YOUTH CALLS FOR ACTION

Young people are taking to the streets across the country, walking out of school to rally for action on climate change. Rallies were held in all the major cities and at least 20 regional towns around Australia in late 2018.

It’s no surprise that youth are taking a stand nor is it rare. After all, it is their future that is at stake. They are not offered a vote in the electoral system so what other choice do they have if they want their voices to be heard? Decisions made now on their behalf are already impacting them and their opinions are often dismissed and belittled as they stand up for their right to a safe and secure future.

In school, children are taught to think for themselves – to explore, to observe, to formulate opinions based on evidence.

FUN AND FREE

The tree has been put away for another year and the festivities have all concluded. Maybe you’ve even had a few days away somewhere and you’re back home. The tribe is restless and there’s only so many costly outings a family can manage, particularly on a limited budget.

It’s time to start thinking about how you’re going to keep the kids entertained and out of mischief over the rest of the long summer break. The holiday period can be quite stressful if we are always on the go. Equally, staying at home too much can result in cabin-fever.

Continued on page 5

Poem Bean of Cockatoo attending the climate action rally in Melbourne

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Far left: South East Melbourne Hub, Save Nanna! Right: Organisers cover the streets in Melbourne with a sea of green.
EMERALD MESSENGER — JANUARY 2019

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The Emerald Messenger is a community-led, social enterprise covering stories about local interests, groups, local businesses, events and commentary in a 10 kilometre radius around Emerald, the most populated town in the Dandenongs. Submissions from the community are welcome and must be sent by the 10th of every month in electronic format. Articles should typically be from 750 to 1000 words and include a high resolution image.

stories@emeraldmessenger.com.au

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advertising@emeraldmessenger.com.au

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GRADUATION MILESTONES

Congratulations are in order for all VCE, VCAL and VET students from Emerald Secondary College Class of 2018!

Emerald Secondary College is proud of all year 12 students for their hard work and dedication to their studies. With support from their families and ESC staff, many strategies were put in place to help students to achieve their best outcomes. In particular, Principle Jodie Doble congratulated Erin Byers, Tiffany Bligh, Alicia Kelly, James Mann, Marley Gusts, Luke Heir, Kiya Desgranges and Chloe Nicholas on achieving an ATAR of 90 or above.

Students participated in a diverse range of subjects during their VCE. “The common threads among those students who excelled were attributed to regularly seeking feedback from teachers and consistently challenging themselves,” cites Ms Doble. These students will be able to choose which tertiary courses and institutions they wish to attend to continue further study. Most have been offered scholarships, including Kiya Desgranges who has an opportunity to undertake a Bachelor of Engineering (with Honours) and a Master of Advanced Engineering Pathway Program at Monash University.

Top scoring student, Chloe Nicholas, achieved an ATAR of 98.1, receiving study scores of 49, 48 and 47. Chloe completed studies in English, business management, legal studies, further maths, ancient history and literature. She is currently reconsidering her further study options and may pursue a pathway to become a psychologist.

Emerald Secondary College’s motto is ‘Access to Excellence’ and the staff were able to help the students access pathways where they can succeed. College staff worked closely with the parents advising on pathway options and support frameworks so that together they could help students achieve their personal best. “It is my belief that all students can achieve success if they are guided to the right pathway and given the tools they need. We believe we are now seeing the fruits of our efforts in the success of our students” said Ms Doble. Overall, the students have much cause to celebrate their efforts in their achievement of this important milestone.

To further assist students on their academic journey, many senior teachers are now trained as VCE examiners bringing additional expertise to the college and they will continue to work closely with all staff to ensure that every teacher has the skills and ability to deliver quality education with high outcomes to all students across VET, VCAL and VCE.

With 7.7% of all Year 12 study scores above 40 and 23% of ATARs at 80 or above, many students will enjoy a variety of opportunities for their future education options. Ending 2018 on a high note, Emerald Secondary College was the highest ranked state school in the Dandenong Ranges.

MEREDITH COLE
and to express ideas. While they are being taught about the harmful effects of climate change in school, government leaders seem to deny the real and present danger. Some leaders have deemed the voice of the future to be misguided and having superficial motives which will do no more than land them in a dole queue. After all, what have the young got to lose when their future seems so bleak and their leaders appear more interested in holding on to their political seats than addressing environmental threats? What is the point of educating the young if leaders are not willing to take real actions to secure their future?

“The divide between the Government and the youth of Australia is probably the greatest it’s been since those huge protests of the Vietnam War era, and I think it’s for a similar reason,” Greenpeace chief executive David Ritter said. “A 14-year-old is perfectly capable of looking at the news and seeing terrible wildfires in California, bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef and the Arctic burning. Students have been inspired by a landmark climate lawsuit filed by 21 teenagers in Oregon against the US Government for failing to take meaningful action against climate change.

Generations of youthful protestors with no shortage of courage have a history of taking a stand on social issues from anti-war protests to human rights as well as environmental causes. In 1963, Martin Luther King welcomed the participation of some six thousand school children who peacefully marched to protest against school segregation in the Children’s Crusade. As volunteers gathered in a church, police blocked the exits and turned fire hoses and police dogs on the teenage demonstrators. More than one thousand demonstrators, mostly high school students, were jailed. A bomb was thrown into an African American church killing four little girls. While racism is a continuing menace to human rights globally, a lack of gun control in the US has been a new target for young students who continually face the risk of being shot and killed at school. A staggering set of statistics from the US Centre of Disease Control states that firearms were the leading cause of homicide death for Americans aged 10-19 years between 1999 and 2016 with the firearm death rate increasing by 28 percent between 2014 and 2016.

The current Australian leadership seems unable to undertake any of the obvious and most urgent actions to tackle climate change and seems to be suffering from wilful ignorance to the fact that our beds are on fire! “When kids make a mess adults tell us to clean it up but when leaders of our country make a mess like they’re doing right now with the environment they leave it for us to clean it up,” said Greta Thunberg at the COP24 (Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). Kids are smart - they can see the hypocrisy.

Sir David Attenborough, who spent his youth as a broadcast naturalist, warned in his opening address to the COP24 summit, "Leaders of the world you must lead. The continuation of our civilizations and the natural world on which we depend is in your hands.” Now is the time to harness all of our combined abilities and focus on our common global goals. We should be harnessing the passion, energy and commitment of those most invested in the future, those most likely to have to live with the effects of our government’s current inaction - our children.

MEREDITH COLE
REALISTIC RESOLUTIONS

With the festive season behind us many people like to use the turning of the year as a metaphorical time for new beginnings. The start of a new year is often filled with resolutions, goals, hopes and expectations for bigger and better things to come. Now is a fantastic time to sit back and reflect on our experiences of the past year - favourite moments, challenges, and hardships as well as acknowledging our strengths and what we have learned. Taking the time to reflect is a wonderful way to gain insight as well as to generate motivation and hope for the year ahead.

Making New Year’s resolutions and setting goals can be a fantastic way to start any year however this can also be overwhelming and often not as successful as we might hope as we tend to quickly resort to old patterns and habits. Therefore you might like to consider a few insights and seek a more mindful approach to start 2019.

Our behaviours, thinking and responses to situations and stressors from within are based on our experiences throughout our lives. This informs our subconscious beliefs about ourselves and how we perceive the world around us. Experiences and information we receive across our lifespan create and reinforce neuropathways - the connections within our brain informing our decision making, emotional responses and beliefs about the world, including self-worth and self-esteem. So whilst the intention for change is often there, when situations arise that evoke a stress response our old patterns and perhaps unhealthy and unproductive behaviours and emotions can emerge. We tend to resort to what we know rather than new and untried responses and behaviours.

By not addressing, acknowledging it and being aware of patterns, stress responses and beliefs can make it difficult for us to change our behaviours. There are many ways to change the way we think. Neuroscience informs us that our brain is absolutely capable of change, creating new pathways and connections constantly. This is known as neuroplasticity. In order to move forward it can be beneficial to acknowledge the old experiences and feelings and reflect upon them. This reflection can provide great insight and understanding of our strengths, abilities, barriers and resilience. In turn this insight can support the process to understand and gain tools to navigate, change and manage our responses as we move forward. Repetition will reinforce and manifest new habits and help to achieve lasting changes.

In the new year you might consider setting your intentions as well as your goals and developing more positive thinking skills. You may also wish to seek solutions within your personal experiences rather than socially constructed expectations. Reduce stress and find pathways within your own circumstances to a more mindful approach to the new year. Let your intentions be your inspiration and motivation for the year to guide and support you in your ventures. Choose a word or two that reflects your intention such as being more present, being grounded, being enough etc. Mindfulness practices and meditation are wonderful tools to reinforce these intentions and transform them into beliefs.

Whilst we strive for bigger and better things to come and to enhance our positive thinking skills, this is also a wonderful time to reflect on all we have, the memories we have created, the people we have in our lives, the choices we were able to make and the skills we have developed and learned. Goals and resolutions can be amazing tools for motivation. Practising gratitude is just as important to maintain focus and create positive pathways about the way we view our experiences, ourselves and the world around us. Gratitude can give us perspective, appreciation and insight which can help us ground ourselves in the present moment.

Certain changes and goals we hope to achieve might require a bit more attention. Don’t be afraid to seek help to uncover the underlying causes of the responses and behaviours you wish to change. Our self-image and subconscious belief systems can have a major impact on our responses to stressful situations. Counselling, as well as meditation and mindfulness can support the process to gain valuable insight into our own behaviours, stress triggers and responses. It can provide the skills and tools to navigate through stressful situations and move forward towards creating lasting change and increased wellbeing.

This is also a wonderful time to remember, explore and set sensible and achievable goals based on realistic expectations of yourself and others. Look into engaging in activities and practices that help you to reduce stress and enhance your sense of wellbeing. Remember, being more mindful does not mean you no longer experience stress. Mindfulness can provide effective tools to help you navigate challenges and can help to create changes in your response to stressful events.

Our community is filled with amazing and wonderful opportunities for support and connection which can improve wellbeing, help build resilience and develop skills that assist and support you on your journey in 2019.

CARINA HILLMANN

Carina Hillmann is the founder of Holistic Development & Wellbeing, servicing the Dandenong Ranges and beyond.

