

FREE

# Hills Community Focus

Connecting communities of the Dandenong Ranges

Spring edition 2023

[hillscommunityfocus@gmail.com](mailto:hillscommunityfocus@gmail.com)





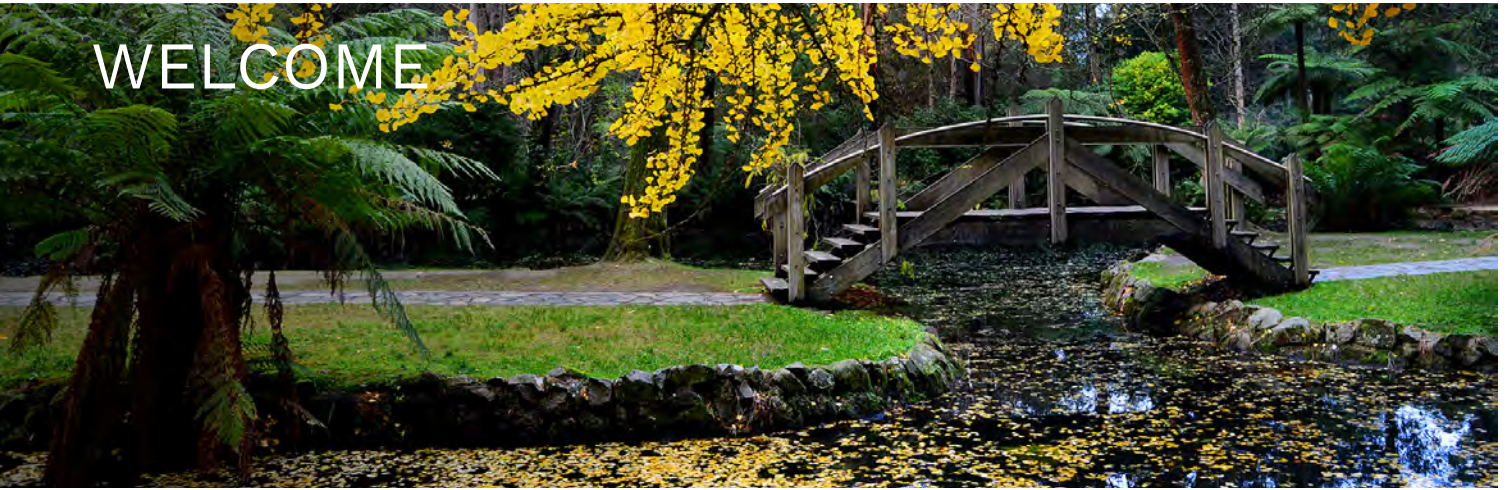


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# WELCOME



**We would like to welcome you to this second edition of the Hills Community Focus - a free publication covering the Dandenong and Eastern Ranges. The concept of a free local magazine is one of the community activities that the Hills Creative Alliance (HCA), and in particular HCA's Secretary, Liz Millman, has been leading. The HCA was created after the June 2021 storm, to support folks in the communities that were badly affected.**

Our aim is to provide information and articles of local interest, to showcase some of the wonderful things that are happening in our communities and to foster greater connections at a local level.

Many thanks go to our community volunteers – Annie Tamblin and Kate King for their editorial and promotional activities and to Ian Muir who is responsible for advertising, sponsorship and distribution. A sincere thank you also goes to our inaugural sponsor, Gradient Group who is helping to support the production costs of this magazine.

We are novices in the world of publishing but are being supported in our endeavour by Learn Local funding and Mary Farrow of Emerald Community House. The latter published the very successful Emerald Messenger. Emerald Community House is kindly printing our publication.

## Contributions welcomed

We are delighted that we have received more contributions from the local community for this edition. Our aim is to increase the percentage of community-written articles and photos!

We welcome contributions to future issues of Hills Community Focus, whether it's an article, photograph, an idea for a story or regular column or any relevant skill you may have in magazine production and/or distribution.

We can be contacted at:

[hillscommunityfocus@gmail.com](mailto:hillscommunityfocus@gmail.com).

## Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge the traditional owners, the Wurundjeri people, as the custodians of this land and pay respect to all Aboriginal community elders, past, present, and emerging.

