus group

For only \$10.00 per head, visiting groups receive a scrumptious morning tea and a talk about the history of Emerald and the local district which is followed by a tour of the Museum with volunteers available to answer questions and point out favorite exhibits. A guided tour of the Nobelius Heritage Park can also be arranged.

If you would like to find out more about a group visit to the Museum, you can contact us on Facebook or our website or drop in to have a chat during our usual opening hours. Wed 10.00-3.00 and Sun 12.00-3.00.



Anne Carter
Emerald Museum



Neighbourhood Watch

Let's watch out for each other



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Pakenham Probus members visiting the Emerald Museum



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Emerald Fire Brigade would like to sincerely thank the Community Bank Dandenong Ranges, Community Bank Emerald & District and Community Bank Upwey & District for its generous \$10,000 donation to the brigade.

We were incredibly excited to receive this news and can't thank Community Bank Dandenong Ranges enough for the ongoing support they provide not only to our brigade, but to CFA brigades right across the Dandenong Ranges.

Recent donations from Community Bank Dandenong Ranges also include chainsaws, thermal imaging cameras and specialist tools all which allow us to better protect and support our community when it needs us most.

As a 100% volunteer organisation we rely on fundraising and the generosity of our community to purchase new and replacement equipment that allows us to respond safely and effectively to emergencies.



Community Bank Dandenong Ranges is a fantastic supporter of local organisations and community groups, with profits being reinvested back into the communities they serve. Their commitment to strengthening local emergency services makes a real difference, and this donation will help ensure Emerald Fire Brigade can continue providing the highest level of service to our community.

On behalf of all our members, thank you for your continued support and for investing in the safety and resilience of our local community.



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Feeling safe where we live, work and socialise matters to everyone in Cardinia Shire.

That's why encourage residents to make the 9pm Routine part of their daily habits. A quick security check each night can help reduce the risk of theft and make your property less appealing to opportunistic thieves.

We have produced a video that covers:

- the 9pm Routine as a reminder to protect homes and vehicles
- when to call Triple Zero (000)
- how to report non-urgent crime online
- how Crime Stoppers and Neighbourhood Watch support community safety



Click on a photo to watch video



The 9PM routine reinforces that:

- prevention starts with simple daily actions
- reporting matters — every piece of information helps
- community safety is everyone's business

Small actions can make a big difference. By making the 9pm Routine a habit, you're helping protect your home, your belongings and your community.

Together, we can all play a part in creating a safer Cardinia Shire.

This Community Safety Matters: We Act. We Report. video was developed in partnership with

- Victoria Police,
- Crime Stoppers and
- Neighbourhood Watch Eastern Ranges.

You're invited to attend

NHW Eastern Ranges Meeting Upper Beaconsfield

Where:

**Community House
Salisbury Road
Upper Beaconsfield**

All welcome!

Tuesday

8 September

6.30 pm

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



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



HILLZ n TRAILZ Run Coaching

- Group sessions currently Wed 6am at Emerald Library carpark - more sessions based on demand
- Personalised run workout planning from 1 week to 3 months - once off, or with ongoing assessment

Hillz n Trailz Run Coaching is for you if (in no particular order):

- You're new or returning to running track, road, trail or cross country
- You want to boost your running or improve your parkrun time
- You've lost your running mojo or want a challenge
- You need some external motivation or accountability for your running
- You've been inspired or dared to run and don't know where to start
- You want to run anything from 100m to 100km
- You want to increase your activity
- You just want to run, get fit, keep up with the kids, or manage weight
- You enjoy being outdoors and among the trees
- You have an event, fun run, or school sports coming up
- You play or umpire football, soccer, hockey or similar sports
- You've always said you can't run or hate running hillz



- Qualified coach certified with Australian Athletics
- Current junior distance coach at Knox Athletics
- Experienced runner from 5km to ultra-marathon
- Prior coach/committee member/parent at Cockatoo Little Athletics & Cross Country
- Co-founder of Emerald Lake parkrun
- Working With Children certified

- HILLZ n TRAILZ Run Coaching: ABN 45179391294
- Web (QR code above): <https://HILLZnTRAILZ.square.site>
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- Email: HILLZnTRAILZ@gmail.com

**To enquire about run coaching for yourself,
your kids, or your club
Call Phil on 0447 008 770**



Mark Gerencser (co-captain), Shane Harrop (Vice captain), Ben Nobellius (co-captain)

Continued from front page:

GO BROOKERS. BACK 2 BACK.

To come into this Grand Final as underdogs was a bit of a surprise to be honest, after winning last season and finishing in 3rd spot with only percentage separating the top 4 teams this season, with Monbulk on top, we had nothing to lose.

Playing on Monbulk's deck gave them the advantage and we knew they would come out hard, but we had the confidence to fight it out to the end.

Down at quarter time we came into the break, Coach Adam Mitchell asked for a response, with our midfielders; Co Captain Ben Nobellius, James Brown, Kade Yeo & Matt Slattery controlling the clearances with Michael Firrito getting a lot of attention at CHF and Andrew Shipp a huge target at FF, and with good run off HB by Steven Wright & Mick Brown keeping Monbulk at arm's length and answering the challenge.

Leading at the main break, the third quarter was a bit of a stale mate with both teams missing crucial opportunities in front of goal.

A 3 goal to 2 final term sealed the win for us to go Back to Back for the first time in the clubs 120 year history, a special win for all.

It's a real evolution after starting our Vets back in 2018, losing 3 Grand finals in a row, no season in 2024 and now we finally get the rewards.



BOG: A Shipp, Brookers Best: Slattery, Wright, M Brown, Nobellius, Firrito, Bova, Yeo

Goals: A Shipp 4
Slattery, Pye, Yeo, Firrito, Trevorah

They say its just Vets footy, but its more than that.

It means so much to the players for so many reasons than just having a kick or keeping fit, its so important for Men's mental health, to re connect with old mates or get back around the footy club that you maybe used to play at, or you've moved to the area and want to get to know some locals and feel like you belong somewhere.

It's important for the club too, to have good people back around supporting the club, be it as a supporter, sponsor, committee member or former Club President Ross Hubbard, even dads coaching juniors one day then playing vets the next.

The flip side of that is the support then comes back the other way and especially on Sunday, the BROOKER army gave us the lift we needed, so much so it was like we were playing at home.

Bring on 2027

Mark Gerencser

Meet the 2026-27 Emerald Village Association Committee

Front: Dona Martin,
Julia Litera
Centre: Lisa Bloore,
Russell Simpson,
Elaine Spencer,
Yvette Hayes,
Ray Spencer
Back: John Wall,
Kara Montoneri,
Peter Maloney,
George Trojan.

Our thanks Paul Bianco
Hills Photographic Society



BELL REAL ESTATE



Think COMMUNITY Think BELL



For the first time last year, The Lyrebirds organised and hosted our first ever free community concert and it was so much chaotic fun, that we've decided to do it all again this year!

Called "Sing for Unity" our event is run across time zones all over the world to share the hope for peace through the vibration of music.

So, come along to the Hills Hub in Emerald on Sunday the 20th of September at 1.30pm to see performances by: Tune In Group Music, Sweet Sassafras Community Choir, The over the Hills Singers from Emerald U3A, local trio Bella Sorena and The Lyrebirds of course. I will also have the chance for a solo performance of some original music during the afternoon, so the afternoon is set to be fantastic.

More details can be found on The Lyrebirds Facebook page.

Until next time, may there always be a melody on your mind and a song in your heart.

Elise Turnedge



CONTACT US

03 5968 9031
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Alma Treloar Community Complex
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Cockatoo



Every Friday evening we have Cannibal Creek Bread delivered.

Freshly baked just down the road in Garfield, using their 130 year old wood fired oven, you'll love the taste of their "real sourdough" breads and pastries. Available from us every Friday evening, and all day Saturday & Sunday.



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SING FOR UNITY

Sunday 20th September 1:30 - 4:00pm
The Hills Hub, Emerald

FEATURING....

Over The Hills Singers

Afternoon tea provided
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No bookings needed

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**TED KRZYWOKULSKI
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BENEATH THE SURFACE

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.

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Gembrook Market

Every fourth Sunday of the month (except December), the Gembrook Market at the Gembrook Community Centre brings the community and visitors to the region together from 9am to 2pm a mix of food stalls, local crafts, produce, plants, and handmade goods.

Families wander through with coffees, kids explore the stalls, and the whole place has the relaxed feel that makes the Eastern Dandenong Ranges special.

The Market has been running for decades — long enough to become a small tradition in the hills — and it continues to thrive because locals support it, visit it, and volunteer behind the scenes. It's grown into a regular outing for residents from Emerald to Gembrook, offering a chance to support local makers and enjoy a morning in the hills.

Whether you're after fresh bread, a new plant for the garden, or simply a friendly chat, there's always something worth stopping for.

To help keep this long-standing community market going, we're looking for a few new committee members to join the team and offer ideas on how we can continue to improve. If you enjoy local events, value community connection, or simply want to lend a hand, we'd love to hear from you.

It's a simple idea done well — and a good reason to head up the hill on a Sunday. The next market will be on the 27th September



Gembrook Market



2 x AI generated cartoons



the GRUB CLUB

Prepared meals and catering delivered!

NDIS & SoH participants welcome.

WE'RE BACK!

GET 25% OFF FIRST MEAL ORDERS!
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CARDINIA SHIRE YOUTH SERVICES

2026 GOOD CHOICE AWARDS

TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

Do you know an outstanding young person in Cardinia Shire who has shown resilience, kindness and strength?

Nominate them for a Good Choice Award!
go.cardinia.vic.gov.au/goodchoice26

NOMINATIONS CLOSE 7 AUGUST

Cardinia Shire Council acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government



3781 Needlework Project



Our 3781 needlework project is starting to see some more finished buildings.

We are looking at our community and putting together a needlework vision so future generations can enjoy how our town has developed.

If you would like to be involved we meet at the Cockatoo over 50's centre at 1.00 - 3.00 pm every second Wednesday
September dates are 9th & 23rd



**Cockatoo
Country Market
Father's Day**

Saturday 5th September
8:30am to 1:30pm
77 Pakenham Road, Cockatoo

Find the perfect local gift for Dad, Grandad or any top bloke in your world

Father's Day Sun 6th Sep Cockatoo
Country Market Sat 5th Sep is your last opportunity to find something unique and local for your dad, grandad, father-figure or other top bloke in your life.

There will be a huge range of gifts!

Treat yourself to a delicious morning tea and lunch from our food stalls too! Come and support your local stallholders and community groups!



10% OFF[^]

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1 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2026



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**EMERALD CO-OP
MITRE 10**

**EMERALD LAKERS****Play Basketball with the Emerald Lakers This Summer**

Basketball is booming, and local kids can be part of it with the Emerald Lakers Basketball Club.

Registrations are now open for the Summer 2026/27 season, with Lakers teams currently being formed across junior age groups.

Based here in Emerald, the Lakers provide children and young people from Emerald and the surrounding Hills communities with the opportunity to play competitive basketball through the Knox Basketball Association, one of the largest basketball associations in Australia, with around 1,200 teams taking to the court each week.