For more information visit www.holisticdevelopment.com.au or call Carina on 0415 600 529
Continued from page 1

Holiday fun that doesn’t break the bank

It’s easy to get overwhelmed when kids get bored quickly and purses can empty fast as a consequence. It’s a fact of life that kids will get bored now and then. But being bored gives space for true creativity to emerge. It encourages kids to think about what they really enjoy doing. If they are always kept busy being shepherded from one activity to another they won’t have the time or opportunity to discover what lies within themselves. Being bored is the birthplace of creativity.

Here are some inexpensive, fun activities that might help keep the kids from driving you crazy these holidays.

**On your bike**

Bike riding is a great family day out and there are plenty of trails and parks to ride around in the hills. Or if you prefer you can take your bikes somewhere completely new and check out the scenery. Bike riding is such an enjoyable and low cost fun family activity and you can get fit at the same time! If you haven’t got a bike you can always check out your local Men’s Shed or op shop which may have refurbished bikes for a reasonable price. Pack a lunch and don’t forget the helmets, water bottles and sunscreen.


**Go parking**

There are so many lovely parks to explore throughout the Dandenong Ranges which typically have playground equipment, walking trails, lakes, creeks and water features. Enjoying our beautiful local parks can be a lovely way to spend an afternoon. For those who like a little adventure there are national and state parks not too far away with walking tracks, waterfalls and rivers to explore. Pack a lunch, a fishing rod, sunscreen, hats and mozzie repellent and get out into the great outdoors.

parkweb.vic.gov.au

**Backyard Party**

Sometimes we just need to make our own fun. Try pitching a tent in the backyard so the kids can sleep out. Even a small tent inside will work if the weather is bad or you don’t have a suitable yard. A blanket over a table makes a great instant tent. Kids love the sense of adventure camping brings and this is the cheapest version. Let them have a torch lit party with snacks and drinks, get the cards or board games out like one of the Cranium series of games.

www.froddo.com/camping-at-home-12-fun-ideas-for-camping-in-your-backyard

**Get crafty**

Get the craft materials out and start the creative juices flowing. Macaroni mosaics, painting, yarn weaving, jewellery making, papier mache or clay modelling are all favourites. Build a teepee out of sticks and string and wrap some fabric around it or paint some rocks and hide them in the garden. Holidays are all about being free to explore our creative side indoors as well as outdoors. Craft activities are always great but particularly if it’s raining. Consider doing a group art project or make something that will take several days to complete like a paper mache dragon or a wall hanging. After all, you’ve got the rest of the holidays to complete the masterpiece. Resource Rescue in Bayswater has plenty of recycled art and craft materials and can be a fun outing of its own.

www.tothotornot.com/resource-rescue

**Get into science**

There are many options for fun activities that are also educational. There are at least 15 different crazy science experiments you can do with bi-carbonate of soda for starters such as creating a baking soda volcano or making your own...
bath bombs. There are plenty of kid safe science experiments that will keep them entertained.


Indoor Obstacle Course

When it’s wet outside, why not get the kids to build an indoor obstacle course? Start by planning on paper and give them a timer, a lot of pillows and turn it into a game. This will ignite their competitive spirits and keep them interested for longer.

www.playtivities.com/obstacle-courses-for-kids

Finding treasure

Everyone loves a treasure hunt and if you put a little forethought into making your clues you can keep the kids hunting for ages. For something a little different try drawing the clues instead of writing them. Or get the kids to create the treasure hunt and you follow the clues to the treasure. This game can be played inside or out and is appealing to kids of all ages.

www.instructables.com/id/how-to-plan-a-fun-treasure-hunt

Get cooking

Cooking is one of the best things for kids to learn and enjoy early in life. Make it fun by helping them to choose what to make. Fresh pasta, pancakes, fresh fruit sculptures, scones or nachos all have a variety of difficulty but there is something for everyone. Or throw away the recipe and see what they come up with but be warned - you’ll probably have to eat it!


Write a story or make a movie

This can be as involved or as simple as you like depending on the age of the kids and your access to resources. You can write an adventure story together and then illustrate it or you could make a movie where you are the writers, directors and actors. You could even make a stop motion movie together using your phone. Don’t forget the credits!

www.acmi.net.au/education/online-learning/magic-aardman-education-resources/how-create-stop-motion-animation

Don’t be daunted by the holidays at home with the kids. In no time you will be shopping for new school shoes and back packs and all too soon they will be back at school. Holiday time together can provide some of the best memories for children that they will cherish for years to come.

MEREDITH COLE

ARTS & CULTURE

When Melbourne’s favourite icon, Sisto Malaspina, was tragically killed in the cultural and business heart of the city recently, a great sadness was felt by people who knew him or knew of him. Even people who had never personally experienced his hospitality or kindness were touched by the many tributes on social media and those left outside his espresso bar in Bourke St. A state funeral was arranged and thousands of stories ensued about the special names he had for people, the advice he gave, the kindness he showed for those less fortunate, the smile he always wore, the history he created, not to mention the great coffee he made.

Sisto seemed to epitomise humanity, the way he made every customer feel special, treated his staff as family and showing genuine interest in his regular customers. Those who he just met would return, not just for the home cooked pasta, but for the way he made them feel. The way he lived and touched people’s hearts personified what it is to be human.

The 2019 Performing And Visual arts in Emerald (PAVE) Festival theme ‘Resonate’ explores what it means to be human - how we touch the hearts of others in some way throughout our lives. We all make choices to love or hate, help or hinder, support or abandon.

Resonance is often used to describe the quality, character and tone of sound. It is also the affect that sound has on someone in a personal or emotional way. When you put something out into the world it can be reflected back to you in some way. When you exude positivity it can influence others in the way they behave and what they give to others in response to the way your words or actions make them feel.

At the PAVE Festival 7th – 14th April 2019, artists will seek to touch our hearts in many surprising and delightful ways, to resonate with us and encourage us to embrace our common humanity. You will hear it in song lyrics, words of poetry and prose, see it in visual art, dance and drama – listen for it, look for it - does it touch you? Does it resonate with you? If it does, then pass it on so that our sense of shared humanity can be expanded, helping to improve the world and the lives of others, just as Sisto did.

For more PAVE 2019 information go to www.pave.org.au

NON BLAIR

PAVE Festival Coordinator
OUR LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE GUITAR

The guitar is an amazing instrument that has evolved over hundreds of years to the point where there are countless variations, models and specialisations. It is based on ancient instruments such as the lyre and the lute. The modern version owes much to developments in the 16th through 19th centuries, particularly in Europe where it evolved into what we would now recognise as a classical guitar. The modern guitar has six strings although its early ancestors had varying numbers of strings.

Early instruments used animal gut for strings until nylon was invented in the 1930s. Nowadays steel string guitars have largely replaced nylon string guitars. Changes were in large part the result of improvements in technology. Some of this technology was developed by a German woodworker named C.F. Martin who moved to the USA in the early 19th century. Martin was pivotal in developing bracing patterns built into the body of the guitar, improving tone, stability and structural strength. Further advances were made when the Gibson guitar company introduced the adjustable truss rod in 1921. The truss rod is a steel rod embedded in the neck which can be adjusted to cope with changes in the guitar due to weather, using different string tensions and even adjusting to a musician’s playing style.

Without these reinforcing structures, a guitar could not withstand the increased pressure steel strings impose upon it. With these developments and modern manufacturing techniques, mass-made guitars became lighter, more resonant and easier to play. Guitar necks could be made narrower, as the truss rods inside them required less wood to provide structural rigidity. Nylon strings initially developed for fishing line almost entirely replaced gut strings. The new internal bracing systems allowed the use of steel strings which were louder, more reliable and more stable than nylon or gut. Early steel string guitars resembled classical guitars but eventually the two guitar types parted company and they became distinctly different branches in an evolutionary tree.

With the advent of electricity, attempts were made to make guitars that could work electrically without depending upon the resonant qualities of a vibrating wooden plate or face. Early attempts struggled with the problems of distortion. Initial attempts aimed at imitating an acoustic sound through an electronic interpretation. Eventually this distortion was no longer viewed as a problem and it has even become a welcome part of playing the electric guitar.

The most commonly recognised acoustic guitar in popular use today is the dreadnought. This is a large sized guitar invented in about 1916 by C.F. Martin and named after the latest battleships of the day which impressed everyone with their enormous size. Earlier steel-string guitars largely resembled classical guitars as these formed the basis of their evolution. Dreadnoughts were invented in part to satisfy a demand for guitars that could compete with loud instruments such as the banjo, as the larger body of the guitar helps produce greater volume.

Today, guitars are used in all genres of music and in an amazing array of styles and techniques. Guitars are used in orchestras, rock bands and by solo singer-songwriters. One would struggle to find any music where a guitar could not be included.

Learning to play guitar

You can learn the guitar on your own using aids such as books, videos and YouTube but there is nothing quite like getting tuition from someone who knows the instrument. The best advice is to just play. Find opportunities to play with the instrument, find like-minded people and if you wish, find a tutor who can assist you.

It will help if you know what style of music you like and what kind of guitar you want to play. Having said that there are many electric guitar players who first started off with a nylon string guitar. Whatever you do, do not get a guitar that you will quickly outgrow or that is of poor quality. You will find that a guitar that is difficult to play will become a stumbling block that prevents you from properly practising correct techniques and can even be painful to learn on. There are many reasonably priced instruments available today due to mass-production techniques and continuing strong demands for the instrument.

A good instrument is a joy to play and will encourage you to keep learning and if for any reason you do decide not to continue, it will not be too hard to sell. Reasonable resale
prices for quality instruments can help you minimise any losses suffered in disposal. The same cannot be said for a poor quality instrument.

**Nylon, steel string or electric guitar**

If you already know what style of guitar you want to play then that should help guide you. If you don’t, then the best all-round guitars tend to be steel string guitars as they are very versatile and can be used for many styles of music. Steel string guitars tend to have narrow necks of approximately 43mm spacing.

If you like finger-picking styles and want something that is relatively easy to learn on, consider nylon string guitars. Whilst not as versatile they are easier to learn on because you don’t have to apply as much pressure to press the strings upon the fretboard. They also don’t tend to buzz as much when learning chords because of the wider string spacing. Typical widths of string spacing on nylon string guitars tend to be around the 50mm mark, but there are many hybrid guitars which use a smaller neck in between 47-48mm. Personally I find this width a great all-round spacing. It suits finger picking style really well but is still fine for other techniques such as flatpicking. Australian guitar makers such as Maton and Cole Clark tend to use this wider spacing.