## Editorial guidelines and disclaimer

Hills Community Focus reserves the right to publish and edit at our discretion. Views and comments expressed in Hills Community Focus are not necessarily those of the publishers, unless acknowledged as such. Products and services that may be listed or advertised in Hills Community Focus should not be considered as endorsements. Every effort is made to ensure accuracy of editorial content at the time of publishing, but Hills Community Focus takes no responsibility for errors or omissions.

## Answers to Yarra Ranges Council Bin Quiz:

1c, 2a, 3b, 4a, 5a, 6b (Fortnightly collection), 7a, 8b, 9b (It's 45%), 10a.

Cover: *Kallista Sheep in Spring*. Photo by Bruce Watson, Belgrave.

Inside cover: *Pirianda Gardens in Autumn*.

Photo by Sonya Boadle, Olinda.

Above photo: *Nicholas Gardens, Sherbrooke*.

Photo by Bruce Watson, Belgrave.

# KALLISTA VILLAGE REINVIGORATION

**Kallista is roaring back from the challenges from Covid.**

**Keep Saturday 7th October free to join in a free community event - “Kallista Revival” - a village-wide event celebrating the return of the Kallista Market, partnering with Kallista Primary School who will also host “Kallista on the Green”, their first school fete in a couple of years too. The Kallista-The Patch CFA will open their station doors and the Main St will come to life!**

Over the past few months there have been a series of community engagement meetings which have been attended by more than 90 members of the local community, from all ages and walks of life.

There is widespread support, encouragement and participation in the formation of Kallista Village Inc. The purpose of the group is to be a voice for those who live, work and play in Kallista, The Patch and Sherbrooke; and to co-create community together, through organising events and supporting local initiatives.

Much of the past community engagement activities such as the monthly Kallista Market were operated by the Community House and its Committee of Management. Unfortunately, the impacts of Covid and limited resources have led to the closing of the Community House and the dissolving of the Committee of Management after many decades of dedicated service to the local community.

The community meetings which have been held have demonstrated an extremely strong desire for locals, new and old, to engage, participate and reinvigorate Kallista.

Kallista Village (KV) has brought together the Kallista CFA volunteers, Kallista primary school as well as the local Kallista Traders’ Association and the expertise and enthusiasm of locals to achieve a new momentum.

KV will not only get the monthly market back up and running. It is working with other very established groups to make a difference to the environment and the sustainability of our corner of the world.

Connections have been developed with Friends of Sherbrooke Forest and the Lyrebird Survey Group to help ensure the protection of the local environment and continue the hard work of weed control and protecting the unique local wildlife.

KV also wants to encourage the talented members of the music and arts fraternity and they will have a prominent place in our regular market and other community events.

The impacts of Covid have clearly demonstrated to locals and visitors alike how fortunate we are to live in such a unique and rewarding environment.

The local participation of all age groups, young and old, in the formation and ongoing operations of KV has been a tremendous encouragement to all locals that the future viability and growth of the local environment for both residents and visitors alike is assured.

The KV Committee has been very well supported and encouraged by Yarra Ranges Council as well as our local Federal (Aaron Violi) and State (Daniela de Martino) government representatives. We have greatly appreciated their help in getting KV up and running.

For further information visit the KV web site:

[www.kallistavillage.com](http://www.kallistavillage.com)

or email the Secretary, Miki Schwarzbord at:

[kallistavillage@gmail.com](mailto:kallistavillage@gmail.com).



Words by John McQueen, Kallista.  
Photos: *Community Meeting* (upper).  
*Committee of Management* (lower).  
Images provided by KVI.





## WHAT'S IN A NAME? "KALLISTA"

This article is the first in a series that focuses on the townships of the Dandenong and Eastern Ranges.

**To begin the story of townships in the Dandenong Ranges, we need to refer to the original inhabitants of the land. The Woiwurrung people lived in the Dandenong Ranges area, before European settlement.**

The Wurrundjerri people inhabited the foothills, where they could access water, fish, and wildfowl. "The forest provided food, clothing, and shelter. The first settlers arrived in 1835 and the land surrounding the Dandenongs quickly became pastoral leasehold. The native people supplied squatters with fish and ducks from the waterways. They acted as guides into a largely impenetrable forest where some of the tallest trees in the world were found".