The Summer season begins Oct. 3, 2026 and runs through to Mar 2027. Junior domestic games are played on Saturdays at venues across the Knox Basketball competition, with Under 19 teams playing on Sundays.

Whether your child is new to basketball, returning for another season, or ready to try a team sport for the first time, the Lakers welcome players across ages and abilities.

Basketball is a great way for kids to stay active, develop their skills, build confidence and make friends. Most importantly, they get to do it as part of their local club, playing alongside kids from their community and pulling on the green and gold for Emerald.

Teams Are Being Formed Now

Registrations are open and team planning is already underway for Summer 2026/27, and regos close 31 August 2026.

Registration takes two simple steps. Complete the short Emerald Lakers club details form, then finalise your player registration and payment through PlayHQ.

Season: 3 Oct. 2026 to Mar. 2027

Junior games: Saturdays

Under 19 games: Sundays

Open Now

Find out more and register:

www.emerald Lakers.com.au/playbasketball

**Lakers Club News**

It's been a busy few months at Emerald Lakers Basketball Club, with plenty happening both on and off the court as we continue working towards our goal of providing a positive, inclusive and development-focused basketball environment for our local community.

Cont. next page

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Continued from previous page

A significant milestone was reached at our recent Special General Meeting, where members voted to adopt a new Constitution for the Club. The new Constitution replaces rules that had been in place since 1989 and provides a modern governance framework to support the Lakers as we continue to grow. Importantly, it reflects our commitment to being a well-run, transparent and sustainable community sporting club that puts our players, families and volunteers at the centre of what we do.

Coach development has also been a major focus. We've now held several education sessions with Gerard Hillier, Coach Education and Pedagogy Manager at Knox Basketball. Gerard is currently completing his thesis in coaching and brings contemporary, evidence-based approaches to skill acquisition and player development. Our most recent sessions have focused on giving Lakers coaches practical ways to create engaging training environments where players learn through playing, problem-solving and decision-making, rather than simply running through drills.

We have sponsors! For the first time in 10+ years, the club has attracted sponsorship, and you'll see more roll out over the next week or two about them, and how their support will improve the Laker experience.

These initiatives are all part of the same bigger picture for Emerald Lakers: building a club where children can enjoy basketball, develop their skills and confidence,

and where our volunteer coaches are given the support and education they need to help make that happen - whether they are there to have fun with mates, or shoot for the stars!

There's plenty more to come as we continue building the Lakers for the future, and most importantly - remembering where we came from.



Ben Kewish
Lakers President



Welcome to Fernlea in September!

As Spring begins to make herself known, we have lined up a huge range of events and services here at your local Community House.

We have been thrilled to launch our **free Community Mental Health Clinic**, which now runs weekly on Thursdays and Fridays between 9 - 3. No referral is needed and we simply ask that you book your details in via the connected link in order to best manage the available time that day. [Click this link](#) - for mental health clinic

Every Wednesday a **Justice of the Peace** is here between 1:00 and 3:00 PM to sign documentation you may need. Please click on the link to advise of attendance to assist in time management. [Justice of the Peace](#).

In collaboration with Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre, we are offering a **free community talk on disaster preparedness**, covering legal and insurance issues arising from the ever-increasing weather and storm events. Bookings via the attached link (for catering purposes)

Disaster preparedness insurance preparedness talk

We are also in the process of preparing to offer **tax support** and it would help us to know the level of interest in the community. Please drop us a line at fch@fernlea.com.au

We have a broad range of wonderful classes and workshops this term. Many of them offer a **"try your first class free"** option and It's a great way to dip your toe in the water.

Membership offers the opportunity to participate in classes, join wonderful community games night, our acoustic musician's night and many other free or very low-cost events.

Annual membership is a powerful tool in our neighbourhood. It rolls over at the end of each financial year and allows us to continue to create free events, offer food pantry support and keep the lights and Wi-Fi on for all our members. It's one of the simplest ways that you can give back to your community, while making friends and building relationships, all for less than the price of a coffee and sandwich. Pop in, meet our house hosts and have a look around the centre.

[Membership link](#)

House open:

- Mon to Wed 10am - 4.30pm
- Thursday 9am - 4.30pm
- Friday 9am - 3pm

Office hours:

- Mon - Thu 10am - 4.30pm

Community Engagement hour:

- (if you need to chat with Kerry)
12.00pm - 1.00pm

Food pantry open:

- Mon - Thu 10am - 4pm (with a break for lunch 1.00pm - 1.30pm)
- Fri 10am - 2pm



Darren Gavin
Owner/Manager

297 Belgrave- Gembrook Road
Emerald 3782

info@emcarautomotive.com

5968 6031

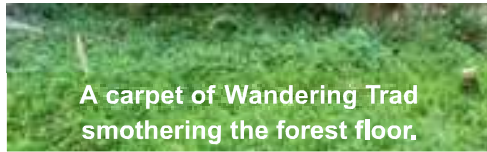


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Can there be any good news about weeds? Turns out, yes, but not much...

Wandering Trad (*Tradescantia fluminensis*) has been named a Weed of National Significance (WoNS), following a nomination from Nangana Landcare Network, led by local conservationist Bill Incoll OAM.

The listing was confirmed last week by the National Established Weed Priorities Steering Committee which this year assessed 35 nominations against detailed national criteria. Wandering Trad was one of just 14 species named a national weed priority, and one of 15 that met the assessment criteria overall. The National Established Weed Priorities initiative is run by the Environment and Invasives Committee and guided by the National Established Weed Priorities Steering Group, with the aim of improving coordination of weed management across Australia.

Wandering Trad is one of the most serious weeds facing the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges, a recognised national hotspot for the species. It spreads by vegetative growth into dense, matted carpets that smother the forest floor, and it can invade deeply shaded rainforest gullies that most other weeds cannot establish in. The impact is greatest along creeks where infestations degrade habitat and significantly reduce native vegetation diversity.



Bill Incoll, OAM

Bill Incoll, with the Community Weed Alliance of the Dandenongs, worked with CSIRO for many years to develop a biological control agent, the leaf-smut fungus *Kordyana brasiliensis*, which infects Wandering Trad and gradually reduces its vigour without harming native species. He established the first monitoring plots near Monbulk and Belgrave and has led the bulk of the releases across the region, including along Sassafras, Ferny, Mast Gully and Emerald Creeks. Following a CSIRO community workshop in May 2019, the fungus has continued to spread and establish, with some infected stands showing visibly reduced vigour within two years. Bill was awarded an OAM for service to the environment, and to the community of the Dandenong Ranges.

"I'm happy to see *Tradescantia fluminensis* be recognized as a weed of national significance" he said. "I'd be happier if it came with funding to assist its eradication."



It is a sentiment echoed by the Invasive Species Council which estimates the measurable annual cost of invasive species to Australia, drawing on CSIRO data, at more than \$24.5 billion, with weeds among the largest contributors alongside feral animals. The Council's chief executive, Jack Gough, has argued that invasive species management in Australia has long been undermined by short-term funding cycles and a lack of coordinated strategy.

"There are hundreds of weeds on Australia's invasive species list, and it's a genuinely scary read," said Jenny Lyndon, VP of the Nangana Landcare Network. "Even though there is no current funding, it may put Wandering Trad higher up the list for future grants. Bill spent years taking this weed on at a scientific and bureaucratic level to deliver a biocontrol, and it's gratifying to see that work recognised."

A number of groups provided support for the nomination, including Yarra Ranges Council, Cardinia Shire Council, Parks Victoria, the National Landcare Network, and the NSW Weed Society. It's important for groups to work together because environmental weeds outpace the resources available to contain them. Nangana will track developments and funding opportunities so that decades of volunteer labour become a building block for lasting landscape recovery.

Jenny Lyndon

Vice President/Secretary, Nangana Landcare Network
info@nangana.net | 0418 370 523
Courtesy CSIRO

Left: Tradescantia fluminensis infected with Kordyana brasiliensis

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Saturday 8:30am - 2:00pm
Sunday 9:30am - 12:30pm



Mandala Clinic Community Health News

Preventative Health and Staying Well

At Mandala Clinic, our GP's pride themselves on providing the kind of care and support that helps people stay well long before illness takes hold. Their focus on preventative health, and upstream healthcare, is all about providing guidance and education early on, so that little problems don't become much bigger down the track.

When it comes to preventative health, the basics make a big difference. This includes things like regular check-ups, blood pressure monitoring, skin checks, vaccinations, cancer screening, and lifestyle support. Our GP's can help with stress, sleep, nutrition, social connection, and early signs of chronic conditions. By addressing these factors early, we can reduce the need for more complex care later on; helping people stay healthier for longer.

Mental Health Matters

Your mental wellbeing is just as important as your physical health and remains one of the most significant health challenges facing Australians today. Almost half of all Australians (42.9%) will experience a mental disorder at some point in their lives and evidence has shown that early support can make a huge difference. This is why accessible, upstream care matters, and why Mandala Clinic continues to prioritise holistic care for the community by providing mental health consultations, care plans, and ongoing support for people experiencing stress, anxiety, low mood, or life challenges. Having these conversations with your doctor can make a world of difference.

A New Friendly Face Joins our Care Team

Mandala Clinic is delighted to welcome Alannah, our new Practice Nurse, to the team. Alannah brings with her a warm, patient-centred approach to care and a genuine passion for community health. She will be working alongside our GP's to support day-to-day clinical needs, ensuring patients feel supported during their visit, performing routine observations, assisting with wound care, dressings, and minor procedures, and guiding patients through immunisations (she always has a lollipop handy). You'll be seeing her smiling face around the clinic as she settles into her role, we are thrilled to have her on board, and we know our community will appreciate the care and kindness she brings to every interaction.

Women's Health, Bulk Billed

We're proud to offer a range of bulk-billed women's health services, making essential care more accessible, both locally and financially. These items include the insertion/removal of IUD's, Implanon and other hormonal implants, family planning and reproductive health consultations.

These services are provided in a supportive, confidential environment with clinicians experienced in women's reproductive care.

If you'd like to learn more about any of these services or book an appointment, head to our website mandalaclinic.com.au or click on the QR code below or speak with one of our friendly receptionists by phoning 5968 3733.



COCKATOO OVER 50

Where to this month?

Each month we have an outing so in August Twenty-three of us travelled to ArtVo at Docklands, where we thoroughly enjoyed the immersive art experience. The interactive exhibits provided plenty of fun, photo opportunities, enhanced by amazing 3D effects.

Afterwards, we had time to explore Docklands and enjoy lunch at any one of the nearby restaurants. It was a wonderful day out, and we finished with a pleasant journey home, taking a route that bypassed the M1 and avoided the tolls.

We meet each Monday at the Cockatoo Over 50's centre on the Alma Treloar reserve



THE NATIONAL LUNG CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM WILL SAVE LIVES

If found early, more than 85% of lung cancers can be successfully treated



NATIONAL LUNG CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM

Access education and resources health.gov.au/nlcsp-hcp-toolkit





Dandenong Ranges One Act Play Festival Awards Night

The 29th Dandenong Ranges One Act Play Festival comes to a close.