**Why should I learn guitar?**

You could learn violin or piano if you prefer but guitars are very versatile. They are easy to transport and you can play a guitar and sing at the same time. Whatever instrument you take up there are going to be long-term benefits that will last you a lifetime. Learning to play an instrument can bring a tremendous amount of joy and happiness not only in being able to play music but in unlocking a world of music-making. Learning to play music is shown to improve cognitive function with long term benefits over a life time to memory and overall wellbeing. You can pack a guitar in your car for a camping trip, unlike a piano, and if you bring one to a party, you are going to be popular!

Guitar is great for children as it is much more easily absorbed by young people than adults and can really help provide a beneficial hobby that can last a life-time. Guitar is great for people who have some time to devote to it. You can easily spend many hours a week playing and practising and you’ll find that you’ll steadily make progress. Guitar is great for those who want to develop their creative and expressive side. As a musical instrument the guitar helps express ideas and emotions. Neuroscience research has shown that musical expression is also known to provide what can be considered a therapeutic effect.

**Who teaches guitar in the hills?**

There are many music teachers/tutors in the hills. The following three individuals are offered because not only are they capable of teaching guitar but they all have active, ongoing participation in community music in the hills. They also have strong practical experience in the associated disciplines of singing and performance.

**Clive Weeks**

Clive offers individual or group lessons for adults and children of all ages. He teaches singing, guitar, stagecraft and more. He employs a flexible, student-focused teaching method. Guitar classes are held at the Olinda Community House.

Clive can teach various guitar styles including popular, blues, rock, some metal, some classical, some country, finger picking, rhythm & lead, acoustic, nylon string and electric. You can contact Clive on 0412 116 816 or find him through Facebook.

**Jules Vines**

Jules is a qualified multi-instrumentalist and offers private tuition in guitar for beginners to intermediate. Based in Avonsleigh, Jules has been a qualified music teacher for over 30 years. She draws upon a wide variety of musical styles and genres and teaches students from school-age to adult. Jules is a radio show presenter on 3MDR 97.1FM and hosts the show “Clasically Saturday” every Saturday morning. She often organises special music events and invites her students to participate.

Lessons include aural training, classical or popular playing techniques, original composition, theory, musicianship and performance skills. Teaching takes place in a private setting however there are opportunities for duet, ensemble and band if students are interested to learn to play with others.

You can contact Jules on 0439 650 571 or email gone4milk@yahoo.com.au

**Jose Garcia**

Whilst a regular contributing writer to the Emerald Messenger, Jose is essentially a performing musician who organises music activities and also does some tutoring. He’s happy to take on guitar students on a case-by-case basis. Jose uses a folk music approach. This means playing music immediately and focusing on music-making as a priority over theory. Songs act as a focal point and theory is introduced when the song demands it.

Jose supports grassroots music and various jam sessions every month. He also conducts jams and workshops for various groups including clubs, local government art projects and festivals. He has a special passion for traditional stagecraft that uses a single microphone for an entire group.

You can contact Jose through Facebook or by email jose@jose-garcia.com

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Photo by Mariana Vusiatytska on Unsplash
NETWORKING WORKS

Community workers across the Dandenong Ranges were invited to attend the Sherbrooke Community Workers Network’s recent meeting to discuss programs and services offered by each organisation. These regular meetings create opportunities across sectors at the grass roots level for further collaboration and also help to identify potential gaps in service and program delivery.

The Sherbrooke Community Workers Network is chaired by Yarra Ranges Community Development Officer Chris Riseley. Those who attended included but were not limited to representatives from Yarra Ranges Council Youth Development, Belgravia Leisure (managing Monbulk Aquatic Centre and The Yarra Centre in Yarra Junction), Belgrave Library, Centrelink, Emerald Community House, Monbulk Hub, DHHS, Centrelink, Taylor Support Services, Fernlea House, St Mark’s Church, ECHO (Emerald Care for Hope and Outreach) and Knox City Council.

Guest speaker, Mary Farrow, manager of Emerald Community House, spoke about building connections across the Ranges area and the importance of those relationships in emergency management. She encouraged groups to build programs that met the needs of the community by providing examples of how a collaborative approach to community strengthening can bolster Ranges communities regardless of which council region they operate within. Mary reminded the group that it’s all about the people and that communities do not necessarily sit within the boundaries of one shire. She urged the group to review their organisational bushfire plans and that groups should plan to take responsibility for their members, clients, employees and volunteers in the event of an emergency or natural disaster. She stressed the importance of understanding the weather and keeping an eye on extremes over the upcoming summer months. There is sufficient information to provide a heads up on weather patterns and to understand what to expect as the longer range forecasts predict temperature rises, falling humidity and high wind warnings.

Network discussions covered relief support for carers, the challenges faced by people with disabilities and the needs of the most isolated members of our communities. Government service representatives were keen to liaise with the network members to tailor services for specific needs like transportation, food, Centrelink services and health and wellbeing activities. Support for youth, childcare, mature age workers, single parents, working families, victims of domestic violence and those seeking further education continue to require program development and support services.

Aleksei Bondarenko from Belgravia Leisure spoke about the challenges of identifying those who would benefit from support, citing that often those most in need of help do not self-identify as being in need. People who are temporarily living with relatives or sleeping on a friend’s couch don’t always identify themselves as being homeless.

Nicole Lane from ECHO spoke about the Ready2Go program for vulnerable people during hot weather especially when a health warning has been issued. She also spoke about arrangements made for high fire risk days that involved volunteers checking in with vulnerable people and transporting them if necessary to accommodation or other daytime sites outside the high fire danger zones.

Building a partnership between the Ranges groups is key to improving Ranges communities’ social, environmental and economic resilience in their regional neighbourhood. Networking also affords opportunities for innovation and creativity in the community development sector which is reflected in the quantity and quality of the services offered to the people of the Dandenong Ranges.

Organiser Chris Riseley strongly encourages any local community development practitioners or support service organisations in the Ranges area to get in touch and join the network so that together we can provide the best and most comprehensive programs, activities and services, tailored to the needs of our growing Ranges communities.

Contact Chris for more information about joining the network – c.riseley@yarraranges.vic.gov.au.

MEREDITH COLE
LANDING THE JOB OF YOUR DREAMS

For many people, this time of year is a time of reflection and re-evaluation, a time of planning for the future, short and long-term. It’s a time to think about the coming year and what you like or dislike about your current or past jobs. You may also have time to look around for a new job.

A good place to start searching for your perfect job is online. Job notice boards like Seek or Indeed are great for seeing what’s available in your field. You can also get a feel for the salary or wage rates, and most will provide a detailed job description so you can ensure you have all the necessary skills and attributes before applying. If you decide to apply for a job online, it’s pretty quick and simple but some tips and hints will give you the best chance of keeping your application out of the “No” pile and getting onto the short list.

- Make sure your CV/Resume is up-to-date. Add skills, training and experience you’ve gained in either paid or unpaid work. Make sure you have the current details of your referees and yourself.
- Tailor your CV for the position you’re applying. Rearrange your experience and skills according to the job advertisement. Emphasise experience or use the same language as the job ad to describe your skills and experience.
- Write a different cover letter for each application. Where possible, address the letter to the person named in the advert. Personalise the letter to help it mirror the language in the ad and show your personality.
- Clearly demonstrate that you’re suited to the job. Remember, the person or robot reviewing your application has never met you and knows nothing about you. Don’t assume that they will know that you’ve had the right experience. Clearly and succinctly spell this out in your CV and your cover letter.
- Check and double check. Typos, incorrect grammar and other errors are a big no-no. Don’t fall into the trap of shooting off online applications just because they’re easy. Get someone to proofread your application for spelling, grammar, readability and to make sure you’ve addressed all the criteria.

The aim is to get past automated sorting systems, so the words used in your application are important. Some online systems scan for particular words or phrases to short list or screen out applicants. For example, if the ad says “Administration experience” and instead, you use words like “PA” or “Secretarial”, your application may not make it through the first stage even though you’ve had the exact experience.

Some people think the CV is more important than the cover letter or vice versa. Actually, both are important. An interesting cover letter will lead a recruiter to read the CV. Conversely, a badly written cover letter will mean it goes straight into the “Regret” pile.

The CV should be set out with the most recent experience first and should show no more than 15 years of relevant experience. It is best to separate key skills and personal attributes from work experience. When listing previous roles, list the name of the organisation, month and year started and finished and the key responsibilities and/or achievements of each role. At the end of the resume, include your referees - the name, current role and contact phone number of 2-3 people who would be willing and able to speak about you in a professional capacity.

If your application makes the short list, you may be called for a phone interview or invited to a face-to-face interview. For some jobs, group interviews are the first human contact you will have. Group interviews are common in retail, graduate positions and where there have been a lot of applicants and the recruiter is looking to further eliminate a number of people. The key for group interviews is to stand out. The assessors will be looking for people with the right behaviours, confidence, personality and aptitude. They will be looking for behaviours and skills that are important to the job and consistent with the values of the organisation. They may be looking for people who demonstrate courtesy, ideas, team work, who are articulate, relaxed, natural and confident without dominating.

Whether it’s a group, phone, panel or one-on-one interview it is important to be yourself and demonstrate professionalism. Dress appropriately for the type of job and ensure you arrive with a little time to spare in case you need to complete paperwork.

During the interview, don’t let nerves take over. Take a deep breath, listen carefully to questions and ask the interviewer to repeat the question if needed. Try to answer all questions but don’t bluff. If you can’t answer a question, simply say so.

Some jobs have second or third interviews while others may only have one. If you’re not successful after an interview be sure to ask for feedback. Learn from the experience to help you with future opportunities. If you didn’t get the job, it’s likely you weren’t a fit, either from a skills, experience or personal attributes perspective. If you’re not a fit for either an organisation or a job, it won’t be the job of your dreams. It’s a matter of finding the right job, in a workplace that suits your personality and working style.

Not all jobs are advertised online. It’s estimated around 70% of jobs are not advertised at all! We’ll explore this topic in a later article.