(<https://chestnut-hill.com.au/about/history>)

### Kallista

Originally Kallista was called "South Sassafras", however its name was changed in 1925 to "Kallista" which means "most beautiful", (from the name of a Greek island, north of Crete), to differentiate it from Sassafras. In the 1830'-1850's Europeans explored the Dandenongs and in the 1860's local forests began to be logged.

For the next 50 years the timber was logged and by the early 1900's land started to be released for agriculture and settlement. Farming, including orchards and berry farming and paddocks started to take hold, as the rich soil provided a beneficial foundation for horticulture development.

Poets and painters were attracted to the Dandenongs, particularly Kallista and Olinda. The Australian poet, C. J. Dennis stayed in Kallista. Tom Roberts (a key figure in the Heidelberg School of Art) lived and painted in Kallista, between 1893 and 1931. (Sir Arthur Streeton painted several of his landscapes while residing in Olinda).

In 1914 a Mechanics Institute was built in Kallista. Kallista State School opened in 1919 (known then as South Sassafras) with 30 children attending school at the newly built Mechanics Institute Hall.

In 1993, the Kallista township celebrated its centenary.

### Early settlers and families

The following is a small selection of names of pioneers who lived in Kallista. (You may recognise some of the names from Kallista's Street names): Emberson, Gleghorn, Breen, O'Donohue, A'Vard, Gill, Murray, Donaldson, Crook, Clarkson, Gilmore,

Words by Kate King, Olinda  
Photo above left: *Kallista Mechanics Hall*.  
Photo by Kate King, Olinda.  
Photo above right: *Main street, Kallista*.  
Photo by Sonya Boadle, Emerald.

# VOLUNTEERING IN THE HILLS

Foothills Community Care –  
Community Meals.



**These dinners are open to everyone, and provide a place of friendship and safety, besides the delicious food.**

They take place on Monday evenings at Upwey Baptist Church, and on Wednesday evenings at the Guide Hall in Ferntree Gully (behind the train station car park.) At Ferntree Gully, Orange Sky Australia also provides free clothes washing for the guests while they are eating their meals, and also showers. At every meal, there is always some fresh food donated by local stores for guests to take home.

It is a place of love and service, provided by Stephen Barrington and his team of volunteers. You can volunteer as a cook in either Ferntree Gully or Upwey, or as a “Welcoming Friend”, greeting new people on arrival, and chatting throughout the meal with the friends you have made amongst the guests. It is the most rewarding thing to do. As a cook you can either volunteer to prepare the meal that is to be eaten immediately, or, at Upwey, you can come to Community Casseroles on a Thursday and help make meals to be delivered to those unable to attend.

The Foothills Christmas Lunch is hugely popular with both guests and volunteers, in fact you have to get in early to put your name down to volunteer for this!

Please contact Foothills at:

[contact@foothillscare.org.au](mailto:contact@foothillscare.org.au)

if you'd like to know more.

Or fill in an online volunteer inquiry form at:

<https://www.foothillscare.org.au/about-us/>

Words by Penny Gibson, Sherbrooke.

Images: *Nutritious meals. Volunteer cooks.* Photos supplied by Foothills Community Care - Community Meals.

Hills Community Focus would like to thank  
Emerald Village Newsagency

for its support  
of our magazine.  
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## Are you a volunteer in your local hills community?

We would love to hear from you! In  
250-300 words please write about your  
experience.

For example, consider the following questions:

- > Where do you volunteer?
- > How long have you been volunteering at the organisation?
- > What type of shifts do you usually work?
- > What do you do?
- > Why did you volunteer?
- > What are the benefits for the organisation's clients and for you?

You can attach photos - please ensure you have your organisation's permission to submit photos. Photos should be clear and high resolution and formatted as a jpeg or png file.

Please send your contribution to:

[hillscommunityfocus@gmail.com](mailto:hillscommunityfocus@gmail.com)



# MY VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCE

Jon M. Hillis, a Cockatoo resident, has responded to the invitation to describe his volunteering experience.

## Where do you volunteer?

I volunteer with Cockatoo Rural Fire Brigade (CFA).

## How long have you been volunteering at the organisation?

I've been volunteering with the CFA for approximately 2.5 years.