We had a wonderful weekend and how great to catch up with so many theatre friends and family.

No matter if you had one line or many, if this was your hundredth time treading the boards or your very first time, the spirit of community theatre was strong. Thankyou to all entries from so many companies, to all our volunteers to make this incredible festival, and our adjudicator Richard.

Without further adieu, please find the nominations and award winners of the 29th Festival.



Matt Greenaway



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Day in
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Thursday
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2026*

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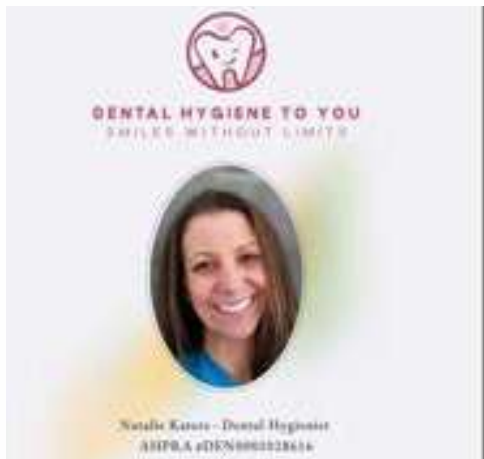
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Introducing Dental Hygiene to You: Mobile Dental Care Comes to Our Region

Accessing dental care just got easier for residents in Emerald and the surrounding Hills communities. Local resident and registered Dental Hygienist Natalie Katers (25+ years of experience) launched Dental Hygiene to You - a fully mobile service bringing preventative oral healthcare directly into your home.

Why Mobile Dental Care?

Many members of our community - including older adults, individuals with disabilities or NDIS support, neurodivergent families, and those living with severe dental anxiety or mobility challenges - find visiting a traditional dental clinic difficult or overwhelming. Without accessible options, essential preventative care often gets put on hold.

Designed specifically for the Hills In the Dandenong Ranges, steep driveways and unique property access can make even large mobile dental vans impractical. Dental Hygiene to You is different:

- **Portable Equipment:** Natalie carries all necessary professional dental equipment directly indoors.
- **Comfort & Dignity:** Care is provided at the bedside or in a familiar chair, ensuring a gentle, relaxed, and comfortable environment.
- **Holistic Health:** Good oral health plays a critical role in overall nutrition, well-being, confidence, and quality of life.

Serving Our Local Community

- Seniors & Aged Care
- People with Disabilities & NDIS Participants
- Neurodivergent Families
- Patients with Dental Anxiety or Mobility Needs

Get in Touch & Learn More

Whether you are looking for care for yourself, a family member, or a client, Natalie is here to help.

- Phone: 0408 369 469
- Website:
www.dentalhygienetoyou.com.au
- Digital Guide: Scan the QR code on the flyer or view the interactive Mobile Care Guide to see how in-home visits work!

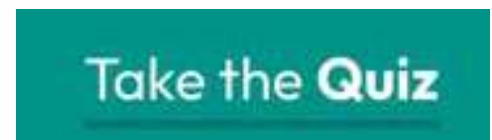
Natalie Katers

Dental Hygienist | Founder
Dental Hygiene to You

- 0408 369 469
- www.dentalhygienetoyou.com.au



Safety First
<https://howsafeismyplace.com.au>





Friends of Lake Emerald Park

Trees for Weeds swap day
Saturday, September 5, outside the Emerald Library from 9am to 12pm

Have you got weeds in your garden? How have you tried to remove them? When you get rid of them what will you plant in their place? Come and talk to us about what works here in the hills.

Friends of Emerald Lake Park is partnering with Cardinia Shire to host a 'Trees for Weeds' swap day outside the Emerald Library.



Bring a small clipping of your weeds to get expert advice from our specialist team including identifying weed species and advice on how to control weeds on your property. In return, we'll swap the cuttings for free indigenous plants to take home.

Please note that only small clippings will be accepted, and green waste cannot be dropped off and will not be accepted at this event.

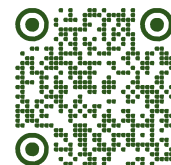
The Cardinia Shire website has pages of expert support to help you remove your weeds and replace them with local indigenous plants.

- [Common weeds](#)
- [Tips for removing weeds](#)
- [Weed management calendar](#)
- [Cardinia indigenous plant guide](#)

FELP working bees in September.
 Sat Sep 12. Meet at 9am at the rotunda in the Nobelius Heritage Park
 Thu Sep 17. Meet at 9am at the Packing Shed in the Nobelius Heritage Park.

friendsofemeraldlakepark@gmail.com
 . www.felp.com.au

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SUBSCRIBE

Woorilla Poetry Prize

The 2026 Woorilla International Poetry Prize is now taking entries.

- First Prize has increased to \$3,500, this year.

The esteemed judges are:

Open Section

- Toby Fitch
- Judith Rodriguez

Youth Section

- Maxine Beneba Clarke
- Louise Rockne

Enter through submittable or contact woorillapoetry@gmail.com for alternative arrangements.

See www.woorilla.org.au for all the details and entry terms.



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KARLEE'S BIG NIGHT OUT

Join us for a very special night of fun, laughter, music and community as we come together to support much-loved Brooker, Karlee Henzen, and her four children.

After battling breast cancer in 2023, Karlee was heartbreakingly diagnosed with Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer in March 2026. While her cancer is incurable, the community is coming together to help ease the financial burden and give Karlee the opportunity to make precious memories with her family.

Sat 10 Oct 2026

Gembrook Community Centre
Doors open 6:30 | 7pm start
100 per person

Try booking

Tickets includes bubbles & a goodie bag upon arrival, grazing platters, live music from The 7.30 Thursdays, DJ Jadnam, games, prizes, raffles and silent & live auctions!

Come dressed up, bring your friends and get ready for a night of dancing, laughter and plenty of fun - all while supporting a beautiful local family.

Let's fill the room, raise the roof and make it a night Karlee will never forget.

KARLEE'S Big Night Out

TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW!

LET'S COME TOGETHER FOR AN INCREDIBLE NIGHT OF FUN, LAUGHTER, DANCING & COMMUNITY
ALL TO SUPPORT OUR BEAUTIFUL KARLEE AND HER FOUR CHILDREN

SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER

GEMBROOK Community Centre

DOORS OPEN 6:30PM
FOR A 7PM START

TICKETS \$100 per person

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YOUR TICKET INCLUDES

- BUBBLES & GOODIE BAG
- LOW GRAZING PLATTER
- LIVE MUSIC BY THE 7.30 THURSDAYS
- DJ JADNAM
- RAFFLES & PRIZES
- SILENT & LIVE AUCTIONS
- DANCING, LAUGHTER & A NIGHT TO REMEMBER!

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW!

BOOK ONLINE: www.gembrookcommunitycentre.org.au OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK!

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL LAUREN CHAPMAN ON 08 9450 0000 SEE YOU THERE!

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1.1/1.25L Soft Drink

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GRAVY (440ml)	\$5.00
HOT CHIPS	\$ \$9.90 L \$12.90
LAMB FRIES with lamb, spanish onion, roasted red capsicum & garlic aioli	\$15.90
MEXICAN \$15.90 with salami, spanish onion, jalapenos & chipotle sauce	

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Emerald RSL

Calling local Veterans

No matter your background, you are very welcome at Emerald RSL. Try us out! Come along and enjoy our social camaraderie – no pressure, no stress!

Crazy Whist

Crazy Whist is a card game - we always have lots of fun and laughs. Congratulations to the winners of our 22nd Aug. game – Peter and Graham!



The next game is Sat 21st Nov, 6.15 for 6.30pm start. Please contact Vanessa for enquiries or bookings on 0432 410 328. Entry is Gold coin per person donation to Emerald RSL.



Footy Tipping

That's a wrap for our 2026 Footy Tipping - congratulations to winners

- 1st : Juddy Go Hawks
- 2nd : Pedz5678
- 3rd : Clarky C

Huge thanks to Mark Goodyear for running the competition this year!

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

Tue 5–7pm and Thu 5–10pm, everyone welcome!



Tanya Jogan

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

The Emerald, Cockatoo, and Gembrook RSL (Returned & Services League) club venues are open to the general public.

Emerald, Cockatoo, and Gembrook RSL welcomes visitors, families, and guests for drinks, and social events. Our clubroom and bar is open for patronage.

Everyone welcome!



Veterans Dining-In Night

Fri. Aug 14th, Emerald RSL proudly hosted its first Veterans Dining-In Night, it was an outstanding success.

The evening brought together current serving members and veterans from across many generations of service, creating a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, share experiences and strengthen the bonds that unite our veteran community.

It was a powerful reminder of the importance of veteran welfare, mateship and connection.

Emerald RSL remains committed to hosting events that bring together our current serving and veteran communities and ensure those bonds continue to grow.

Thank you to everyone who attended, supported and contributed to what was a truly significant evening in the history of Emerald RSL.

Kane Falconer

president@emeraldrsl.com.au
Emerald RSL Sub-branch Inc.



Past-President - Peter Maloney



President Kane Falconer & Krystal Brown



Cockatoo RSL

Cockatoo RSL is also a return point for your eligible containers.



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

Events for the diary:

- Fri 4th Aug Karaoke
- Sat 5th Open
- Sun 2nd Live music
- Fri 11th Poker night
- Sat 12th UNO comp
- Sun 13th open mic
- Fri 18th Pool comp
- Sat 19th Trivia night
- Sun 20th live Music
- Fri 25th Open
- Sat 26th Darts Comp
- Sun 27th Live Music



Each week we run our Meat, Fruit & Veg Tray Raffles (3 tickets for \$5), and from time to time you might find yourself caught up in Bev's Crazy Auction or one of her games — always unpredictable and always good for a laugh.

We may be small, but we are mighty. Come along, share a laugh, meet a Veteran, and enjoy the company of both new and familiar friends. It's a warm, welcoming night for everyone in our community.

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



Are you a veteran ex-serviceman /woman who owns or operates a local business in Dandenong & Yarra Ranges?

We are looking to connect service providers and tradespeople such as plumbers, electricians, handypersons, gutter cleaners, gardeners, builders, cleaners and other local businesses who would like to be promoted and supported within our community.

If this sounds like you, please drop your details onto our [Google Link](#)

We are working with RSL Sub Branches in the Dandenong and Yarra Ranges to compile a list of local veteran-owned and operated businesses for members needing work done.

Don't miss this opportunity to help strengthen connections between RSL Sub Branches, veterans and the community, at the same time, receive free advertising for your business.

Thank you for your service, and for continuing to contribute to Dandenong and Yarra Ranges community.



Gembrook RSL

Friday Nights at the Gembrook RSL — Everyone Welcome

The Gembrook RSL is open every Friday night from 4pm until late, and we'd love to see you there.

From 6pm, we serve our much-loved potluck home-cooked meals — hearty, generous, and always made with care.

Each week we run our Meat, Fruit & Veg Tray Raffles (3 tickets for \$5), and from time to time you might find yourself caught up in Bev's Crazy Auction or one of her games — always unpredictable and always good for a laugh.