Finding a new job can be a job in itself, but when you’re working in the job of your dreams, you’ll know it. You’ll have purpose and enjoyment from your work, rather than it just being a way of paying the bills.

NON BLAIR

Non Blair has had a career in Human Resources and currently works for an Organisational Development consultancy. She conducts local employment workshops and offers resume writing services.
It’s autumn 1961, on a fairly sunny day for Northern Ireland, and I’m sitting at my desk in Mr Turner’s art class in a technical school located some twelve miles south of Belfast. Mr Turner’s casually run sessions are an oasis of relaxation as he wants his students to reflect on their compositions in an unstressed, creative environment.

I’m fourteen going on fifteen and beginning to wonder vaguely about what my post-schooling future will hold for me. Thanks to the vagaries of the British educational system I’ve found myself streamed into a technical school, but am weak in practical subjects such as woodwork and metalwork. Am I destined for a factory job or some other ‘blue collar’ occupation? It’s a worry, nagging away at the back of my mind. Only a few months later a totally unexpected turn of events would open up a whole new set of possibilities - my parents’ announcement in early 1962 that our family of six would be emigrating to Melbourne, Australia! Melbourne - wasn’t that the place where the 1956 Olympics had been held, where test cricket matches could attract crowds of over 90,000 people?

Suddenly obtaining academic qualifications became more relevant and in mid-1962, I sat for and passed the Junior Technical Certificate examination, performing well in mathematics, English and geography, but poorly (as expected) in the practical subjects. At least now I had a formal qualification I could present to a future employer ‘down under’.

On the relationships side, our emigration meant the end of the first romantic relationships for my sister and I. Ed, in Ann’s case and Ida in mine, there being no reasonable prospect of our seeing either of them again.

Early in November 1962, just after the Cuban Missile Crisis, our family crossed from Belfast to Liverpool on the night ferry, then on by train to London where we were crammed overnight into the flat of a friend of my parents. The following morning, we took the ‘boat train’ to Southampton where we caught our first sight of the Italian liner ‘Castel Felice’ which would transport us to Australia. I didn’t realise it at the time, but the ship was tied up close to where the 1956 Olympics had been held, where test cricket matches could attract crowds of over 90,000 people!

As far as on-board activities were concerned I found my teenage self caught between the children and the adults – no childish games for me but no winning and dancing in the adult lounges either. As a result, I found that I had a lot of time on my hands with nothing much to do. The one and only swimming pool on the ship was closed early in the voyage due to the presence of a bacterial infection. Even the cinema wasn’t completely safe as the unsecured chairs could slide around when the ship rolled. There was a table tennis table close to the railings on an upper deck and I spent quite some time competing against fellow teenagers. Strangely, no-one offered to retrieve balls when they went overboard!

I had imagined seeing a smorgasbord of famous sights in the course of the journey but mostly, as the old song says, I saw the sea.

Leaving the heaving Bay of Biscay and following the Spanish and Portuguese coasts we passed the Rock of Gibraltar then proceeded comfortably through the Mediterranean Sea. The first stop on our journey was Port Said at the entrance to the Suez Canal. Egyptian traders in their small boats came alongside our ship trying from below to persuade us to buy their wares. For many years afterwards I kept a cam-el-hide stationery wallet bought by my parents from one of these floating vendors. Sailing through the Suez Canal I hoped naively to see a pyramid or two but all I saw was sand, more sand and the occasional palm tree.
Having traversed the Red Sea, we stopped at Aden, now part of Yemen but then still a British colony. For the first time on our long journey all passengers were allowed to go ashore however all we found in the town were dingy, dusty and smelly ‘shops’. We continued on cruising slowly across the Indian Ocean and there was no land for me to see but I enjoyed observing the antics of the porpoises which leapt and gamboled in the frothy wake of the ship.

At last it was ‘land ahoy’ as we reached the coast of Western Australia and entered Fremantle Harbour. Permitted once more to disembark, we raced down the gangplank, each wanting bragging rights as the first to touch Australian soil. From memory, my younger brother Alan, then nine, claimed the honour! The decaying buildings in the port area weren’t impressive but when we reached King’s Park (by bus) we marvelled at the gleaming ultra-modern buildings of central Perth just across the Swan River.

Finally, it was back to the ship for the last leg of the voyage to our new home of Melbourne. My parents had said nothing about my sister and me resuming school so we both resolved to look for employment as soon as possible after landing. Someone on board had mentioned a large department store called Myer and we thought that together with our parents we might try there first.

As we entered Port Phillip the pilot boat came out to escort us safely to Station Pier where my Uncle Ellison was waiting to welcome us. We then travelled by taxi to his modest weatherboard home in St Kilda where our first meal was a good old-fashioned ‘Ulster Fry’ of fried bacon, eggs, tomatoes and sausages!

Three days after our landing - as planned - Dad, Mum, Ann and I headed for Myer’s in Bourke Street to apply for jobs and, incredibly, each of us was successful! Dad was employed in Crockery Dispatch, Mum in the Miss Myer section, Ann in the sixth floor office and I, to my great embarrassment, in the storeroom of the Ladies’ Hosiery department!

There was no such thing as a bank-issued credit card in those days but Myer’s had an equivalent for its employees - a store card. Using this and the limited cash Dad had brought we rented and furnished a modern flat in Barkly Street, St Kilda. Having employment and our own accommodation, the biggest steps in our new phase of family life had been accomplished and we could begin to explore and adjust to our radically changed environment.

It’s now some 56 years since our arrival and Mum and Dad, after living out their retirement years in beautiful Noosa, are no longer with us. They have however left us with a profound sense of gratitude for their courage and vision in bringing us to this Great Southern Land, Australia!

JOHN MAGUIRE

Postscript: Ed and Ida, who we left behind, ended up marrying each other and living happily ever after!
BEST LAID PLANS

You may have committed to your New Year’s resolutions which, I’m guessing, probably include yet another diet. You may have had great success in the first week or so but then the rest of the family orders pizza for dinner and the luscious cheesy smell overwhelms your good intentions and you fall. You may feel like you just wasted the good work of the last 7 days so you go back for seconds, even thirds. And hey, doesn’t that ice-cream look good too!

Your environment, your home, your workplace and the people around you will always have a huge impact on your health. If you work in an office or a school with a tearoom stocked with cakes and snacks then you’ll be faced with some tough temptations on your path to a healthier you. If you spend a lot of time in this type of environment it’s hard not to let other people’s habits drag you down. So how do you resist temptation and break the cycle of self-sabotage?

Beyond anything, you need to get your mindset right and have a serious conversation with yourself about not partaking in careless and damaging eating on a regular basis. Don’t give yourself an option. Don’t allow yourself a choice. The moment you start a dialogue of ‘bargaining’ with yourself, you are in trouble. This is about keeping promises to yourself because you value your health. Respect yourself enough to believe that you are capable of change and worthy of nurturing your body with wholesome, satisfying foods, without going overboard.

Sugary treats are hard to resist for some and the guilt that follows from eating them is not a happy feeling and usually affects you. Sure you can’t change the tearoom for everyone else but you could get a supportive friend on board. If the wrong food is at home then perhaps ask your family to help. You need to stand up for yourself and your health at all costs. Teach your friends, family and co-workers some of your healthy habits and share your experiences with them.

There will be times when well-meaning friends and family may undermine your efforts. So explain your position calmly and enlist them to your cause. And remember, it is not what you do 10% of the time that matters - it is what you do 90% of the time. If you do overindulge don’t give up on your resolution, just get back on that horse and start again tomorrow.

LISA BULLOCK

Lisa Bullock is a Personal Trainer based in Emerald. She’s run her successful fitness business, Lisa Bullock Fitness, for nearly 20 years and has trained over 1000 clients helping them reach their health, fitness and wellness goals. She believes that consistency is key to achieving goals.

Photo: Rob Long on Unsplash

EMERALD MESSNER — JANUARY 2019

EMERALD TRACTOR SERVICES

EMERALD TRACTOR SERVICES

EMERALD TRACTOR SERVICES

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E: admin@emeraldpsychology.com.au

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MORE ARTICLES CONTINUE ON PAGE 28
Term 1
(January 29\textsuperscript{th} - April 5\textsuperscript{th} 2019)

Semester 1
Short course programs, children's programs, local events, venue hire, activities & community projects

Supporting Local Community Enterprise Zone:
Strengthening new opportunities for local business development, training pathways, volunteering and pathways to employment

All Welcome
please come in
& say hello

Office open
Monday - Friday
9am - 4pm
(During School Terms)

Our Vision is to be a place where connections are made and opportunities are realised.
Our Mission is to consistently meet the needs of the community by providing quality community development activities, programs and services.

Emerald Community House Inc.
356 - 358 Belgrave-Gembrook Rd, Emerald VIC 3782
Telephone: 03 5968 3881 Email: emhouse@iinet.net.au
www.emeraldcommunityhouse.org.au
‘Find us’ on Facebook - www.facebook.com/emeraldcommunityhouse
Membership, Course Enrolment Details & Conditions

Membership Fees
$10 for individuals and $15 for families applies to all users accessing any of the services at Emerald Community House (ECH). The membership fee is an annual fee from January to December and goes towards House facilities and maintenance, community grant support, insurance, free community wifi and other house expenses. Further details online.

Course Enrolment
Enrolment/membership forms are available at the office or online www.emeraldcommunityhouse.org.au. Course cancellations may occur if minimum class numbers aren’t achieved. Terms/Conditions are also online. NOTE: Course times and activity details are correct as at time of printing, but may be subject to change at the discretion of management.

Training to people from all walks of life.

Dig In Community Café

The Dig In Community Café is an ECH initiative to promote community volunteering, job skills and connections. ECH practises community dining as an exercise in preparedness and community engagement. Run by community volunteers under the House Manager, The Dig In Community Café provides a range of volunteer opportunities including menu planning, food preparation, cooking, venue setting, set-up, pack up and dishwashing. Donations are kindly accepted to keep the café going.

Volunteers and diners all enjoy a fun night and it’s a great outlet to make new friends and eat together around the community table. This takes place on the last Friday of every month, unless otherwise posted. Other community groups are encouraged to get involved and run a Dig In Community dining event of their own.

Volunteers and food donations always welcome!