## What type of shifts do you usually work?

The shifts that I work are:

- > Each Wednesday night (1930 – 2100) for training
- > One duty shift per month on a Sunday (0900 – 1100)
- > Responding to fire calls at all times of the day and night, (as available).



## What do you do?

I am a firefighter, trained to fight bushfires, structure fires, operate breathing apparatus, run the pump, operate the thermal imaging camera and to provide first aid.

## Why did I volunteer?

I volunteer as I want to protect my family, friends, and community from fires and other incidents.

## What are the benefits to our community?

The community is protected by a dedicated group of volunteer firefighters in our Brigade who respond to grass and scrub fires, house fires, car fires, motor vehicle accidents, fuel spills and a variety of other jobs as required. We even help get children out of locked cars.

Each year, on Christmas Eve, we do the traditional icy pole run which sees us take our trucks through town, handing out icy poles to the young (and old) kids in the community.

I love seeing the children's eyes light up when they see the Big Red Truck come down their street.

I am humbled when receiving thanks from community members for the work the Brigade's volunteers do.

## What have I gained in my volunteer role?

I benefit from learning new skills through challenging training and from attending all different types of jobs. I also get to meet new people within the community who become not only my fire brothers and sisters, but mates.

Words and photo by John M. Hillis, Cockatoo.  
*Photo of me in Breathing Apparatus (BA) undertaking training drills (selfie).*



## Jump on board!

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and more information will be provided to you. Get in early as advertising spaces are highly valued. Reasonable advertising rates apply, and a 50% discount ad rate is available for not-for-profit and community organisations.



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# MY FAVOURITE PLACE IN THE HILLS



**Many of us have a favourite spot somewhere in the Dandenong Ranges. Annie Tamblyn tells us about her enjoyment of Pirianda Gardens in Olinda.**

Several years ago, a friend asked if I ever visited Pirianda Gardens to appreciate the spectacular trees and shrubs. Whilst I had driven past the sign to the gardens countless times I had never been in, so I took myself off there and what a treat I had in store.

Pirianda Gardens is located at 5-9 Hacketts Road Olinda, and is one of the lesser-known gardens of the Dandenong Ranges. It doesn't seem to have been discovered by tourists and I rarely encounter more than a couple of other people there. It's lovely to be able to wander in relative solitude.

'Pirianda' is an Aboriginal word believed to mean 'sufficient' or 'enough', It is a fitting name. The gardens were developed by Harvey and Gillian Ansell who bought the land in 1959 where they built a home before donating the property to the Victorian government in 1977. The couple were devoted travelers and botanists who scoured the world for new and unusual plant specimens. The gardens offer a fascinating mix of exotic and botanically important trees, shrubs and perennials as well as beautiful native and rainforest species. Everything is well labelled, with name and place of origin.

Pirianda Gardens are created on a steep hillside with paths that are sometimes slippery, so sadly it is not suitable for people with mobility issues.

There are several meandering paths that criss-cross through rare tree plantings down into a beautiful fern gully dominated by blackwoods and tree ferns. Beautiful stone walls line some of the paths and steps. Parts of the gully feel like an enchanted fairy grotto, so it's a lovely spot for children.

I took my adult son and his friend to Pirianda several years ago. Scarlett was studying landscape architecture at the time and was amazed at the variety of trees and shrubs from far flung parts of the world, many of which she had never heard of or had only seen in textbooks. The gardens include 28 different types of maples, 13 birch varieties as well as magnolias and copper beeches to name just a few. Some of the more unusual trees include the Chinese Handkerchief Tree, which usually flowers in early November. It has large and long pure white bracts that wave in the breeze like many hundreds of flags.

Whilst the gardens are beautiful in Spring, they are absolutely breathtaking in autumn when they are ablaze with colour. I find it hard to nominate my favourite time of year. There is always something to discover at Pirianda. To my mind, it is the gem of the Hills.

Words by Annie Tamblyn, Sherbrooke.  
Photos (this page, opposite and over page),  
*Pirianda Gardens*, by Sonya Boadle, Emerald.