Gembrook Retreat

Maggie Dunkle's Living Legacy - the Gembrook Retreat

Some people have statues erected in their memory. Some have biographies written about them. Some have both. Margaret Dunkle has neither. She left a living legacy – the land which was once her home and is now the Gembrook Retreat. I was privileged to meet Maggie, as she was affectionately known, only once, and we stood admiring the view from the Gembrook Retreat of the blue mountains on the horizon. Maggie's profound commitment, both to caring for the earth and to nurturing children, inspired me.

Born in Los Angeles, California, in 1922, Maggie's spiritual search and her concern for social justice led her to become a member of Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and to be a campaigner for nuclear disarmament and civil rights. In 1959, with her husband Bob and their three daughters, she came to Australia, later becoming a citizen of this country. In the mid-1960s Maggie and Bob bought a 22-acre property in Gembrook where they developed the garden and orchard, and in 1980, they built a house Bob designed to utilise the solar energy technologies he had developed during his career. Maggie loved her proteas and persimmons, but she also moved with the times and by the 1990s she was planting native vegetation and embracing the ideas of the permaculture movement.

A leading member of Victoria's children's literature community, Maggie was well known as an author,



editor, critic, librarian, lecturer and consultant, and was made an Honorary Life Member of the Victorian Branch of the Children's Book Council of Australia. She toured the countryside with the Jolly Jumbuck, a bus with a pull-down puppet theatre, audiotapes, a book collection for storytelling and shadow and hand puppets. I am sure the arrival of Jolly Jumbuck in schools is fondly remembered by many adults today.

Her most popular book was *Our World* by the Kids of Australia, published in 1977. Perhaps her most significant



Maggie Dunkle

scholarly work was *Black in focus: A guide to Aboriginality in children's literature*. It was a natural progression for Maggie's social activism to reorient her focus from the civil rights movement in the country of her birth to Indigenous rights in her adopted country, and as an editor Maggie worked closely with emerging Aboriginal writers and leaders.

In 2000, she established the Margaret Dunkle Foundation — a trust to offer spiritual renewal through connection with the land at Gembrook. She died in 2012, living to see her vision for the Gembrook Retreat on the way to becoming a reality. Since its inception the Gembrook Retreat community has endeavoured to fulfill Maggie's vision. It has not been without its challenges, and it has been a journey of growing self-awareness for those who have lived and laboured on this land. Today it is flourishing, with a relationship developing with the Traditional Owners of the land, construction of a Quaker Meeting House and simple accommodation, extensive revegetation, short courses, spiritual direction, and true to Maggie's vision, it is a place for contemplation and spiritual renewal.

www.gembrookretreat.org.au

Writing in 2010, Maggie's words offer us an insight into her worldview.

We are in our essence, fragments of the infinite Universe, spirits joined to the spirit that informs all life. We are placed for a short time in finite form, so we may encounter physical and emotional experiences that present opportunities for the soul's advancement.

Dorothy Scott

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The Hills Photographic Society

Our competition night this month was based on the themes of 'Surrealism' and 'Creativity'—two interesting and challenging topics that inspired our members to produce some imaginative and thought-provoking entries.

You can view the awarded entries from our competitions, past and present, on the Gallery page of our website at <https://www.hillspicturesociety.org.au/gallery/>

On Sunday, several members of the club visited 'The Dowel Museum' in Upper Beaconsfield to explore and photograph a unique collection of some of the rarest cars and motoring collectables in Australia. The museum houses a world-class private collection of rare vehicles and motoring memorabilia, amassed by automotive entrepreneur Terry Dowel. With so many fascinating and beautifully presented vehicles to capture, there was plenty to inspire our photographers. The lighting in the enclosed exhibition area proved challenging, but everyone went home with great memories and plenty of interesting photographs to process and enjoy.

A big thank you to one of our members who kindly offered to drive us in his beautifully restored 1928 Oakland 4-Door Sedan, featuring a 6-cylinder engine and 3-speed transmission.



It was a wonderful experience to travel in a car of this vintage and to see and appreciate such a beautifully restored piece of automotive history.

If you're interested in learning more about the Hills Photographic Society, you're very welcome to attend one of our meetings and see what we're all about. Come along, meet our members, and experience the friendly and creative atmosphere for yourself. If you enjoy the experience, you may wish to consider becoming a member and joining our photographic community.

For more information regarding 'The Hills Photographic Society', please contact the secretary@hillspicturesociety.org.au



Michael Kavanagh

Publicity Officer – Hills Photographic Society

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Clematis Hall history Laura Musgrove

The evening of the 14th of July, 1984 began like any other. The residents of Clematis and surrounding areas had stoked up their fires and were settling down in front of the television to watch Hey Hey! It's Saturday or The Wonderful World of Disney. Out of the darkness, the sound of the fire alarm at the Clematis Fire Brigade split the silence. Men and women hurriedly pulled on boots and jackets and headed towards the station. If any of them wondered where they would be headed that night, the answer would have become clear when the orange glow came into view.

With practised calm and efficiency, the fire crew pulled the truck out of the station, ran their hoses and began to deal with the fire. But a decision had to be made; the hall was condemned, no longer fit for purpose and due to be knocked down. The choice was made: save the toilets and let the hall burn. After all, the toilets were only seven years old and were the public toilets for the area.

The hall committee, who had already been fighting to have the hall replaced, gathered around the smoking ruins to decide what to do next. The first step was a formal letter to the Shire of Sherbrooke letting them know what had happened, and requesting help. The Shire acknowledged this and also forwarded a sketch of a new hall for the area.

The proposed new building, while serviceable, lacked the charm of the old hall because it would be built of concrete besser bricks. Still, it would make it difficult for the termites to damage it again. In the words of Lynne Dickson, in her memories submitted to the Emerald Heritage Museum - "Take that white ants!"

The proposed building came with the same caveat, however; the Shire of Sherbrooke would match the community dollar for dollar to build the new hall, but the community would still need to prove that the interest was there.

In addition to this, at least one third of the total cost would need to be paid by the committee before building would begin. Pressure was starting to mount. The hall committee made it clear to the Shire they were not going to 'go away'. Others, not on the committee but who lived in the area, wrote to the local Member of Parliament, Peter Milton, asking why the hall was not being replaced. Some letters were polite, and at least one, not so much.

The discussion went back and forth with both sides holding firm. The small community of Clematis felt like they were being forgotten. A lack of action by the council and suggested rewriting of meeting minutes echoed broader concerns, such as Magpie Road being referred to as being in Menzies Creek. A push by council to rehome local community groups to Emerald and Menzies Creek, plus the ongoing delays, intensified these sentiments. And so the weeks ground on, all parties becoming frustrated, until someone thought to check the insurance policy covering public assets owned by the Shire of Sherbrooke. To everyone's surprise, the hall, despite being condemned, was still insured for fire damage.

This discovery changed the future of the Clematis Progress Hall. The insurers agreed on a payout of \$20,700 (\$75,876 in today's value), but the council could not take the money and put it into the budget; the hall would need to be rebuilt.

Against the odds, the small community had won! They would still need to raise the \$10000, but with the insurance payout and a grant from the Shire of Sherbrooke, the hall would be rebuilt. Barry Robinson, the Shire Engineer and a supporter of the community's push to rebuild the hall from the beginning, drew up new plans. The design was based on the original hall. As with the previous plans, he did so without charging the committee. In addition to keeping the classic gabled roof, the new hall had a larger kitchen and storage room. The larger kitchen was a blessing for those who often worked in there, feeding everyone during community events. It would be built from Hardiplank to counter termite attack, with hardwood floors and pine lining on the walls.

With the contribution of many local people, businesses and volunteer organisations, the hall would rise again. The 1st & 2nd Emerald Guide Group alone raised \$3000 towards the rebuild on their own. Many businesses in Emerald contributed to the cause also; Gembrook Hair Care (located where the former Elevation Restaurant sits now) contributed, the Lions Club, Claringboulds Supermarket (now IGA), John Bell Pharmacy and Russo's Supermarket (now Woolworths) were just many of the local businesses in Emerald who helped with donations towards the hall.



Clematis Hall - August, 1980.



In total, it would cost \$44,180 in 1985. (This is \$AUD161,843 today).

This was made up of:

- An insurance payout of \$20,700
- The Council Contribution of \$13,380
- The local Community contribution of \$10,000

Just under twelve months later, the new hall was officially opened. Secretary Lynne Dickson wryly noted that the hall "...had more openings than Parliament.

There was the official government opening. A concert put on by the local children, ending with a rousing rendition of "I still call Clematis Home". Corny, yes, but hearts and minds were joyful; the local hall had risen from the ashes and an uncertain future, and once again stood as a symbol of the community. A cocktail party followed for the adults, followed by a Blue Light disco for the teenagers of the community... Suffice to say the new hall was open and ready for business. Over the coming years, voting would be held at the hall, along with the 1st Clematis Guide Group, playgroup, parties and line dances.

As the nineties drew to a close, the Cardinia Shire closed the hall, citing a vacant committee and the deteriorating condition of the facilities as their justification. Though a surge in local support might breathe life back into the committee, the matter of the amenities is a far more stubborn obstacle—these are the very same units that were spared from the inferno back in 1984. Rubber-stamped by the Health Commission in 1977, they will be 50 years old in 2027. In light of this, the argument put forward by the Cardinia Council is somewhat spurious. The council has done nothing to update these facilities since it took over the hall as an asset. The toilets were last upgraded in the early 1990s in line with a directive from the health department.

As requested, they were enclosed and made accessible from the hall; new soap dispensers and paper towel holders were added under the leadership of the last hall committee (verbal memory of Mr N. Myers - Committee member). It would only take a fraction of the money that has been spent on the hall in Emerald, or around the Pakenham growth belt, to bring the toilets and the hall up to standard for public use, yet it appears that once again, as in 1984 and various other times, the community of Clematis has again been forgotten despite the population nearly tripling since 2000.

People are moving to the area to connect with others and find that sense of community spirit, and the one thing that represents community in Clematis is closed with seemingly no plan to reopen it.

Having been the centre of the community for so long, it seems now is the perfect time to upgrade Clematis Progress Hall and bring it back to life. If we lose this beautiful hall, it is doubtful if it will be rebuilt. In the meantime, it sits there quietly watching the world rush by.

***My thanks to Emerald and Nobelius Heritage Society, in particular Anne C, who helped to find articles on the hall and the only image we have of the old hall. Without the Society's help, this article would not have been written.

Thank you to Glen of the Shire of Ferntree Gully Facebook page, who also helped me with research, and the staff at the Public Records Office of Victoria.

And Dona, for encouraging me to write this and all of her feedback.

Thank you. I really appreciated all of your input.

And finally, my Dad, whose input and memories helped clarify events surrounding the fight to save this valuable asset.



Congratulations Laura on your detailed and interesting account of the history of our Clematis Hall.

In strengthening our knowledge base on the history of this hall, you have also brought to life stories of other Clematis community members, who, like yourself, place great value on ensuring others have opportunity to share connectedness and build social cohesion. You have also demonstrated not only the value of quality research, but your words reflect the willingness of others to assist.