Thank you to all of our Dig In Community Café regular sponsors (Emerald Woolworths, Emerald Bakery & Cockatoo Bakery) and our wonderful team of volunteers!

Dates: Friday February 22nd & March 29th
Venue: ECH Hall
Time: 6-8pm

The Dig In Community Café is one of a collection of programs recognised by Monash/EMV Resilience Compendium in Victoria and EMV’s Community Resilience Framework

Dandenong Ranges Repair Café — Free Workshop

Come along to the next session on Sunday February 17th between 12-2pm at Emerald Community House during the Market and meet others interested in promoting sustainability projects.

Find out more about the International Repair Café movement at www.repaircafe.org

Bring any broken items to be repaired by volunteers, including small household appliances, clothes, bikes, jewellery, bags and small pieces of furniture. Items need to be easily handled and transported by you. Further details for the session will be promoted online.

Supported by volunteers, Emerald Community House and the Upwey Township Group Tool Library, this project is looking for more people with practical skills to help at sessions throughout townships in the hills. Enquire via the website below to get involved and support the reduction of waste, learn new skills and meet wonderful people sharing their knowledge and encouraging others to repair rather than replace.

www.dandenongrangesrepaircafe.community facebook.com/dandenongrangesrepaircafe
QiGong for Health & Healing
Course Code QG  With Maxine Gardner

QIGONG, (chi gong), from which Tai Chi originated, uses the same principles of combining breath-work, movement and stillness to improve the quality of life on all levels. The purpose of these ancient exercises is to seek stillness (relaxation) in movement (chaos). Bringing these aspects into balance will help to provide participants with practical tools for coping with the daily stresses of everyday life. QiGong can improve flexibility, balance, and coordination. It can be beneficial for with arthritis, recovering from surgery or illness. Or it can simply help those who wish to enjoy the practice of a beautiful and gentle way of being, contributing to their health at the same time. Please bring water & a blanket.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates:</th>
<th>Thursday January 31st - March 7th (6 weeks)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time &amp; Venue:</td>
<td>7pm - 8:30pm, ECH Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Fee:</td>
<td>$99 (inc GST) Casual class fee $22 (inc GST)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wellbeing Program
Course Code WP  With Karen Jinnette & Dianne Edwards

This free, popular and innovative wellbeing program provides a diverse and fun environment for people to engage in various physical and intellectual activities that can improve quality of health and wellbeing. The program takes place in an environment that includes carers to develop friendships, receive support from the group and develops a network with a variety of people and age groups.

We offer a range of structured fun activities to improve general wellbeing directed at people over 50. There is a focus on providing people with an opportunity to get together for social gatherings, informal discussions as well as providing valuable information. Carers who support loved ones, must attend together and are welcome. Our program is coordinated by volunteers & currently funded by ECH.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates:</th>
<th>Tuesday January 29th - April 2nd (10 weeks)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Time &amp; Venue:</td>
<td>9:30am - 11:30am, Emerald RSL FREE</td>
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Infant Massage
Course Code IM  With Carol McCoy

Learn the correct techniques from Carol McCoy a certified professional trainer (IMIS). Massage can help your child settle, sleep better, reduce crying and relieve problems such as wind, colic, constipation, reflux and eczema. It increase baby’s brain development and enhances bonding. It can also help reduce postnatal depression.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates:</th>
<th>Wednesday February 13th - March 6th (4 weeks)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time &amp; Venue:</td>
<td>2pm - 3pm, ECH Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Fee:</td>
<td>$140</td>
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</table>

Workplace Skills

Developing your Skills for the Workplace
Course Code DYSW  With Sharyn Thomas & Alison Klages

Ideal for those with special needs, participants will learn a variety of natural and environmental crafts that interest them such as making soaps, recycled paper and cards and how to present them for sale. Students will run their own market stall at the Emerald Market to sell their creative works and gain confidence within a community environment. The money raised goes back into the group and community by funding for activities for special needs groups. We have two groups running.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Dates:</th>
<th>Tuesday January 29th - April 2nd (10 weeks)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time &amp; Venue:</td>
<td>10am - 12pm, ECH Hall Kitchen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Fee:</td>
<td>$80 (including materials and amenities fees)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
All About Espaliers
Course Code AAE  With Peter Allen

Learn how to select the right trees to use, what espalier shapes to use for which species, creating and maintaining them. Prune for fruit or new growth, depending on when you do it, reduce workload by 90%. Please bring lunch to share.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Sunday February 10th (1 session)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time &amp; Venue:</td>
<td>10am - 4pm, Telopea Mountain Permaculture, 134 Invermay Road, Monbulk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Fee:</td>
<td>$104.50 (inc GST)</td>
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BD Compost For Fruit Trees
Course Code CFF  With Peter Allen

We will build a heap ready for winter and recipes to suit different species of fruit and nut trees vs vegetable. Please bring lunch to share.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Dates:</th>
<th>Saturday March 10th (1 session)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Time &amp; Venue:</td>
<td>9am - 4pm, Telopea Mountain Permaculture, 134 Invermay Road, Monbulk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Fee:</td>
<td>$137.50 (inc GST)</td>
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</table>

Permaculture Design Course
Course Code PDC  With Peter Allen

This 147 hr Permaculture Design Course (PDC) will suit many levels including those wishing to design their own property, going on to seek employment, or planning to continue with other accredited courses. This is a real chance to learn and gain 2 certificates in this 16 wk course (21 sessions). Numerous tutors will cover concepts of a full permaculture design including, zones, sectors and the ethics and principles of permaculture. At the conclusion of this course participants will complete and present a design to the class to complete this certificate course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates:</th>
<th>Sessions start Tuesday February 19th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time &amp; Venue:</td>
<td>9am - 4.30pm (1st session only at ECH Hall)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Continues at Telopea Mountain Permaculture, 134 Invermay Road, Monbulk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Fee:</td>
<td>$650</td>
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Upcoming Market Dates
Sun January 20th
Sun February 17th
Sun March 17th
(No April Market due to Easter)
Sun May 19th
Sun June 16th

Variety of Stalls
Clothing & Jewellery
Community Groups
Drinks / Food
Fresh Produce
Gifts & Handcrafts
Health
Soy candles & more
Literacy & Numeracy

**Literacy for Adults with a Disability**
**Course Code ALFA  With Dianne Edwards**

This course is geared for those who will benefit from basic numeracy and literacy skills in a small friendly group environment. Using fun and interactive methods, students will also increase their confidence and abilities to work in a group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates:</th>
<th>Monday February 4th - April 1st (8 weeks) No class March 11th</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time &amp; Venue:</td>
<td>9:30am - 11:30am, ECH Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Fee:</td>
<td>$80</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Everyday Literacy through Cooking**
**Course Code ALTC  With Sharyn Thomas**

Participants will learn literacy, numeracy and food handling skills through practical cooking demonstrations and preparing their own recipes, incorporating the 5 food groups. Ideal for those with special needs, participants will learn the fundamentals of food safety and handling including use and sanitising of equipment, preparation and storage of ingredients and storage of food types including dairy, dry goods, fruit and vegetables, meat, seafood and poultry.

Hygiene procedures, identifying and preventing high risks and handling of waste items will be covered to provide safe practices and increase work place skills. Participants will also make up their own recipe book, using their literacy and numeracy skills while they learn how to prepare and cook a meal to take home and share.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates:</th>
<th>Monday February 4th - April 1st (8 weeks) No class March 11th</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time &amp; Venue:</td>
<td>12:30pm - 2:30pm, ECH Hall &amp; Kitchen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dates:</td>
<td>Tuesday January 29th - April 2nd (10 weeks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time &amp; Venue:</td>
<td>1pm - 3pm, ECH Hall &amp; Kitchen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Fee:</td>
<td>$80 each term, including materials &amp; amenities fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials:</td>
<td>Special dietary needs - add $20</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Travel & Tourism

**Introduction to Working in the Wine Industry**
**Course Code IWW  With Janette Connell**

Interested in the wine making, varietals and what grows in our area? With the Yarra Valley right next door, you can look into working close to home with a commute through one of the most beautiful areas in Victoria. Why not combine with Intro to Travel and Tourism? An ideal starter course if you are seeking employment in a wine tasting venue, hospitality industry or pursue a career or further study in viticulture.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enquiry:</th>
<th>Email <a href="mailto:emhouse@iinet.net.au">emhouse@iinet.net.au</a> for the start date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Fee:</td>
<td>$120</td>
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**Introduction to Travel and Tourism**
**Course Code ITT  With Janette Connell**

Ever thought of combining your love of travel into a career? What is involved? Can you work from home? What are the options? Explore the tourism industry and identify what skills are required whether you want to pursue a career or manage boutique travel interests like tours, group travel or develop a local tourism business of your own.

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Fee:</td>
<td>$120</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Developing your Writing Skills  
Course Code: DYWS  
With Maria Millers

Would you like to develop your writing skills further, become an author, a literary critic or write moving editorials? In this course, while exploring different literary works and sharing your creative writing, you will be introduced to a range of creative writing techniques that will help to develop your own personal writing skills. This is a supportive atmosphere headed by a skilled teacher with some students already published or going on to be successful authors. You can too, starting with this course.

Dates: Friday February 8th - March 29th (8 weeks)  
Time & Venue: 12:30pm - 3pm, ECH Hall  
Course Fee: $50 (including material & amenities fees)

Book Writers’ Workshop  
Course Code: WW  
With Heather Ellis

Ever wanted to write that book? Make a start? This course will take you through the steps of writing a book, promoting it, getting it published and finding out about attending literary festivals and events around the world. Of special interest is the memoir - a historical account or biography from personal knowledge. Heather Ellis, author of the acclaimed memoir, “Ubuntu”, will take you down your memory lane and help you to collect your thoughts and get them organised. This course will run for two semesters to allow enough time to finish your book hopefully by the end of the year.

Dates: Wednesday January 30th, February 13th & 27th, March 13th & 27th, (5 sessions)  
Time & Venue: 7pm - 9pm, ECH Front Room  
Course Fee: $80 (including materials & amenities fees)

Introduction to Sustainable Design Practices  
Course Code: ISDP  
With Adam Byron-Thomsen

Three main areas behind sustainable design will be investigated and their intersections explored: the environmental, economic and social. Designing for a sustainable future incorporates many possibilities, from large scale built environments and developments, to retrofitting of current structures; garden design, food growing and distribution; development and participation in community groups; local small scale economies & trade; individual energy sufficiency to promotion of broader buy in to green power networks; there is an exciting range of entry and exit points! Explore, envision and design for a sustainable future!