## Calling all writers!

**We would love to hear about your favourite place in the Dandenong Ranges. Send us 350 - 500 words and photos to:**

**[hillscommunityfocus@gmail.com](mailto:hillscommunityfocus@gmail.com)**

**and we'll include the place that you love in a future edition of Hills Community Focus.**





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As a local herself, Sue immerses herself within the community and especially enjoys exploring the array of small businesses and eateries that make the township special.

When she's not making her clients' real estate dreams come true, Sue, her husband and her daughter love going on adventures in Melbourne CBD and rural Victoria, chasing and creating epicurean delights and playing the odd game of Scrabble around the dinner table.

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# POET'S CORNER

## When they were small

I know better my hands  
than my face  
they wake my mornings  
they bathe and dry my skin  
they throw themselves into  
the waves of my hair  
they thread a needle  
and sew and mend  
and fold the clothes  
and the days  
they know when to prune  
the trees in the garden  
when to pull the weeds  
they know when I am tired  
and hold my head so I may see  
the smiles of birds

They don't belong to me  
I belong to them

My hands had the task of  
collecting my children's childhoods  
proof that they were once children  
now grown and independent  
I go to the storage box  
and visit them again in the years  
when they were small  
they lead me to undertake  
the privilege of preserving their past

Give me a heart as tall as  
the treetops so that in the distance  
I can always follow the flight of my  
children, who are not afraid of the wind  
Sometimes, I look at the world as if inside  
a picture frame, a life without knowing  
the weight and gravity of the land

Nothing is as it was  
as when they were home

I will open the doors and let the seasons  
take over the house

I will learn to look at the sea again  
I will take pause when the eagle soars  
and shows me the beauty of a fly by visit  
I will honour my mother who has seen  
many mothers before me

When all the cafes have turned off their music  
and when the streets are filled with loneliness  
let me die standing like the trees



# SHORT STORY NOOK

## There's Life in These Hills!

Anyone who's ever watched a movie at the Cameo will know there's life here. We're told this on the big screen just before the feature starts – "The Hills are Alive!" It's wonderful to know, to be repeatedly reminded.

Life is unexpected, intriguing. One misty cool morning, there from my driveway in front of me is someone out walking their two alpacas. Happens sometimes up here. "Morning alpacas!". That's life.

From the peaceful plodding of alpacas we go back in time a month or two to Belgrave, not far from the Cameo, to view a well-lit Tardis parading along the street, led by a Dalek; not intent on exterminating but illuminating their lanterns, lifting the smiles and giggles of the people with them. There are children along the street. Ice-cream is dropping on the toddler's shoe as his mouth opens wide in joy, at the lighted coloured butterflies. The flaming dancers with their dancing flames are reflected in the children's eyes, with the bells and bellies gyrating to the beat of the drummers. So much life!

Baba Desi is standing legs apart in the middle of the road, staff held firmly tipped to the ground. He's greeting the approaching lanterns, like a local Gandalf smiling sagely at the approaching hills folk dancing lively forward with their lanterns.

On another day, further along Monbulk Road we spy a family on the way from the car to the swimming pool entrance. The young kids are squealing, skipping along, the even younger girl looking apprehensive – will it be cold?... will that kid from school be there?... why is there ice-cream on my shoe?



Dad's herding them up the Saturday morning path. They're cheerfully anticipating the wet mayhem, the fun, and perhaps a treat afterwards while wrapped up like snuggle bunnies in their wet towels. Living a fun life!



Arthur dropped by the other day. He was so proud to show off his new hairdo. "Hair for the Hills?", I asked. He shakes his beak. Well, I guess Arthur, that you've been to Olinda Pharmacy again, haven't you? And you've really gone too far with the volumising hair conditioner this time my friend. Wildlife, not so wild!

Visitors from the city and flatter lands, meeting new friends in the queue for Miss Marples; later trying to see their backyard from SkyHigh (is that our cat?)...The look of absolute satisfaction on the face of a senior chappie coming out of Emerald Bakery, one hand on his walking stick, the other on a hot pie. He'll wipe his face later. More visitors realising they have to walk back up the Alfred Nicholas gardens, and it's steep; stopping to smell the flowers and promising themselves a deserved Devonshire tea anywhere in the hills afterwards. Those visitors who, on one of the many paths, perhaps Sassafras Creek, drop their phone in fright on hearing a Whipbird for the first time; laughing it off, ready to tell their neighbours of their bravado when they get home. "Was that a wombat Dad?"