We can only hope your words inspire others in the area to step forward and help find ways to use, to save the Clematis Hall.

On behalf of a different generation, I thank your father and his peers for their work over the years, and for their time, perseverance, and fight to save this community asset. Society relies on people with such resilience and determination.

As an editor of Eastern Ranges News I thank everyone for their interest in the story of the Clematis Hall. It seems that in highlighting the neglect, bringing a focus back to this forgotten hall, we have hit upon an issue close to the heart of many. If you, your club, organisation have found a way to breathe new life into the hall, please share your account. I expect, you will be well supported locally for your endeavours.

Dr. Dona Martin
Eastern Ranges News



Laura ***

p.s. great picture Anne C and Laura



Rotary Club of Emerald and District

Rotary Club of Emerald & District Highlights

- 24-Hour Defibrillator installed at Emerald SES



A new externally mounted defibrillator is now available at the Emerald SES facility, giving the community additional 24-hour access to lifesaving support in a cardiac emergency.

The Rotary Club of Emerald and District, has funded the installed unit as part of the community defibrillator program initiated by the Emerald Ambulance Auxiliary.

Defibrillators are critical in cardiac emergencies, where early access and rapid use can help improve the chance of survival while emergency help is on the way.

In a cardiac emergency, call Triple Zero immediately, then follow the defibrillator's spoken instructions.

The locations of community defibrillators can be found by calling Triple Zero or visiting the GoodSAM website.

Emerald Students Shine at MUNA
On Saturday 1 August, Rotarians Gayle, Jacque and Gloria travelled to Warragul to support a team from Emerald Secondary College participating in the 2026 Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA).

MUNA is a Rotary inter-school debating program for Years 10 and 11 students. Teams represent an assigned country in a simulated UN General Assembly, debating international issues while learning about diplomacy, lobbying and voting.

Representing Türkiye, the Emerald Secondary College students researched and debated three resolutions, presenting the views and interests of their allocated country.

Their hard work and enthusiasm were recognised at the conclusion of the event when the team received a well-deserved Encouragement Award.

Congratulations to students representing Emerald Secondary College and our community so proudly

Dates for the Diary:

Tue 8 Sep: **Guest Speaker** Martin Boncristiani - AI Intelligence or Interference.

If you would like to attend contact secretary@emeraldrotary.org.au

Rotary Trivia Night

Still time to book!

Sat 12 Sep 6.30–9.30pm Hills Hub, 400A Belgrave-Gembrook Rd, Emerald. Tickets: \$15 per person. Bring your nibbles, drinks and A-game for a fantastic night of fun while supporting the local community. Booking link -

<https://www.trybooking.com/DKPRB>

Join **Candlemaking and High Tea!**

Sat 24 Oct @ 3.30pm - 5.30pm

\$60 per person, Gemco, 19 Kilvington Rd, Emerald Register

<https://www.trybooking.com/DOXDQ>

Rotary Kids Fun Run with Puffing Billy

Sun 29th Nov In support of children's needs at the Angliss Hospital and Eastern Health. For information go to

<https://www.emeraldrotary.org.au/5395/Page/rotarykidsfunrunwithpuffingbilly>

JASON WOOD
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR **LA TROBE**

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





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**Since 1936
Clematis CFA**

From Clematis to Vanuatu – the spirit of volunteering knows no borders.

Several years ago, while visiting Vanuatu, Clematis Fire Brigade member Shane Miller met the local ambulance service and learnt about the incredible work they do. Serving as the only ambulance provider for the region, they rely on a combination of local first responders, Australian paramedics living in country and the generosity of others to keep operating. Shane came home determined to make a difference.

With the support of Allan and Joy from Emerald Village Meats, Shane organised a community sausage sizzle to raise funds to assist the service. The original plan was to purchase equipment and personally deliver it, but COVID and life's unexpected challenges, including the loss of his wife, put those plans on hold.

Recently, Shane had opportunity to return to Vanuatu and fulfil that promise.

Despite the ambulance station having since been damaged in an earthquake and the service relocating, Shane was able to meet the team and hand over the funds raised by our local community. They assured him the donation would make a real difference to the care provided.

Stories like Shane's remind us that volunteering isn't just about responding to emergencies—it's about compassion, generosity and finding ways to help others, wherever they may be.



**Connecting Cockatoo
Communities**

Welcome to Connecting Cockatoo Communities (formerly Cockatoo Township Committee), we are your local Community Committee for all things Cockatoo.

Our public meetings are held every 3 months at Ash Wednesday Bushfire Education Centre 2 McBride Street Cockatoo. Our next meeting is Tuesday 17th November 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Come along and hear about what is happening in your local community.

We love to hear from local groups and residents. Our email address and website details are:

Email:

connectingcockatoo@gmail.com

Website:

<https://cockatootownship.com.au>

**Scan here to
learn more**



Daniela De Martino
STATE LABOR MP FOR MONBULK

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



Out and About Across the Eastern Dandenong Ranges

Over recent weeks I have enjoyed spending considerable time across the Eastern end of the electorate - at the Cockatoo Market, hosting street stalls in Emerald and Gembrook, and door knocking throughout all three towns - speaking with locals about the issues of most concern to them.

These conversations are one of the most important parts of my role as your representative in State Parliament. They provide a valuable opportunity to hear about local priorities, challenges and ideas for the future of our community. As always, thanks to everyone who stopped for a chat and shared their views. Your feedback helps shape my advocacy on behalf of our community.

Supporting Local Community Connections I recently attended Connecting Cockatoo Communities' meeting and took the opportunity to share information about healthcare initiatives and services like the Virtual Emergency Department - a free, online service which allows you to be triaged by an Emergency Doctor or Registered Nurse based in a Victorian Hospital - as well as cost-of-living supports to assist those in our community facing financial pressure. This group plays a vital role in supporting the Cockatoo community and it was great to see such a well-attended meeting.

Thanking Our Emergency Service Volunteers I recently had the pleasure of visiting both the Emerald SES Unit and Emerald CFA, where I met with Deputy Controller Craig Gye and Captain Klaus Brodeck. Our emergency service volunteers represent the best of our community. Whether responding to storms, road rescues, fires or other emergencies, they dedicate countless hours to training and service, often at short notice in challenging circumstances.

Our emergency service volunteers represent the very best of our community. Whether responding to storms, road rescue incidents, fires or other emergencies, they dedicate countless hours to training and service, often at short notice and in challenging circumstances.

I sincerely thank all SES and CFA volunteers for their commitment to keeping our community safe. I am looking forward to attending the Emerald CFA Annual Presentation Dinner in the coming weeks and celebrating the outstanding contribution of local members.

Managing Deer in the Dandenong Ranges

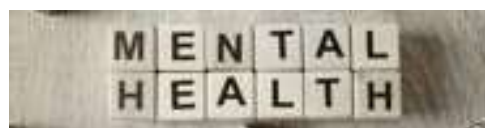
A growing number of residents have contacted me regarding the impact of deer across the Dandenong Ranges.

Landholders continue to report damage to their gardens, native vegetation, fencing and farmland, while increasing deer numbers can also create road safety concerns. I know many, including myself, who have very close encounters with deer on the roads and I understand the challenges many residents face. I will continue advocating for practical measures and funding support to assist landholders with deer control efforts across Monbulk District.

Mental Health Support Close to Home

Since being elected, I have strongly advocated for free mental health services to be available in the Hills, recognising that travelling longer distances can be difficult for many people, especially when struggling with mental health challenges.

This is why I am thrilled that our Government has funded the Mental Health and Wellbeing Local service at The Base in Cockatoo, located at 7-17 McBride Street. A free service which provides support during business hours for people aged over 26. To find out more or make an appointment, contact MIND on 1300 286 463.



Expanded Hours at Pakenham

Urgent Care I am pleased to update you on the Pakenham Medicare Urgent Care Clinic which now operates 8:00am to 10:00pm, 7 days a week.

The service provides free, bulk-billed care for non-life-threatening illnesses and injuries, helping people access urgent treatment closer to home while reducing pressure on busy hospital emergency departments.

Celebrating Community Learning

I look forward to visiting Emerald U3A this month to discuss current affairs and hear from members about the issues and topics that interest them.

For those unfamiliar with the University of the Third Age – U3A – it is a wonderful way to make more social connections whilst learning a new skill or furthering your knowledge. From learning Italian, to Philosophy, from Bushwalking to Yoga, the list of classes is so broad that you are sure to find something that interests you.

Welcoming Visitors Back to William Ricketts Sanctuary

Although located in the western end of the electorate, I know many across the eastern end have been overjoyed to see that William Ricketts Sanctuary has reopened after being closed due to extensive damage from the June 2021 storm event.

This unique and treasured Hills attraction holds a special place in the hearts of many local residents and visitors alike. The sanctuary's remarkable sculptures and beautiful natural setting make it one of the Dandenong Ranges' most distinctive destinations, and I know many people are delighted to once again be able to experience this remarkable and unique place.

Staying in Touch As always, if you need assistance with a State Government service or would like to raise an issue with me, please do not hesitate to contact my office on 9754 5401 or via email daniela.demartino@parliament.vic.gov.au

Daniela De Martino MP
State Member for Monbulk



Lions Club of Emerald and District

Making a Difference with Lions Clubs

For more than a century, Lions Clubs have brought people together to support those in need, strengthen local communities and help create a better world. Lions are people who care about where they live and are willing to give their time, skills and energy to make a practical difference.

Lions Clubs support a wide range of causes. Local clubs may organise fundraising events, assist families and community organisations, support people with vision and hearing needs, respond to emergencies, and contribute to projects that benefit young people and the environment. Much of this work happens quietly, through volunteers who see a need and step forward to help.

Being a Lion is about much more than fundraising. It is about friendship, teamwork and the satisfaction of seeing a positive difference made in your own community. Members come from all walks of life, and everyone has something valuable to contribute. You do not need special experience to get involved. Whether you have a skill to share, an hour to spare, or simply a desire to help, there is a place for you.

Lions Club Emerald and District: Making a Difference Together For 50 years, the Lions Club Emerald and District has been putting these values into action, supporting people, community groups and local projects across Emerald and the surrounding hills communities. Established in 1975, the club recently celebrated 50 years of continuous service and a proud history of responding when the community needs help.

During the devastating 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires, Emerald Lions stepped up to provide assistance. More recently, the club has helped communities during major windstorms by providing emergency generators, including one installed at Fernlea Day Respite Centre to help ensure essential services could continue.

The club's contribution extends well beyond emergency response. Over the past twelve months Lions Emerald and District supported the Fernlea Community House food bank in its infancy and helped transform the BASE in Cockatoo from an abandoned building into a vibrant community hub. The club has also supported local heritage projects, schools and community organisations.

Working collaboratively is an important part of the club's approach. Groups Emerald Lions has partnered with including John's Hill Landcare, PAVED, Emerald and Gembrook CFA, Meander, Woorilla, Emerald Museum, and many others, including the new L2P program. The club welcomes requests for support and collaboration from community individuals and groups.

This commitment to local service was recognised when Emerald Lions was named Group/Event of the Year in the 2025 Emerald Community Awards, marking an important milestone in its 50-year history.

