



Our vision is to work with local community groups and the Cardinia Council to ensure our town is a desirable place to live, and to maintain and develop community facilities which enhance the liveability of our township for residents.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Given the restrictions are now easing, hopefully many groups in Emerald can now function more fully in our community. Our EVA committee has been meeting via Zoom - therefore it has limited our capacity to achieve some of our objectives.

Given the rules do not allow us to have a community meeting we will be having our AGM of members on Tuesday November 24 via Zoom. An agenda and reports will be forward to all members, posted on our website and our notice board near IGA.

"Walkin' Emerald" - a good local walk (13.5 kms) is along the Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail to Gembrook, some coffee on the way in Cockatoo and in Gembrook and back on the bus which runs every half hour. Take your Myki card.

Construction of the new SES building has just commenced. As well as buildings for SES equipment and trucks a communications tower will also be erected.  
- Dick Bartley

## PEN PAL PROJECT

The Grade 5 students and teachers at Emerald Primary School have been corresponding once a month to 85 senior local residents. The topics range from bikes, books, football, and history, "when I went to school" and how I have coped with the lockdown.

Many thanks to the teachers for giving up some of their precious time to support this project.

The plan is to continue with the swapping of letters to early next year. The project will then culminate with a get together with students and pen pals meeting each other at a morning tea in the Hub building.

## CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Emerald Citizenship awards for 2020 will be announced early in the New Year when the restrictions are eased on having gatherings for meetings.

## EMERALD U3A

U3A members have continued to meet regularly with almost half of our classes continuing on Zoom. Sadly we will not get back into the Hub this year as the COVID-19 testing site will be continuing until the end of December.

We held our Annual General Meeting via Zoom, with 54 present and our committee for 2021 determined.

If you are over 55, no longer working full time and eager to join our jolly band, check out our web site at [www.u3aemerald.org.au](http://www.u3aemerald.org.au).

Pat Buoncristiani - President

## EMERALD AND DISTRICT ROTARY CLUB

As part of our strategic planning process, the club recently embraced a new vision statement to define the aspirational future we are working towards, and a new mission statement that articulates our purpose in taking tangible steps towards its achievement.

### Our vision

*Thriving and resilient local and global communities*

### Our mission

*Working together to create positive change in the wellbeing of our community and beyond*

In the spirit of these statements, our club was pleased to present 108 care packs to Year 12 students at Emerald Secondary College to brighten up their exam study period. The packs included some healthy snacks, care products and fun items. Acting Principal Eleni Strathatos said the gifts were greatly appreciated by the school and all of the students.

In partnership with St. Mark's, St. Luke's and Emerald Community House, our club provided more food vouchers during October to assist local families in need impacted by the global pandemic.

In early October, we launched the McLeod Murphy Memorial Scholarship Fund. Established in memory of Emerald's first doctor, Dr McLeod Murphy, this scholarship invites applications from students residing in Emerald and surrounds to apply for funds to assist with their study of medicine, medical science or a related field. We hope to present two successful recipients with \$2000 each – \$1000 for one year of study and a further \$1000 a year later if they continue down that path. Applications close on 1 December 2020.

To find out more about our vibrant club and information on current initiatives, please visit our website <https://emeraldrotary.org.au>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/RotaryClubOfEmeraldDistrict/>,

email [info@emeraldrotary.org](mailto:info@emeraldrotary.org) or phone 0408 769 491.

## EMERALD STAR BUSH

The Emerald Star Bush Community Partnership Project (ESBCPP) has been running since 2012 with the aim of protecting and preserving the star bush which is endemic to the Emerald District.

Plants are now flowering in bushland, roadsides and gardens. Many on roadsides are marked with a blue stake. Report a find of some that are unstaked - [info@emeraldstarbush.com](mailto:info@emeraldstarbush.com).

Some plants are flowering at The Hills Hub, Emerald Scout Hall, Emerald Lake Park and the RSL. A video can be seen on Youtube - type in Emerald Star Bush. Also check out their website - [www.emeraldstarbush.com](http://www.emeraldstarbush.com).



## CARDINIA COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Our ward councillor will be Jeff Springfield who was elected unopposed at the current Council elections.

## THE HILLS HUB

The Covid testing facility will remain at The Hills Hub until the end of December 2020. This will mean that no community groups will be able to access The Hub until January 2021 at the earliest, subject to receiving Council approval as per the new Approvals Process (even if restrictions permit your activities).

## EMERALD SCOUT GROUP

A message from Scout Group Leader, Jeff Latter. Isn't it wonderful better weather, longer evenings and scouts returned to outdoor scouting at the Emerald Scout Centre after zooming for many months. All scouting activities are undertaken in accordance with our Covid Safe Plan.

**Joey's** (youth aged 5 to 8) is in recess. New members are welcome to start in early 2021.

**Cubs** (youth aged 8 to 11) meet on Monday evenings at 7:00 PM. New members are welcome.

**Scouts** (youth aged 11 to 15) meet on Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM either at Selby or Emerald. New members are welcome.

**JETS Venturers** (youth aged 15 to 18) meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 PM. New members are welcome.

**Ogilvy Rovers** (youth aged 18 to 26) meet on Thursday evenings at 8:00 PM. New members welcome. Membership fees for all members, including new members, have been suspended until March 2021.

## CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

Top quality pruned Christmas trees will be sold at the Emerald Scout Centre 21 Kilvington Drive. Subject to covid rules Christmas tree sales will be held on Saturday/Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> December between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM unless sold out. Sale may take place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December subject to tree availability.

Further information or enquiries ring 0419 899 446

## EMERALD TENNIS CLUB

Following announcements by the Victorian Premier and in conjunction with Tennis Victoria and local Council regulations, Emerald Tennis Club is ready to re-open and revitalise tennis at the Club, located in the heart of Emerald, at the rear of Worrell Reserve.

The courts will open under a Covid-19 policy with social distancing, sanitising & record keeping procedures in place. We encourage all current and lapsed members to reconnect and attend a session as soon as they are able.

We will also be welcoming members of the local & wider community to several sessions when Club members are able to oversee the visits. We only ask that you wear appropriate footwear (no ripple soles), bring a racquet & BYO drink bottle if you wish.

Sport in general and tennis in particular has been proven to be of great benefit to both physical and mental health and is a great social & cultural activity. It is also rated as a non-contact sport. Get fit, have fun and enjoy great company!!!

The Club toilets are unable to be accessed under the current restrictions, so visitors are advised to use the public toilet near the Hub (which is cleaned regularly to a high standard).

We will offer no cost visits as an introduction to our Committee, Members & Coach at the following proposed sessions :

### Contact details

**Mon:** 7.30pm (Social) Kate 0419 370 420

**Fri:** 9am-12noon (Social) Sue 0458 888 725

**Sun:** 9am-12 noon (Social) Andrea 5968 3057

**Wed:** 7.30pm (Social) Ros 0412762914

**Contact** [info@emeraldtennisclubvic.org.au](mailto:info@emeraldtennisclubvic.org.au)

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The Emerald RSL advises that there will be no Remembrance Day service in Emerald on the 11th November due to the Covid restrictions. The RSL encourages all residents to stop at 11am and remember those who served Australia.