Those visiting, those here, those snuffling in the undergrowth or lumbering along a dirt road, tapping on the window for more seed; wanting more jam on their scones; having friendly greetings in every shop, café, and pub; delighting in the art, the dancing, the bread and pastries, soaps, smells, pies, and arboretums - the Cameo has it right – the hills are indeed alive! And there's so much more!

Words by Rob Martin, Olinda.  
Images: *Arthur* (left). Photo by Rob Martin, Olinda.  
*Lantern Parade* (above). Photo by Kate King, Olinda.



# UPWEY'S SINGULARITY CHOIR

A choir is my happy place. Singing in harmony with others is one of the most joyful things I do in my life. At Singularity, we sing items from the choral repertoire, from Gilbert & Sullivan to the Messiah, and everything in between. In fact, the reason I joined in 2019 was so that I could learn to sing the Messiah, which I've always loved.



It's a very friendly, welcoming choir, with equal numbers of men and women, ranging in age from forties to eighties, the latter group includes me. (It's never too late to sing!) Many members of the choir can sight read, but if, like me, you learn by ear, there is ample time to learn during rehearsals, and you can find learning tracks on the web at no cost, for almost every piece of music. You do need to be familiar with choral scores though! It might take a little longer to learn, but once you know it, you don't need the score any more.

The choir, which is associated with Coonara Community House, first formed in 2002, under the directorship of Helen Holliday. Two of the original members were Cecily and David Woodberry and two years later, after Helen moved on, Cecily took over the direction, with David as choir member, IT expert, treasurer, and general help and "stay" (like Prince Phillip).

Since that time, the choir has performed many concert-style Gilbert & Sullivan operas, and a wide variety of choral works - and always the Messiah, performed annually with Essendon Choral Society and the Melbourne Opera orchestra. We even continued rehearsals during lockdown via Zoom.

This year we have performed HMS Pinafore and Trial by Jury in various churches and church halls around Melbourne, including Cowes, Romsey and Surrey Hills. All of these performances raise money for a particular charity chosen by the host churches.

They are concert performances, but we still have the most beautiful costumes, and it's always a lot of fun. This year we're also performing at a number of Aged Care facilities, which have been very warmly received. And we always perform at Upwey Community Baptist Church, who very kindly make their facilities available to us for our rehearsals in return for fund raising concerts.





In June, we joined with Cranbourne Chorale to perform Howard Goodall's requiem, *Eternal Light*, and other pieces. On August 20th we performed at Upwey with a program including favourites such as *Va Pensiero* (the March of the Hebrew Slaves,) *Zadok the Priest*, Mozart's *Laudate Dominum*, choruses and solos from *Dido and Aeneas*, (including *Dido's Lament*) and excerpts from *My Fair Lady*. Another feature of our program is joining with other choirs and orchestras for some of our performances.

If you have been looking for a choir to join, this might be the one for you. We meet on Monday nights from 7.30 to 9.30 at Upwey Baptist Community church, Burwood Hwy, Upwey. There is an annual membership fee of \$150. Contact Margaret Tyson on [margaret@tyson.id.au](mailto:margaret@tyson.id.au) if you are interested.

Words by Penny Gibson, Sherbrooke.  
 Photos supplied by Singularity Choir:  
*Pirates of Penzance* 2022 (above far left),  
*HMS Pinafore* 2023 (above left),  
*Singularity Choir* 2022 (above).

## Do you need more copies?

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[hillscommunityfocus@gmail.com](mailto:hillscommunityfocus@gmail.com)

and indicate how many additional copies you require. Should there be sufficient demand, a second printing may be considered, and additional copies provided to you.

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# IS YOUR INSURANCE UP TO DATE?



**Whether you are a homeowner or renting, insurance is a way you can protect your assets/property from financial risks and losses in the event of a disaster. Insurance can help you financially, to repair or replace damaged items and assets.**

We often think of large-scale natural events such as bushfires, floods, and severe storms as reasons to be insured. However, insurance for housefires, a burst water pipe and crime are just as important. As is ensuring that your insurance is updated yearly!