Join the Next Chapter

Now, Emerald Lions is inviting new people to become part of its next chapter. You can volunteer occasionally, contribute your skills, help at fundraising events, take part in community projects or become a member. You do not need special experience—just a willingness to help. If you would like to meet new people, support worthwhile causes and make a difference in Emerald and the surrounding communities, come along and discover what Lions is all about.

Everyone is welcome at Lions Club Emerald and District meetings, held on the first and third Wednesday of each month at The Base in Cockatoo, from 6:30pm.

Together, small acts of service can create a lasting impact.

Sarah Cole



A BIG WARM WELCOME to our newest L2P sponsor — DRIVESMART!

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Cockatoo Over 50's

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

September 2026

7th | Lunch – AGM and High Tea
14th | Craft with Marg- BYO Lunch
21st | Guest Speaker
28th | Outing – Vietnam Museum and Lunch at the RSL. Bus fare \$8

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

Her Body Myotherapy & Massage in Gembrook

After years of caring for women at our Glen Iris clinic, we're bringing our women's health-focused myotherapy and remedial massage services a little closer to home.

Our new Gembrook studio, located behind Carla Skin and Beauty, has been created as a warm, calm and private space where you can slow down, feel comfortable and be looked after - with a special focus on pregnancy, postpartum care, and women's health.

We'll be welcoming clients from Wednesday the 26th of August, and we can't wait to meet more of the wonderful women in Gembrook, Emerald and the surrounding areas.

If you're local, we'd absolutely love for you to follow along, share this post with a friend who might benefit, and say hello!

What's new in Gembrook



Bookings are open now - you can book your appointment at

[Book here](#)



Emerald Medical Centre
Your medical home

Medicinal Cannabis: Separating Fact from Fiction

Medicinal cannabis has gained increasing attention in recent years, but confusion remains.

Many people have heard of CBD and THC but aren't sure what they mean or whether medicinal cannabis is appropriate for them.

CBD (cannabidiol) and THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) are two naturally occurring compounds found in the cannabis plant. Although they come from the same plant, they have very different effects. THC is the component that can produce intoxicating effects or the feeling of being "high", whereas CBD does not have these effects. Depending on your condition and individual circumstances, some patients are prescribed CBD-only products, while others may benefit from THC-containing products or a combination of both.

A common misconception is that medicinal cannabis is smoked. In Australia, prescribed medicinal cannabis is supplied as regulated pharmaceutical products, most commonly as oils, capsules or oral sprays.

Medicinal cannabis is not considered a first-line treatment for most conditions. It may be considered when conventional treatments have not provided adequate relief or have caused unacceptable side effects. The strongest evidence currently supports its use in selected patients with chronic non-cancer pain, chemotherapy-induced nausea and

vomiting, multiple sclerosis-related muscle spasticity, certain forms of epilepsy and palliative care. Evidence for anxiety and sleep disorders remains limited, and treatment should be individualised.

Fact Check

Myth: Medicinal cannabis is the same as recreational cannabis.

Fact: Medicinal cannabis products are prescribed under medical supervision, with carefully selected formulations, doses and ongoing review.

Myth: Everyone prescribed medicinal cannabis receives THC.

Fact: Not necessarily. Many patients are prescribed CBD-only products, which do not produce the intoxicating effects associated with THC.

Myth: Anyone can obtain a prescription.

Fact: Medicinal cannabis isn't suitable for everyone. Your doctor will assess your medical history, current medications, previous treatments and treatment goals before deciding whether it is an appropriate option. Medicinal cannabis isn't suitable for everyone. It is generally not recommended for people with a history of psychosis and requires extra caution during pregnancy, breastfeeding and with some mental health conditions or interacting medicines.

If your prescribed medicinal cannabis contains THC, it is important to understand how this may affect your ability to legally drive. **THC is the component detected by roadside drug testing**, and it may remain detectable even when you no longer feel impaired. Driving laws relating to prescribed medicinal cannabis vary

September 2026

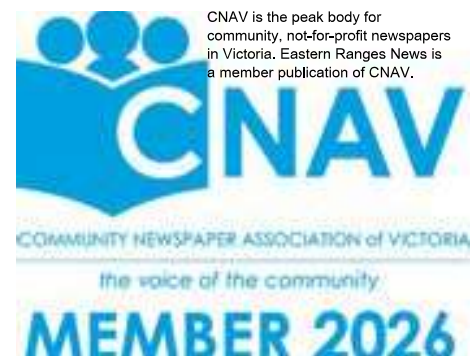
between states and territories and can change, so patients should understand the current laws that apply where they drive.

If you're wondering whether medicinal cannabis is right for you, speak with your GP. The goal is to find the safest and most effective treatment for your individual circumstances, which may or may not include medicinal cannabis.

Dr Vassili Lapchine, General Practitioner & Jonathon Somers, Occupational Therapist & Clinical Coordinator, Emerald Medical Centre



"First of all, you would get free hydroelectric power! Secondly, you'd never have to worry about running out of water. Great fishing..."



CNAV is the peak body for community, not-for-profit newspapers in Victoria. Eastern Ranges News is a member publication of CNAV.

ART IN THE PARK Emerald Lake Park's old tea rooms

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.



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- Family Law
- Corporate, Commercial & Business Law
- Litigation & Dispute Resolution
- Building & Construction Law
- Employment Law
- Criminal Law & Intervention Orders

(03) 5968 3666

Emerald - Level 1, 329-331 Belgrave-Gembrook Road, Emerald

Belgrave / Tecoma - 1579 Burwood Highway, Tecoma (By appointment only)

Pakenham - Level 1, 25 John Street, Pakenham (By appointment only)



Discover Friendship, Fun and Active Retirement with Emerald Ladies Probus

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. The motto of the Emerald Ladies Probus Club is 'fun, friendship and food'.

Even though the days still have a chill about them, the Emerald Ladies Probus Club continues with its regular meetings and activities. This month, Members will head into the City for a tour of the MCG and Australian Sports Museum. We will enjoy lunch at the Mulgrave Country Club and the Club will also hold a sausage sizzle at the Cockatoo IGA. Our regular walk and craft sessions will continue.

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 make new friends, keep active and enjoy themselves. Our Club meets on the third Monday of the month at the Emerald RSL. If you are interested in any of our activities and would like to find out more, please come along to our next meeting on Monday 21 September. Visitors are welcome to enjoy morning tea and meet with the



Club's friendly members. Our guest speaker at this meeting will be Rob Wagner from the Yarra Ranges Photographic Society.

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

Doris Artico



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

In August, the newly established Emerald District branch of the Country Women's Association of Victoria met for the second time, welcoming some new faces to the meeting. We continued our focus on getting to know each other, and spent time brainstorming ways in which we could make a difference in the Hills community. It was a timely opportunity to share Laura Musgrove's research from last month's edition of *Eastern Ranges News*, which shared the history of CWA at Clematis Hall.

At a state level, CWA Victoria are gearing up for one of the biggest events of the year – the Melbourne Royal Show. For 90 years, CWA members have raised funds for Victorian women, children and families by selling Devonshire tea and other tasty treats. In 2025, the CWA Tea Room sold a whopping 17,831 scones!

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 16 September, 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



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.





COCKATOO & DISTRICT BOWLING CLUB – 50 YEARS STRONG

The club has also been busy preparing for upcoming competitions. The Dubbo team has been training hard in preparation for the tournament in late September, and everyone is wishing the team the very best as they continue to build their skills and confidence.

Social bowls continues every Saturday from 12.00pm, welcoming both regular members and anyone interested in coming along for a friendly game. It is a great opportunity to enjoy some bowls, meet other members and make the most of the warmer weather.



Looking further ahead, pennant competitions will commence in late October, bringing 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.

As the days grow longer and the weather becomes warmer, Cockatoo Bowling Club is looking forward to another enjoyable season on the greens. With daylight saving approaching, members can look forward to the return of barefoot bowls, providing a relaxed and social way to enjoy an afternoon or evening with friends, family and fellow club members.

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.

We are located at 2 McBride St Cockatoo.



Gembrook Craft Group



Our first session to knit emotional support chickens. Tricky instructions but the ladies are doing well and we look forward to 5 ES Chickens!



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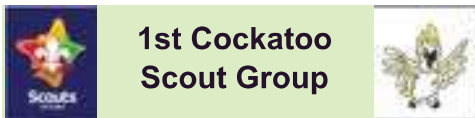
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1st Cockatoo Scout Group



So much is happening within our Group. Cuboree is coming up fast we have Cubs, Leaders & Ventures attending this fantastic week 28th Sep – 2nd Oct at Gilwell Park Gembrook. Our Joeys will be attending Hop into Cuboree on 30th Sep. This is just one of the fantastic opportunities available as part of the Scouting Movement.

Just scan the QR code if you or family members wish to become part of the Adventure. Searching for our newest leaders – Joey Section – same again scan QR code to guide our future generations. All training paid for.



WOW can't believe it's only 18 weeks (128 days) till Christmas.

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



Ready to Join the Adventure?

Scan to start your journey in Scouting today!



1st Cockatoo
Scout Group
bit.ly/1stCockatoo

Join now or trial for 3 weeks free!
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scoutsvictoria.com.au

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Order before 2pm for same day delivery

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Protect yourself and your loved ones this flu season.

- ✓ Flu vaccines available
- ✓ No appointment needed
- ✓ Quick, easy and done by our friendly team
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STAY HEALTHY THIS SEASON

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📞 03 5968 3023
🌟 Your health. Our priority.



The unwelcome guest that never leaves

Our community shares a long and proud agricultural history. It also offers a cautionary tale about the lasting impact of hazardous pesticides.

In the 1980s, dieldrin contamination was detected on potato farms and in beef cattle at Gembrook and surrounds. Dieldrin, a nerve poison and persistent organochlorine pesticide that accumulates in animals and humans, had been widely used from the 1950s until its ban in 1987. Australia was one of the last countries to ban it, allowing the known harm to accumulate. Residues persist in our farms and properties to this day, and the impact on potato farming in the area has been devastating.

A growing body of research links hazardous pesticide exposure to serious illnesses including cancers, neurological disorders such as Parkinson's disease and Motor Neurone disease, birth defects, neuropathy, endocrine disruption, and infertility. The effects are most pronounced among agricultural workers and people living in rural areas.

Using agroecological approaches by reducing or eliminating pesticide use on farms or in the garden has lasting benefits. It nurtures our soil, insects,

birds, unique wildlife and waterways. It protects your family's health, your neighbours, and our local economy.

Pesticide Action Australia is a charity offering practical resources for Australians to transition towards safer alternatives. Visit the website to learn more: www.pesticideaction.org.au

Josh Davis

Executive Director
Pesticide Action Australia
Mobile: 0494 345 468, Email: josh@pesticideaction.org.au
Pronouns: he/him
Website: www.pesticideaction.org.au



Meeting someone you have only spoken with online?
If you are, always be cautious and put your safety first.
There are a few steps you can do to make sure you are safe.

Here's how to stay safe.