Dates: Email emhouse@iinet.net.au for the start date  
Time & Venue: 7 - 9pm, ECH Front Room  
Course Fee: $80

Computers (Day Sessions)  
Course Code: CD  
With Julia Foster

Learn all about the ins and outs of your computer in a supportive environment. Work at your own pace, guided by the tutor to help you learn what you need to know and are interested in such as simple documents, email and communicating through the internet. As your confidence grows learn about spreadsheets, inserting pictures or creating data bases. Participants can choose from Microsoft Windows operating system and Microsoft Office Suite (including Word, PowerPoint, Excel) and more.

Dates: Wednesday February 6th - March 27th (8 weeks)  
Time & Venue: 12:30pm - 3pm, ECH Hall  
Course Fee: $70 (including material & amenities fees)
**Workplace Skills**

**Hospitality Work Ready Training** * (Course Code HT)

The Hospitality Work Ready Training is an accredited Work Skills program conducted over one day. It is aimed at providing participants the skills to be Work Ready to gain employment in the hospitality industry. During this hands on course participants will prepare a variety of dishes. Learn the fundamental skills to build your knowledge of the industry. Experience an insight into the professional operation of a commercial kitchen. Develop skills required to work in the ever expanding hospitality sector.

Skills covered in practical training & upon completion of workbook participants will achieve;

SITXFSA001 Use hygienic practices for food safety
SITHFAB002 Responsible service of alcohol

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<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Email <a href="mailto:emhouse@iinet.net.au">emhouse@iinet.net.au</a> for the start date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Time &amp; Venue:</td>
<td>9am - 4pm, ECH Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Fee:</td>
<td>$75</td>
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* Please note: Individuals cannot be enrolled if they are currently studying as secondary students due to extra conditions for eligibility of participants for the Hospitality Training course. Please discuss any queries with the ECH Coordinator to confirm.

**Provide CPR** (Course Code HLTAID001)

Covering both the knowledge requirements and practical skills required to perform CPR on an infant / adult, the use of an AED, and the requirements for providing an incident/injury report.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time &amp; Venue:</td>
<td>9.30am - 11.30am, ECH Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Fee:</td>
<td>$70 per person (All prices include ECH admin fees)</td>
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**Provide First Aid - Includes CPR** (Course Code HLTAID003 - Blended Delivery)

The ability to deliver first aid can often mean the difference between life and death. Practical competencies in class, includes theory and assessments to be completed at home first.

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<tr>
<td>Time &amp; Venue:</td>
<td>9.30am - 1.30pm, ECH Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Fee:</td>
<td>$140 per person (All prices include ECH admin fees)</td>
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**Opportunities to Become a Tutor**

Is there a course that you would like to run and have skills or experience in a particular subject?

We are always looking for local people who have a skill or experience which could translate into an adult education course, workshop or community enterprise. See details on our website for course ideas.

Volunteers needed at ECH for Tuesday class; Developing your Skills for the Workplace

**Enquiries:** emhouse@iinet.net.au or 5968 3881

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**Measure Up Bone Density Scanning**

Located in carpark beside Commonwealth Bank, on 1 Kilvington Drive, Emerald

- Tuesday January 29th – 10.30am – 5pm
- Wednesday January 30th – 8.30am – 5pm
- Thursday January 31st – 8.30am – 5pm
- Friday February 1st – 8.30am – 3pm
**Children’s Programs**

**Occasional Childcare**
Emerald Community House is a registered licensed childcare provider operating an affordable community based program. Occasional childcare is available on Monday, Tuesday (3 yr old +), Wednesday & Friday.

Sessions for 12mths - 5 year olds (Monday, Wednesday, Friday)
9:30am - 2:30pm $40 per child

‘Kidzplay’ - 3 year old & over (Tuesdays)
9:30am - 2:30pm $45 per child

Includes Spanish session run by Pilar Nesvara from ‘Global Kids’ which strengthens children’s reading, writing and mathematical development and through diverse cultural experiences. Inspires imagination, compassion, empathy and builds a sense of belonging.

**NEW Casual rate:** $10 per hour, per child *(minimum 2hrs)*

Our play & learning program offers lots of fun, love and social activities. Special experiences are provided each day, taking into account the children’s natural interests, and designed to promote their social, physical, intellectual, language and emotional development.

---

**‘Bean Sprouts’ Playgroup**
Facilitator: Adam Byron-Thomsen

Our facilitated playgroup is turning green with a focus on sustainable practices and naturally fun activities. Sourcing recycled materials, feeding the worm farm, recycled paper mache fun, planting and playing in edible garden spaces and making craft from natural materials teaches kids about our environment from the start. This playgroup is the perfect introduction to our suite of childcare programs. Small children practice the fine art of getting along with others & trying new ways to play. A regular playgroup can be great for mums, dads, grandparents and caregivers too, especially if they are new to the community and want to meet other parents with children.

Call to secure a place and join in having fun with your little ones as they explore the world.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates:</th>
<th>Thursday January 31st - April 4th (10 weeks)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Time &amp; Venue:</td>
<td>9:30am - 11:30am, ECH Child Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Fee:</td>
<td>$65</td>
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**Out-of-School Hours (OOSH) care**
Emerald Community House is a registered licensed childcare provider operating OOSH program for each weekday and supervises travel between Emerald Primary School to ECH. The program is self-funded by ECH as a community enterprise.

A substantial and nutritious breakfast and afternoon tea is provided within the cost of the program. Fun activities include arts & crafts, books, board games, outdoor activities, games and lots more. Laptop computers and internet access are also available to use for homework.

**Note:** Extended operating times

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<tr>
<th>Morning - 6:30am - 9am</th>
<th>$18 per child</th>
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<tr>
<td>Afternoon - 3:30pm - 6:30pm</td>
<td>$20 per child</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Personal protection

Cover Up
Covering all exposed skin with clothing can offer some protection from radiant heat.

Keep some protective clothing on site during the warmer months and encourage travelling staff to take their own personal items such as boots, shirt or coveralls with the Emergency Kit.

Your kit

A. A wide-brimmed hat to protect your head
B. Eye protection such as smoke goggles to shield your eyes
C. A ‘P2’ type mask or cotton scarf/handkerchief for face protection and to filter smoke
D. A long-sleeved, collared shirt and long pants made from cotton or some other natural fibre
E. Tough leather garden gloves – not rubber or synthetic
F. Sturdy boots and wool or cotton socks.

Put these on as soon as you are aware of a fire in the area.

Protection from radiant heat
Make sure all skin is covered.
Do not wear shorts, t-shirt and thongs.
Cover up as soon as you are alerted to a fire in your area.
A solid object, such as a brick wall, can provide some protection from radiant heat.

Factsheet provided by CFA
Prepare Act Survive. Fire Ready Kit CFA
Emergency kit

Preparing an emergency kit containing important documents and essential items means that you can leave quickly when it is time to go. It also means that you have your most important documents and other items with you if you are unable to return to your business. Ensure that your kit is maintained and store it in an easy-to-access location.

Your emergency kit should include:

- Bushfire plan
- Battery powered radio and spare batteries
- Torches and spare batteries
- Phone and charger
- Cash, ATM/credit cards
- Drinking water
- Food
- Woollen blankets
- First-Aid kit
- Clothes
- Toiletries
- Items specific to your employees or customers needs
- Important documents including insurance papers, passport, business information (e.g. accounts payable/receivable, payroll information, etc.), employees and customer contact details in hard copy, on a USB stick or in cloud storage

If you and your employees live in a high-risk area, it is important to prepare an emergency kit at home as well. People are less likely to respond well to bushfire risk if their homes and families are at risk and unprepared.

Factsheet provided by CFA

Prepare Act Survive. Fire Ready Kit CFA
WEATHERSMARTS AND CHILDCARE

Many parents rely on childcare in the hills as they travel longer distances to work and often both parents are working in today’s economy.

Managing childcare programs in high risk areas requires a lot of planning and awareness from childcare providers, parents and their emergency contacts. Councils include childcare services on the list of Vulnerable Facilities as part of the Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP). According to the Emergency Management Manual Victoria, MEMPs must contain information about community organisations working with vulnerable individuals at the local level using a register of facilities where vulnerable people are likely to be situated – for example, aged care facilities, hospitals, schools and child care centres. Victoria Police, as the agency responsible for facilitating evacuations, depends on the MEMPs containing such information. The Department of Health and Human Services Vulnerable People in Emergencies Policy provides further guidance on planning for the needs of vulnerable people.

At the recent Weathersmarts forum, both Emerald Community House and Little Joeys childcare services presented their concerns to parents, carers and community members. Emma Robinson, owner and director of Little Joeys Childcare on Wellington Road, recounted her recent close call with a fire on Wellington Road which caused her to revisit her emergency management plan. After meeting with Mary Farrow, manager of Emerald Community House which also runs both Occasional and Out of School Hours childcare programs, it became apparent that as vulnerable services, it was critical that more dialogue was needed between local childcare providers and with emergency service providers, parents, council staff (Cardinia, Casey and Yarra Ranges) and local schools to really face up to the responsibilities of looking after children in high fire risk areas. There are many gaps between what the community anticipates and what is realistic. Parents who receive childcare rebates have the choice whether to send their child to childcare on a severe or extreme fire risk day and may not be out of pocket. Most childcare programs must charge for care days due to maintaining legislated staffing ratios whether a child attends or not. It is important for parents to plan alternatives for these high risk days, whether they organise another care provider in a safe area, take a day off from work or explore other options. Very few summer days have been identified as extreme in the last few years with severe days more common. The fire event which occurred near Little Joeys actually happened on a high fire risk day.

Research has shown that many emergency contacts for childcare are not available during the day, have no knowledge that they are an emergency contact or are out of the area and are therefore not able to respond when needed. In the event of a local disaster or emergency, the main roads are likely to be closed which would prevent parents from getting to the childcare service. This means that there is a possibility that care for children may go beyond the program times. Childcare staff may not be able to get to the service if they live out of the area. This means that prescribed ratios may not be met which creates further demand on existing staff.