## **Consider additional cover.**

Have you made significant improvements of value to your home or require additional cover for your contents?

It is a good idea to review your insurance needs at least annually. You can do this annually when your policy is due for renewal, or at any point throughout the year if your circumstances change. Keeping your policy up to date will help to ensure that any losses you may incur are covered.



## **Read the “fine print”!**

Always make sure that you thoroughly read and understand the “fine print” of your insurance documents. Although these documents can be complicated and sometimes overwhelming, it’s important to persevere to ensure that your current level of insurance coverage is adequate. Some people find engaging an insurance broker who can go through the fine print in detail can be helpful.

## **Be prepared.**

Whilst there is a good chance that you may not need to make an insurance claim, keeping your insurance up to date and accurate is a great way to be prepared, in case of an unfortunate event or emergency.

## **Review your emergency plan**

It is also a good idea to review your emergency plan information at least once a year as well. Templates to help you can be found at:

[https://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/info/20019/fire\\_flood\\_and\\_emergencies/56/preparing\\_for\\_an\\_e](https://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/info/20019/fire_flood_and_emergencies/56/preparing_for_an_e)

or use your mobile phone’s camera to hover over the QR code, and then you can open the associated webpage.

Words by Stewart Matulis, Coordinator – Emergency Management, Cardinia Shire Council.  
Photo by Pixabay.



## BIRDS OF THE DANDENONG RANGES

This is the second article, in a series, written and photographed by Kathie M. Thomas, Selby.

**At this time of year you will see all our birds collecting nesting material, building nests and mating. Around mid-Spring you'll see and hear signs of chicks of various breeds calling constantly to their parents. The young kookaburras actually stay for a few years with their parents before moving on.**

The Australian Laughing Kookaburra is known to all of us. There are two types of Kookaburras in Australia but this one is relevant to our area. They eat frogs, lizards, snakes, fish, insects, worms and even rats and mice. So a good friend to have in your garden. If you have a fishpond, they can be naughty and steal your fish. Whenever they catch their prey, they will beat it against a branch of a tree to kill it first before eating it whole.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo is not everyone's favourite in the Dandenong Ranges. They are big, loud, and noisy, and hang around in flocks. They can also be destructive. However they are also recognised as being comical and will hang upside down from trees and look hilarious at times, with their crest open - quite a handsome looking bird!

Photos by Kathie M. Thomas, Selby:  
*Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (above left),  
White-throated Treecreeper (above right),  
The Australian Laughing Kookaburra (right).*

They will feed on berries, seeds, nuts, and roots and will dig up flower bulbs. Here's a tip if that's happening at your place. Raid the kids' toy box for a rubber snake and put these on the ground where your spring bulbs are to help prevent them being dug up mid-winter through spring.

Chewing wood is associated with foraging and nest building and often is the best way for these cockatoos to keep their beaks fit and trim. Sadly it also means that homes and other items built of wood here in the hills can be a target, especially if someone has been feeding these birds nearby.

The White-throated Treecreeper is a bird that isn't around all the time. They're usually found in forests and woodlands and if you have several gum trees on your property then chances are you'll both hear and see them too. This tiny bird works its way up the side of trees, calling loudly, as it searches for food. It mostly eats insects, particularly ants, but it will also eat nectar. They drill inside wood looking for insects.





# THE NEW “UP” ART GALLERY, SASSAFRAS

An interview by Kate King,  
with Jacqui Christians, local  
artist, and Gallery Director,  
at UP Gallery.



**Hi Jacqui. I’m intrigued by this new gallery! I’d like to know more about it please and how it came about.**

I’ve had a micro gallery here\* in a shipping container for the last two years. In that time, I was only here on the weekends, but I still sold about sixteen paintings in the lock-down. There’s also been some changes in this allotment recently, with the nursery and café having left.

I asked the landlady to put my artwork in the windows of this building which was vacant at the time. I then took the initiative to put a gallery banner up at the front gates and as soon as I did this, people were walking up to the current building to see my artwork. And then I realized, once that happened, this place would be an amazing gallery. It was a lightbulb moment! Having negotiated with the landlady and seeking advice from Yarra Ranges Council, I submitted the required planning application to create this gallery and it was approved.