- Protect your identity. Do not share personal information like your full name or home address.
- Check the person is genuine before you meet up with them. Call or video call first to make sure they are who they say they are.
- Set boundaries. Agree on what you are both comfortable with before meeting. Plan your own transport. Get yourself to and from the date.
- Meet up in a public area where there are other people around.
- Tell someone you trust when and where the date is (consider location sharing too!) and share your date's name and photo.
- If something feels strange or out of place, trust that feeling.

If you or someone you know has been the victim of threatening behaviour, harassment or assault, seek support and report the incident at a police station. It is never too late to report an incident.

In an emergency, always call **Triple Zero (000)**.

If you need support, please contact: **1800RESPECT - 1800 737 732**

Sexual Assault Crisis Line - **1800 806 292**

Kids Helpline - **1800 55 1800**

For more information visit: Vic Police



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)





PET OF THE MONTH

May



Congratulations May - a rescue Scottish Highlander.

We rescued him and his sister two years ago. His Name is May (all our cows are named after Melbourne football players).

From cows that were so scared of everything to cows that now come when they called and they love being feed bread and oranges.



Congratulations Klaus, cheers to your happy owner, and many thanks to Emerald Stock Feed



S	P	A	T	C	O	C	L	A	M	B	L	L
Q	R	O	U	C	N	F	O	A	L	M	A	P
S	T	B	R	U	S	M	O	L	T	C	R	U
V	P	I	G	L	E	T	E	F	T	R	V	L
C	A	T	E	R	P	I	L	L	A	R	A	L
O	W	D	G	O	S	L	I	N	G	A	K	E
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R	L	K	E	D	F	A	W	N	B	P	U	L
Y	E	A	G	L	E	T	A	C	G	A	B	E

Nit	Cria	Spat	Smolt	Fry	Leveret	Cygnets
Kit	Colt	Pullet	Gosling.	Pupa	Duckling.	Puggle
Eft	Lamb	Larva	Anting	Kitten	Piglet.	Eaglet
Cub	Fawn	Puppy	Foal	Joey	Owlet	Bunny
Kid	Tadpole	Caterpillar				

Words are listed - Diagonal, Vertical, or Horizontal, some letters overlap

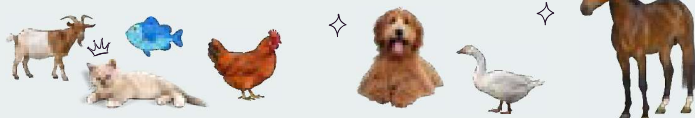
PET OF THE MONTH

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 FROM EMERALD STOCK FEED & PET SUPPLIES.

Email: publication@emeraldvillage.org.au



Sponsored by: Emerald stock feed & pet supplies.

Thankyou Sam at Emerald Stock Feed & Pet Supplies





Outlook

an inclusive society for all

Discover a range of free and affordable programs at Outlook Community Centre designed to inform, support and bring people together. Learn about aged care, hearing health and artificial intelligence, connect with others through supportive groups and social activities, or take time out to relax and enjoy yourself. There is something for carers, seniors, women and anyone looking for practical information, friendship and new opportunities.

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, credit card - online, over the phone or in person

Volunteering Information Session

Have you ever thought about volunteering? Join us for this informative session

Volunteering can help give you a sense of purpose and belonging. It's a great way to meet new people and engage in meaningful activities. This session could open the door for you to take the first step.

(You may be able to meet your Centrelink mutual obligation requirements through approved voluntary work (your mutual obligation requirements depend on your age and circumstances)). Mon 7 Sep 10am - 11am **Cost: FREE**



Aged Care Information Session

You are invited to an informative session hosted by Mentis Assist - Care Finder Program, where 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
 - The Care Finder Program – who is eligible and the support it offers
- Friday 11 Sep, 10.30am - 11.30am
Cost: FREE

Facilitated by Mentis Assist

Forget-Me-Not Café

This café style program brings together people living with dementia and their loved ones. The café is a nurturing space that offers support, enrichment, and understanding, where you can share experiences with others living with the challenges of dementia. Come along to enjoy activities, entertainment and refreshments.

Tues once per month - 5 Sep, 20 Oct, 17 Nov & 15 Dec 10am - 12pm Cost: FREE

(Gold coin donation welcome)

Hearing Australia Visit

Hearing Australia is coming to Outlook Community Centre! Join us as Belinda from Hearing Australia shares insights on the importance of hearing health and provides free 15 minute hearing checks for our local community.

To prioritise your hearing health — we look forward to seeing you!

Thursday 17 Sep, 10am - 12pm Cost: FREE. Call 1300 617 649 (select option 2) to book your appointment

Facilitated by Hearing Australia

CRAG Update Sealing The Hills

The August update has some good results:

- Over 2000 signatures (approx. 2100) was obtained for the petition to the state government to fund the Cardinia Councils LSSI program
- The petition was provided to David Limbrick-MP office Sept 14 and was submitted into parliament Sept 18.
- CRAG has written to the offices of Daniel De Martino, Clare Fitzmaurice, Renee Heath, Ann-Marie Herman and Alessandra Soliven advising that the petition has been completed and lodged and seeking their support when it's presented in parliament
- CRAG has also written to The Age and The Herald-Sun advising that the petition has been completed and submitted seeking an article.
- CRAG has participated in the Cardinia Councils advocacy video prepared for the road sealing campaign. The video will be released Aug 26 and will be circulated widely through social media and the relevant politicians
- CRAG has also communicated with Star News on the petition, an article will be published in the Pakenham Gazette

To watch online the
Road sealing petition speech
by David Limbrick
[Click here](#)



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1300 441 959

nicole@c-me.com.au

www.c-me.com.au



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Emerald, 3782



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

PERFECT FOR

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- 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.

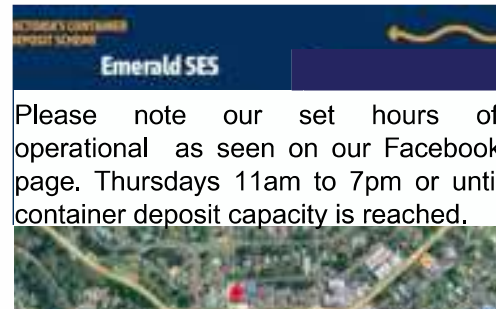
A security deposit applies and is returned where there are no unexpected expenses.

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



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



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EasternDandenongRangesBASE



Lynne Trensky,
EDRA



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Large koala sighting on Gembrook Road on the corner between Bessie Creek Road and Mt Eirene Road. Drive slowly, he was an absolute beauty.

From FB post



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



FREE FOR EVERYONE

A free event to walk, run, volunteer or cheer



BE PART OF A COMMUNITY

Make new friends and socialise



FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Children and dogs are welcome



DEVELOP SKILLS & BUILD CONFIDENCE

In a safe and welcoming environment



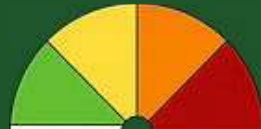
OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

No experience necessary

Register for parkrun at
www.parkrun.com.au/register



Do I need a permit?
You can check if you require a permit online through the [Fire Permits Victoria](https://www.fire.vic.gov.au/permits) website.



To check Fire Danger Ratings [click here](https://www.fire.vic.gov.au/permits).

Puffing Billy Toy Library
now located at
Fernlea Community House



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





emerald
psychology
practice

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



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INGREDIENTS

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Suitable for ages 5+,
all materials provided

Thursday 24th
September

1pm-2pm
Fernlea Community House,
Emerald

Scan to
book & find
out more



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.

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

**ADVERTISE WHERE LOCALS
LOOK. EVA CONNECTS YOUR
BUSINESS WITH A 90%
HILLS-BASED AUDIENCE AND
STRONG WEEKLY
ENGAGEMENT.**

- 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





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

Using REMPLAN

Using REMPLAN: Understanding your community through data

Want to better understand the people who live in your community?

This practical workshop will introduce community groups to REMPLAN, a powerful tool for accessing local demographic and population data.

When: Tuesday, 8 September 2026

Time: 4pm-5pm

Location: Online only workshop



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 via Microsoft Teams



This semester, the Cardinia Community Foundation has been proud to support a fortnightly fresh fruit program for students in the junior school.

The program helps ensure that all children have access to healthy and nutritious snacks throughout the school day, creating an inclusive environment where every student can participate and thrive. Fresh fruit not only supports healthy eating habits but also helps students stay focused, energised, and ready to learn.

At the foundation, we believe that strong communities are built when people come together to support one another. Through the generosity of local donors, businesses, and community partners, we invest in programs and initiatives that improve wellbeing, create opportunities, and strengthen connections across the Cardinia Shire.

We are delighted to be able to support this initiative and see the positive impact it is having on students and families within our community. By helping to remove barriers and promoting healthy choices, this program is making a meaningful difference in the lives of local children.

If you would like to help us continue supporting programs such as this, we welcome donations of any size. Every contribution stays local and helps fund projects that build a stronger, healthier, and more connected Cardinia community.

To learn more about the Cardinia Community Foundation or to make a donation, please visit our website or contact our team.

cardiniacommunityfoundation.org

10 Army Road Pakenham VIC, 3810

03 5945 0766

Follow us at



@cardiniacommunityfoundation



WEDNESDAYS 3PM-6PM

during school terms

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

Hills Youth Space is a free, fully supervised drop-in space for young people aged 12-18. Drugs, alcohol, smoke and vape free youth-led activities and events.



www.echo.org.au/youth





Exciting Things Are Happening at Cardinia Civic Concert Band

New Choirs Now Welcoming Members. This year we've launched two exciting new choirs, creating even more opportunities for our community to experience the joy of singing.

Our Children's Choir is open to young people aged 8–17 years

Community Choir welcomes aged 18 years and over

Both choirs rehearse at Nar Nar Goon Soldiers Memorial Hall on Mon, Children's Choir 4:30 – 5:30 pm and Community Choir 7:00 – 8:00 pm.

A Place for Every Musician

The Cardinia Civic Concert Band caters for musicians at every stage of their musical journey.

For more experienced musicians:

The Senior Concert Band rehearses every Tuesday from 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm, also at the Nar Nar Goon Soldiers Memorial Hall.

Intermediate Band is open to both adults and children and is ideal for:

- People learning a new instrument who would like the experience of playing in an ensemble.
- Musicians returning to an instrument after a break of several years—or even decades.
- Players who want to build confidence and improve their skills in a supportive, relaxed environment.

The Intermediate Band rehearses every Tue 6:30 – 7:15 pm Nar Nar Goon Soldiers Memorial Hall.

Whether you're picking up an instrument for the first time, returning after years away, or an accomplished player looking for a community ensemble, there's a place for you at Cardinia Civic Concert Band.

Join Us at Bunjil Place – Sun 13 Sep
Our annual concert returns to Bunjil Place on Sun, 13 Sep, featuring the Cardinia Civic Concert Band alongside special guest John Wood.

Tickets are available now through the Bunjil Place website. Be sure to book early to secure your seats.

For more information about any of our ensembles, contact us via our Facebook page, email secretary@cardiniacivicconcertband.com.au, or call 0439 408 311.