There is no doubt that childcare services are important support programs for working parents and that every effort must be made to ensure that they are as safe as possible. As these programs are licensed and approved by the state and federal government, gaps in the provision of emergency support, planning and infrastructure must be addressed to reduce the vulnerability of these services to manageable levels. Next steps led by the childcare program providers include meetings with the Minister of Emergency Services and representatives from DHHS, police, council staff, emergency service providers, parents and their emergency contacts to ensure that everyone is prepared for the impact of fire events in the hills.

MARY FARROW
SOLUTIONS TO SAVE THE PLANET

Thousands of young people rallied at the end of November to demand climate action from the Australian government. Global warming is the greatest existential threat humanity has ever faced and requires an immediate global response. However, government inaction doesn’t have to mean no action. To this end a large coalition of eminent scientists from around the globe have been gathering data and working on a bold plan, not just to slow global warming but to reverse it. In even better news – elements of this plan are already being implemented worldwide.

Project Drawdown is a comprehensive strategy that proposes 100 solutions to reverse climate change. Each solution either reduces greenhouse gas emissions or sequesters carbon dioxide already in the atmosphere back into soil, sea and plants. Researchers from around the world have been working to identify and model the 100 most substantive, existing solutions that can be and are being implemented. A path forward has been identified that proposes to push back global greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, provided we implement all 100 solutions vigorously over the next 30 years.

The 100 solutions list is ranked according to gigatonnes of carbon eliminated and/or sequestered with refrigerant management as number 1 on the list. An amendment in 2016 to the Montreal Protocol called for the phasing out of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) used in refrigeration, commencing in 2019 and concluding by 2028. Alternatives to HFCs already exist and include natural refrigerants such as propane and ammonium. Over the next 30 years this action would see a reduction of 89.74 gigatonnes of carbon going into the atmosphere.

Project Drawdown ranks wind generated power at number 2. With a record number of wind turbines being installed around the world in recent years, we could conceivably produce 21.6% of the world’s electricity via wind by 2050, reducing carbon emissions by 84.6 gigatonnes. Wind generated energy is part of a suite of renewables which also includes geothermal energy, biomass energy, hydroelectricity and solar power.

Coming in 3rd is reducing food waste with a carbon emission reduction over 30 years of 70.53 gigatonnes. Food waste is responsible for 8% of global emissions and waste reduction looks at our practices from the farm to the table. Reducing food waste will require a multipronged approach as there is waste all along the chain. For example, introducing practices such as feeding human food waste to farm animals can reduce the destruction of forests to make way for soya crops which we grow to feed livestock. This would also eliminate food waste going into landfill where it produces methane. According to Chad Frischmann’s TED talk on Project Drawdown “We need to move from an exploitative economy to a restorative and regenerative economy. We need to go beyond sustainability towards regeneration.”

Adopting a plant based diet contributes a whopping 66.11 gigatonne reduction in emissions and is solution number 4. Current farm animal production practices, including growing feed crops, accounts for 65% of global N₂O emissions. Growing crops to feed animals that we eat is an inefficient way to produce food. A plant based diet is a must if we intend to reverse global warming.

While educating girls and family planning are listed as two separate solutions, when combined, have the capacity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by a total 119.2 gigatonnes over the next 30 years. Educating girls and providing access to family planning gives women the power to choose the size of their families which leads over the long term to a significant decrease in global population, making women’s rights and gender equity the most powerful solutions on the list.

It seems that the tools we need to radically reduce greenhouse gas emissions are already in our tool box and are already being implemented. However, if we are to achieve the goal of reversing global warming within the next 30 years then these 100 solutions are said to be non-negotiable and immediately required. With no time for politics, leaders who are unable to attend to our most pressing global needs should step aside for those who will.

As Greta Thunberg, the Swedish school girl and inspiration for the School Strike 4 Climate Action, said at the COP24 climate talks on behalf of the World’s Youth Climate Movement, “We have not come here to beg world leaders to care. We have come here to let them know change is coming whether they like it or not. The people will rise to the challenge.”

With the growing coalition of scientists, engineers, climatologists, economists, architects, NGOs and activists working together to reverse global warming, the next generation is already stepping up to the plate. Perhaps our children’s futures may be brighter when they are at the helm.
158 DAVID HILL ROAD, MONBULK

FOR SALE

INSPECT  By appointment or as advertised

An Unfinished Symphony - Entertainment Haven
- Lots of living space
- 12 x 4.5m salt water pool
- Massive merbau double level deck
- Indoor spa and sauna
- Triple garage/ workshop
- Technology aplenty for automation and convenience
- Excellent heating and cooling
- 2 x Offices

FOR SALE

Saturday 1st December at 12:30pm

290 PATERNOSTER ROAD, MOUNT BURNETT

FOR SALE

INSPECT  By appointment or as advertised

3 Bedroom House Plus Stables on 71 Acres
The 3 bedroom home enjoys sensational, westerly views and features spacious living room & kitchen with dishwasher, wood heater & split system air conditioner. BIR’s to all bedrooms. Offering 71 acres of predominantly cleared land with large dam and divided into 8 paddocks that include 2 large paddocks and 6 smaller ones separated by lane way. The large shed incorporates 5 stables and there are a further 2 field stalls. A second driveway provides access to the paddock area, bypassing the house and shed.

03 5968 3933
3A Kilvington Drive, Emerald
stockdaleleggo.com.au/yarraranges

We see more than property
NEW YEAR — NEW HOPES

The 2019 New Year brings in new hopes, dreams and aspirations. It is an opportunity to refocus on what is important in our lives. 2018 was a big year for me professionally and personally with lots of growth but also upheaval with a home in full renovation mode – new roof, new kitchen & living area. I am looking forward to getting re-acquainted with my couch and remembering how to cook.

Looking back, 2018 was an amazing year for us here at Kaye Charles Real Estate in Emerald. We’d like to thank all our selling clients for entrusting us with your most valuable asset. It has been such an honour to represent your homes for sale and be involved in your lives. And to welcome our buying clients to our awesome community.

End of Year Median House Prices for Emerald, Cockatoo and Gembrook

A quick look at the latest median house prices for our key suburbs show that despite falls in the wider market, our key suburbs have sustained growth over the past year, due in part to the rollover strength at the tail end of 2017. Our vendors in the second part of this year will testify to a cooling in the market. Time on the market has increased, our traditional buyers from growth suburbs are either having trouble selling their own place or struggling to get financial approval with the tightening of lending criteria post the banking royal commission. Nevertheless, properties have continued to sell and settle as we travel round on the property merry-go-round.

Looking Forward

As an office, our goal is to continue on our path to provide an unrivalled client-focused experience to the Hills’ real estate market through collaboration, service excellence, a sense of urgency and with a fair amount of sparkle. It has become a professional mantra on my own journey to ‘expect nothing and appreciate everything’. I find when I am completely attuned to this concept, everything just seems to fall into place.

I hope that 2019 is also a year for you when everything just falls into place.

KATIE WOODS

Sales Manager – Kaye Charles Real Estate (Emerald)
**PROPERTY**

Get the Hills’ vibe on this large useable fully fenced 4734m² block with dual entrance on a sealed road & driveway that leads to an oversized under roof-line garage. Superb family home with front veranda, rear entertaining deck, vast family living and open fireplace.

Contact Katie Woods on 0428 744 498 for more information or a private tour of either of these properties.

Kaye Charles Real Estate – 12a Kilvington Drive, Emerald

**HISTORY**

**JANET GERTRUDE ‘NETTIE’ PALMER (1885-1964)**

Literary luminaries Nettie Palmer and her writer husband Vance lived in Emerald between 1915-17 and 1919-1925. Nettie believed in the importance of the bush and in cultivating an appreciation of the land. At the time, she wrote a literature page for the Argus newspaper and a series of articles by her were later published as The Dandenongs (1952).

Nettie’s upbringing by strict Baptist parents was austere. She was home schooled and later sent to Miss Rudd’s Seminary at Malvern. From 1900-1903 she attended Presbyterian Ladies’ College (PLC) where she matriculated with honours in English Literature, French and Latin. She also excelled in history. Nettie then enrolled at the University of Melbourne where she completed a Bachelor and Master of Arts. Whilst there she became actively involved in student affairs and joined the Literature Society of Melbourne.

Nettie travelled overseas to study in Germany, France and England in 1910-1911. She returned to Melbourne in 1912, taught modern languages at PLC and began to write cultural criticism for the socialist press. She revisited London in 1914 and married Vance Palmer whom she had met at university in 1909. They were in Brittany when the war broke out and returned to London where their first daughter Aileen was born. At that time, Nettie also published two volumes of poetry, South Wind (1914) and Shadowy Paths (1915).

On Nettie and Vance’s return to Melbourne in 1915, they moved in with Katharine Susannah Prichard at Rose Charman’s cottage in Emerald. Their second daughter Helen was born in 1917 just about the time she became an outspoken critic of both censorship and conscription. Vance was away in 1918-1919 with the Australian Imperial Force during which time Nettie lived with her aunt Ina Higgins in Malvern and worked as a private tutor.

The publication of Modern Australian Literature 1900-1923 (1924) saw Nettie emerge as one of Australia’s most important literary critics. Her words were distributed weekly through her regular contributions in the Illustrated Tasmanian Mail, the Brisbane Courier, All About Books and the Bulletin Red Page.

Prior to the outbreak of World War II she became heavily involved in the fight against fascism. After living in Spain in 1936 with her family, she became a member of the Spanish Relief Committee and the Joint Spanish Aid Council. She was the Melbourne editor of a Sydney anti-Fascist journal for women, a member of the Victorian branch of the International Refugee Emergency Committee and taught English to migrants.

Nettie was committed to the development of Australian literature as a means of achieving a more enlightened community. She continually encouraged young writers to publish in journals and through the 1940s and 50s edited memoirs, collections of poems and short stories, wrote introductions and translated texts. She died at Hawthorn on October 19th, 1964.


Nettie Palmer and other creative forces who lived in the Emerald area are on display in the Arts Shelter at the front of Emerald Community House.

DALE BLAIR

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Window Glass Repairs 24/7
Mirrors, Pet Doors, Cut to size
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Accredited Glazier V1132
It was on Halloween day in 1914 that I stood on the station platform with a 1000 mile travel pass safely tucked away in my pocket. The time was about 7pm and two trains were due to arrive in a few moments - one going west with connections for the north, and one going east with connections going south. It didn’t take me long to decide which train to take as it was the beginning of winter and I didn’t even own an overcoat. I decided that I would take the train that would land me in Florida.

My father, who was the town marshal, stopped by and talked to me for a while before the train arrived, little knowing that I was heading south. He asked me for a chew of tobacco which I readily gave him and thought, ‘Dad, it may be a long time before I give you another chew of tobacco’. In those days most red blooded men chewed the weed. You were not thought much of if you were a cigarette smoker. I was only 17 years old then but I thought I was a man well past 21, owing to the hard work I had done in my early life. The bartender asked “What brand do you want?” Not being familiar with the popular brands of the day I said, “Oh, something about $1” to which he replied, “What state are you from then, son?” What does that have to do with the price of liquor I wondered. I told him I was from West Virginia and he remarked, “I thought so. I haven’t anything in stock that is over 50 cents a pint!” “That’ll do me fine then - two pints of the best, please”, which was Hennessey 4 Star.

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In Lynchburg, Virginia, I had to change trains. As West Virginia was a dry state I purchased a bottle of whiskey from the hotel porter - one pint of 12 year old whiskey, bottled in Bond for only $1. This seemed cheap as in our dry state we had to pay $2 for the same stuff. At the next big stop in Atlanta, Georgia, we had some time so I crossed over the street to a liquor store and asked for another pint of whiskey. While I was only 17 years old at the time I had the appearance of a man well past 21, owing to the hard work I had done in my early life. The bartender asked “What brand do you want?” Not being familiar with the popular brands of the day I said, “Oh, something about $1” to which he replied, “What state are you from then, son?” What does that have to do with the price of liquor I wondered. I told him I was from West Virginia and he remarked, “I thought so. I haven’t anything in stock that is over 50 cents a pint!” “That’ll do me fine then - two pints of the best, please”, which was Hennessey 4 Star.

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In Lynchburg, Virginia, I had to change trains. As West Virginia was a dry state I purchased a bottle of whiskey from the hotel porter - one pint of 12 year old whiskey, bottled in Bond for only $1. This seemed cheap as in our dry state we had to pay $2 for the same stuff. At the next big stop in Atlanta, Georgia, we had some time so I crossed over the street to a liquor store and asked for another pint of whiskey. While I was only 17 years old at the time I had the appearance of a man well past 21, owing to the hard work I had done in my early life. The bartender asked “What brand do you want?” Not being familiar with the popular brands of the day I said, “Oh, something about $1” to which he replied, “What state are you from then, son?” What does that have to do with the price of liquor I wondered. I told him I was from West Virginia and he remarked, “I thought so. I haven’t anything in stock that is over 50 cents a pint!” “That’ll do me fine then - two pints of the best, please”, which was Hennessey 4 Star.
On my way to Florida I soon discovered that my travel pass was no good on the Florida East Coast Railroad and I had to pay over $2 for a ticket to St Augustine, leaving me with my last dollar. I arrived with this amount and wanting to ride in state I hired a 1-horse taxi cab to haul me to the nearest hardware store. I had slaved in a hardware store at home for three years for the big sum of $30 per month. For 12 hours a day, 6 days a week, I unloaded boxcars of barbed wire, horse shoes, brick, lime and mattresses. In between that work I waited on trade and took up wholesale orders - what a life for a boy of 15 years! When I would ask for a raise at the end of each year, my boss who was the owner of the business would always tell me that he couldn’t pay me any more but just look at the experience I was getting.

My horse-drawn chariot dropped me in front of one of Florida’s largest and oldest hardware stores. It was almost noon and fortunately the manager was in and I got an immediate interview with him. He listened to my runaway story and being a hard boiled guy he put me to work in a big warehouse where I had to separate nails in kegs and stack them up in some order. It was 100 degrees heat in that warehouse with nothing but a flea infested floor. I was not to be outdone so I started in and did the job shipshape in no time at all. After this job he assigned me many more jobs that were just as horrendous. Most of his salesman (they called them clerks) had malaria and couldn’t do much. As I was free from that malady the boss sure took advantage of me. I never did so much work for so little pay, although I was earning $10 more in the month than I had been paid at my hometown job but still doing twice the work.

When the fall tourist season began I was called to the retail store to help out. My pay was raised so I began to really live, in my young mind. Rip Rawley, a real man, drifted down from the north and they gave him the job I had in the warehouse for I was now a white-collared retail clerk. Rawley and I became roommates at the same boarding house with a most desirable room on the first floor. The landlady was a New Yorker who had married a Florida cook so we had the benefits of both northern and southern cooking.

We had a happy and exciting year (or parts of two years) in St. Augustine. There was a war on in Europe and lots of people who went to Europe for a holiday came to Florida instead for the winter that year. St Augustine was one of the leading cities at that time. Miami was only a village of some two thousand people and everyone was talking about what a great opportunity existed there. If I had only had some brains I would have drifted with the tide to Miami and, who knows, might have become one of the big real estate tycoons of today.

We did have such a good time in St. Augustine that winter. I met up with a young man who was a boatman on a houseboat, working for a wealthy family who also had a large empty holiday house. They employed three Swedish maids - two of them were real beauties. The maids had their own apartment, could entertain their friends and their employers furnished all the food. One of their friends was a chauffeur for another well-to-do family who never used their big black limousine at night so we had full use of it. No one knew who we were and did we ever have fun! We just drove around, danced in the streets two nights a week, made love on the beaches once in a while and enjoyed the southern music plus a lot of things I am not going to tell you here as my present wife will have to edit this and I do have to be careful...

Bill was born in Ronceverte, West Virginia in 1897. He was the oldest of 9 and educated to an 8th grade level. He recorded his memoir in 1960 on a Corona manual typewriter. This is the start of his adventures and will run as a serial feature over the next few months.

**BILL CORKREAN**

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**NEW YEAR – NEW CAREER**

The start of a new year often brings forth feelings of optimism and enthusiasm. It’s a time for new beginnings and opportunities. It might be a time to upskill or take new steps towards a career change. Are you interested in learning photography? How about programming? Digital marketing? Project coordination? Leadership? Time management? Maybe you would like to become a graphic designer or brush up on your music theory?

Your local library is the perfect place to start! Lynda.com is a leading online learning platform that helps anyone learn business, software, technology and creative skills to achieve personal and professional goals. It is from the minds behind the professional networking site, LinkedIn. Casey Cardinia Libraries offer library members free access to the Lynda.com video library of engaging, top-quality courses taught by recognised industry experts.

We are thrilled to be able to offer this service to our members for free. A library card number gives you access to more than 6000 courses online which are accessible from home or at the library. This resource is perfect for jobseekers, school leavers or those seeking a career change. It is also ideal for small business owners especially those who are working full time and who find it difficult to pursue further education.

Now more than ever your library card is a gateway to a world of learning and opportunity.

Visit Emerald Library or sign up online at www.ccl.vic.gov.au.

Jessica Nichols
Team Leader Emerald Library
CONCERTS  GALLERIES  SPORT  CULTURE  EVENTS  THEATRE

STEAM AND CUISINE LUNCHEONS
January 2nd – April 18th, PUFFING BILLY STATION
1 Old Monbulk Road, Belgrave
Share the grandeur and charm of a three-hour steam train journey whilst savouring a delicious lunch.

LEARN WITH DIGGER WORKSHOPS
January 5th – July 6th, CLOUDEHILL GARDENS
89 Olinda-Monbulk Road, Olinda
Diggers gardening workshop in the stunning surrounds of Cloudehill Gardens. www.diggers.com.au

SKYHIGH CHILDREN’S FESTIVAL
January 8th - 20th, 11am-5pm
SkyHigh Mount Dandenong runs a Children’s Holiday Festival with free activities, rides and entertainment.

BLACK MIST BURNT COUNTRY EXHIBITION
January 17th – February 10th
Burrinja Cultural Centre, 351 Glenfern Road, Upwey
An exhibition examining the history of the test program at Maralinga, Emu Field and Monte Bello Island, through works by Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists

CLOUDEHILL SUMMER TWILIGHT SERIES
Saturdays January 26th – March 9th, from 5pm
89 Olinda-Monbulk Road, Olinda
A series of twilight events including Nellie in her own Write, Evergreen Ensemble, Latitude 37 and Riley Lee.

BELGRAVE SURVIVAL DAY
Saturday January 26th, 12 - 4:30pm
Borthwick Park, Blair Road, Belgrave
A family event celebrating Indigenous culture.

MEASUREUP BONE DENSITY SCANNING
1 Kilvington Drive, Emerald
Located in carpark beside Commonwealth Bank
www.measureup.com.au
10.30am – 5pm, Tuesday January 29th
8.30am – 5pm, Wednesday January 30th
8.30am – 5pm, Thursday January 31st
8.30am – 3pm, Friday February 1st

BELGRAVE SOUTH COMMUNITY MARKET
First Sunday of Every Month (except Sept)
Gilmore Court, Belgrave South
Time: 10.30am-3.30pm
Info: market@bsch.org.au

EMERALD COMMUNITY MARKET
Third Sunday of Every Month
Main Street & Kilvington Drive, Emerald
Time: 9am-3pm
Info: 03 5968 3881 www.emeraldcommunity.market

EMERALD LIONS GROW IT BAKE IT MAKE IT
First Sunday of every month
Gembrook Community Centre
Gemco Theatre, 19 Kilvington Drv, Emerald
Time: 10am-3pm
Info: www.facebook.com/GrowItBakeItMakeItMarket

GEMBROOK MARKET
Fourth Sunday of every month (except Dec)
Gembrook Community Centre
Time: 9am-2pm
Info: www.gembrookmarket.com.au

MONBULK PRODUCE MARKET
Second Saturday of every month
Top End Main Street, Monbulk
Time: 8am-1pm
Info: Teresa monbulkmarket@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/monbulkproducemarket

UPPER FERNTREE GULLY MARKET
Every Saturday & Sunday of the Month
Upper Ferntree Gully Railway Carpark,
Burwood Hwy, Upper Ferntree Gully
Time: Saturday 8am-3pm Sunday 9am-3pm
Info: www.gullymarket.com