REHEARSALS EVERY MONDAY

Children's Choir
Ages 8-17
4.30pm - 5.30pm

Community Choir
Ages 18+
7.00pm - 8.00pm

Soldiers Memorial Hall,
Spencer Street, Nar Nar Goon

Enquiries or Bookings: 0439 408 311
Email: secretary@cardiniacivicconcertband.com.au
www.cardiniacivicconcertband.com.au

SIGN UP NOW



John Wood Cardinia Civic Concert Band *Stories, Songs & Good Cheer*

Expect an enchanting mix of heartfelt and humorous poetry, lively music, uproarious laughs, giggles, tears of joy, and timeless fun that captures the spirit of true blue Aussie entertainment.

Perfect for all ages seeking a warm, unforgettable afternoon.



Scan to Purchase
Tickets

Sunday • 13th September • 2pm

Bunjil Place Theatre, Narre Warren

Tickets

\$50	\$40	\$45	\$170	\$40pp
Adult	Child under 15 years	Concession	Family of 4	Groups 10+
				(per person)



INVEST
CARDINIA

TOGETHER WE RISE

Investing in a brighter future for Cardinia Shire

[Click here for more information](#)

Cardinia Shire Council acknowledges and pays respect to the traditional custodians of these lands, the Bunurong and Wurundjeri people.

Residents invited to get bushfire ready at hands-on workshop in Dewhurst

Cardinia Shire Council is encouraging residents living in rural and bushfire-prone areas to take practical steps towards bushfire preparedness by attending the Bushfire Prepare Workshop in Dewhurst on Saturday 19 September 2026.

Hosted by Cardinia Shire Council and supported by Safer Together and Bushfire Prepare, the workshop will provide participants with practical skills and knowledge to help them prepare their properties and support safe planned burning activities.

Designed for landowners of properties with a bushfire risk between 1 to 10 hectares, the workshop combines classroom learning with hands-on activities in a real-world environment.

Participants will learn how to assess bushfire risks, understand the requirements and legal obligations associated with planned burning, identify hazards and assets at risk, and safely use common planned burning and firefighting equipment.

The workshop provide opportunities for participants to develop a burn plan, assess fuel conditions and gain practical experience with tools such as rakehoes and drip torches. Subject to the day's conditions, attendees may also observe and participate in a controlled burn to better understand fire behaviour and ignition techniques.

Cardinia Shire Mayor Cr Brett Owen said the workshop was an excellent opportunity for residents to build their confidence and knowledge ahead of the bushfire season. "Preparing for bushfire is a shared responsibility, and workshops give residents practical skills to make their properties safer and more resilient," Cr Owen said.

"Whether you're new to living in a rural area or have managed land for years, this workshop offers valuable hands-on experience that can help you better understand bushfire risk and how to prepare for it."

By the end of the workshop, participants will have gained the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to support planned burning operations safely and effectively.

Residents are encouraged to register here: [Bookings](#) early as places are limited. Date: Sat 19 Sept 2026
Event details: **Bushfire Prepare Workshop** Location: Dewhurst area (registered participants will receive location details). [Bookings](#)

AUSNET supplying power to our Emerald Village Pharmacy

Open 7 days, Emerald Village Pharmacy is providing our community with essential medicines, medication packs vaccinations, consultations and ongoing health management.

Living in the beautiful hills comes with its own unique challenges, particularly when severe weather events lead to power outages. Thanks to an AusNet grant, we have been fortunate to secure a generator for the pharmacy, an incredible opportunity that will benefit not only Emerald, but also the surrounding communities of Avonsleigh, Clematis, Cockatoo, Macclesfield, Gembrook, Menzies Creek and Selby.



Louisa Lammers with Kim from Ausnet and Vic Pharmacy Guild

The ability to maintain power during extended outages means we can provide essential healthcare services when our community needs us most. It has also allowed us to adapt and remain open during challenging times, ensuring our patients can access vaccinations, medicines, advice and support they rely on.

During a prolonged power outage, our new generator will keep the pharmacy operational, allowing us to continue serving and supporting our community, whatever the weather may bring.

We are incredibly grateful for this opportunity and proud to be able to strengthen the resilience of healthcare services in our local hills community.



Louisa Lammers with Clematis CFA and Buffalo



Supporting Our Community,
Whatever the Weather



Properties for Sale from sponsors of Emerald Village Association



- 475 Belgrave-Gembrook Road, Avonsleigh
- 45 Kilvington Drive, Emerald
- 6 Durban Road, Emerald
- 3 Bower Court, Emerald
- 10 Victor Road, Clematis
- 2 Jacka Road, Avonsleigh
- 171A Stewart Road, Emerald
- 8 Cherry Road, Macclesfield
- 8 Kennedy Road, Macclesfield
- 11 Cherry Road, Macclesfield
- 335 Belgrave-Gembrook Road, Emerald
- 5 Doonaha Road, Cockatoo
- 705 Woori Yallock Road, Nangana
- 50 Bedford Road, Cockatoo
- 6/13 Vista Court, Gembrook
- 140 Beenak Road, Gembrook
- 25 Agnes Street, Gembrook
- 2/17 Station Road, Gembrook
- 2780 Gembrook-Launching Place Road, Gembrook



- 2105/118 Kavanagh Street, Southbank
- 3a Gembrook Road, Gembrook
- 68 Beaconsfield Emerald Road Emerald
- 30 Amphlett Avenue, Cockatoo
- 8 Belgrave-Hallam Road, Belgrave
- 68 Menzies Road, Menzies Creek
- 14 Halcyon Grove, Cockatoo
- 80 Bedford Road, Cockatoo
- 11 Holden Road, Kallista
- 1 Osier Place, Cockatoo
- 3 Grandview Avenue, Emerald
- 26 Pinnocks Road, Emerald
- 291-295 Belgrave Gembrook Road, Emerald
- 289 Belgrave Gembrook Road, Emerald
- 16 Quinn Road, Gembrook
- 13 Coopers Road, Macclesfield
- 7 Gembrook Launching Place Rd, Gembrook
- 191 Spillers Road, Macclesfield
- 435 TsChampions Road, Macclesfield
- 2835 Gembrook Launching PI Rd, Gembrook
- 81 Jardine Road, Macclesfield
- 3 Ladd Square, Emerald

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



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

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

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

Call Kris Ash on 0412 399 001



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

 An affiliate of
UMBRELLA
Dementia Cafés

Rotary
Emerald and District 



Commercial

- JL Automatics, Emerald
- Gembrook Cottages, Gembrook

Residential

- 5 Vincent Street, Cockatoo
- 32 Ferres Road, Emerald
- 1 Ladd Square, Emerald
- 189 Swales Road, Macclesfield
- 80 Jardine Road, Macclesfield
- 250 Phillip Road, Cockatoo
- 751 Woori Yallock Road, Cockatoo
- 8 Cherry Road, Avonsleigh

Land

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



**Rotary**

Club of Emerald & District

?

Trivia Night

**SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 6:30 - 9:30****TICKET****\$15****FUN GAMES & BIG PRIZES****THE HILLS HUB****400A BELGRAVE-GEMBROOK RD, EMERALD****Quiz for a Cause: Laugh, Learn, and Give Back**

Join the Emerald & greater community for a fun-filled evening of brain teasers, laughs, and connection – all while supporting a great cause. Book now and be part of the quizzical fun!

- Don't forget to bring:
- Nibbles & drinks for a fun night,
- Your A-game,
- Coins for fundraising fun
- Get creative with your table theme – dress it up, decorate it, and show us your style!

Scan the QR code to book now!



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



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




**ADVERTISE WHERE LOCALS
LOOK. EVA CONNECTS YOUR
BUSINESS WITH A 90%
HILLS-BASED AUDIENCE AND
STRONG WEEKLY
ENGAGEMENT.**

- 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,

**3782 Shop Local - Emerald and Around
Notice Board**



3782ShopLocal
RETAIL, SERVICES, TRADE
BUSINESS DIRECTORY



**Ordinary
Days**

A MUSICAL BY ADAM GWON



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AVONSLEIGH VETERINARY CLINIC

441 Belgrave-Gembrook Road Avonsleigh Vic 3782

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





UPCOMING EVENTS AT EMERALD LIBRARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug 2030	Aug 2031	Sep 1	Sep 2	Sep 3	Sep 4	Sep 5
	Baby Rhyme Time – Emerald Library. Meeting Room 11:15 AM	Tech Help – Emerald Library. 2:00 PM Creative Haven – Emerald Library. Meeting Room 6:00 PM	Tech Help – Emerald Library. 11:00 AM	Story Time – Emerald Library. Meeting Room 11:15 AM Lego Club – Emerald Library. Meeting Room 4:00 PM	Toddler Time – Emerald Library. Meeting Room 11:15 AM	Creative Haven - Saturday Edition – Emerald Library. Meeting Room 12:30 PM
Sep 6	Sep 7	Sep 8	Sep 9	Sep 10	Sep 11	Sep 12
	Baby Rhyme Time – Emerald Library. Meeting Room 11:15 AM		Book Chat – Emerald Library. Meeting Room 10:00 AM	Story Time – Emerald Library. Meeting Room 11:15 AM STEAM Club – Emerald Library. Meeting Room 4:00 PM	Toddler Time – Emerald Library. Meeting Room 11:15 AM	
Sep 13	Sep 14	Sep 15	Sep 16	Sep 17	Sep 18	Sep 19
	Baby Rhyme Time – Emerald Library. Meeting Room 11:15 AM	Creative Haven – Emerald Library. Meeting Room 6:00 PM		Story Time – Emerald Library. Meeting Room 11:15 AM Creative Kids – Emerald Library. Meeting Room 4:00 PM	Toddler Time – Emerald Library. Meeting Room 11:15 AM	
Sep 20	Sep 21	Sep 22	Sep 23	Sep 24	Sep 25	Sep 26
			Movie Morning – Emerald Library. Meeting Room 10:00 AM			
Sep 27	Sep 28	Sep 29	Sep 30	Oct 1	Oct 2	Oct 3



Cardinia

Supported by

Cardinia Shire Council

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.

**EDITORIAL ENQUIRIES: 400A Belgrave-Gembrook Road,
Emerald Vic. 3782.**

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Lisa Bloore: communications@emeraldvillage.org.au Social
media

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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.**

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 -
Eastern Ranges**

Neighbourhood Watch
Let's watch out for each other

WWW.NHW.COM.AU
hello@nhw.com.au

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

Thank you



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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.

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Protect Your Home. Know Your Rights. Be Prepared.



PREPARE



PROTECT



RESPOND



RECOVER



Wednesday 14 October



6:30 PM – 8:30 PM



The Hills Hub Emerald



400A Belgrave-Gembrook Road, Emerald

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.



BJS INSURANCE

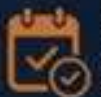
- Learn about BAL ratings and what they mean for your home
- Understand BPA Insurance and what 'uninsurable' means
- Discover the best ways to modify or mitigate your insurance policy
- Find out what's covered and what's not in flood versus leak situations



DISASTER LEGAL HELP VICTORIA (DLHV)

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- Learn essential legal steps to take before a disaster strikes
- Prepare yourself for the unexpected with expert guidance

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