**So tell me more about how the UP Gallery operates.**

It’s interesting. Having recently published a book about artists in the Dandenong Ranges, I had a great network of fellow artists I could reach out to. Local hills artists were very interested in a gallery starting up and were keen on the idea of running the gallery as a collective, so we can all cover its operational costs. A week after the Open Studios weekend in late April this year, we set up our first exhibition.

So for the last few months, it’s been going very well. And I’ve got thirty-five artists who are exhibiting, and probably another twenty or more artists who are displaying their works in the shop area.

But what’s really exciting is that we’re all living off our artwork and it’s giving everyone an opportunity to have more income, which is what we all need.

**That’s great to hear Jacqui! So, tell me please about why you chose the name “UP” for the gallery.**

We’re up the mountain, but it’s also about lifting us all up. We haven’t had a gallery in the hills for more than a decade! It’s a gallery that represents us as local artists. As local artists we’re a collective, and this gallery represents us all. And that’s the most important thing. We raise our spirits and talents by inspiring and mentoring each other! And mostly we represent what’s up on the mountain. So, everyone knows that everything is created by local artists.

\* Previous site of the Prosperine Bakery in SassafRAS.



**This is an interesting gallery to visit if you're a tourist, but it's also a gallery for the locals, isn't it?**

Absolutely, and locals have been very supportive. I've had feedback from locals who return to the gallery, explaining that it's so nice and easy for them to find all the other local artists' works. Rather than going to one Open Studio weekend a year, they can come here more frequently. They can meet the artists because the artists are working here.

**Jacqui, can you also please talk about the range of different artwork that you have available?**

The gallery exhibits mostly established artists. There are painters, ceramics artists, sculptors, glass artists and print makers. We've got at least three glass artists. In the gift shop, we stock textiles, scarves, weaving, small prints and cards, glass and ceramics and jewellery.

**If someone comes here one month and then might come back another couple of months later, will any of the gallery exhibitions have changed?**

Definitely! One of our gallery rooms is used to showcase a two-week exhibition, and every fortnight there'll be a new exhibition, which means more local artists can display their work. There is often an opportunity to meet the artist and see what's new and engage with them and their work.

**Lastly you mentioned an art book you recently published. Can you tell us about it and is it available here?**

Yes! It's available here and it's called Hidden in the hills: Artists of the Dandenong Ranges (volume 1). While it doesn't capture all artists in the hills, it does highlight the vibrant arts community, and showcases my fellow artists, hidden in the hills.

You can find us online at:

[upgallery.com.au](http://upgallery.com.au)

Our email is:

[info@upgallery.com.au](mailto:info@upgallery.com.au)

Words and photos by Kate King, Olinda  
 Images: *Partial view of painting by Jacqui Christians* (above far left),  
*Interior shot of the Up Gallery* (above left),  
*Exterior of the UP Gallery* (above top right),  
*Sample of smaller artwork for sale in the giftshop* (above bottom right).



# SPRING IN THE DANDENONG RANGES

Local children were invited (via the Hills and Dandenongs Facebook site), to submit their artwork which represented “Spring in the Dandenong Ranges”.

We received an amazing contribution by Go Go Cozzolino.



Watercolour, by GoGo Cozzolino, (8 years old), The Patch.

## Calling all local children!

Consider submitting your drawing or artwork which represents “Summer in the Dandenong Ranges”, so you too can have your art displayed in our December issue. Include your name and suburb - (your age is optional). Please submit your photo, saved as a jpeg file to

[hillscommunityfocus@gmail.com](mailto:hillscommunityfocus@gmail.com)

on or before Friday 3 November.

# VILLAGE MARKETS GUIDE

Kallista Village Market is returning! Its first market is on Saturday 7 October, 10am-4pm at 2 Church street, Kallista. It's anticipated to run on the first Saturday of every month.

Market	Which week of the month?	Time	Location	Description
Belgrave Big Dreams Market	2nd Sunday 10/9,15/10,12/11	9am - 2pm	St Thomas More Primary School, Reynolds Ln, Belgrave	Original design pieces, fresh produce, food, live music, and kids' activities.
Cockatoo Country Market	1st Saturday of the month (7/10), with Twilight Xmas Market Nov/Dec	8.30am - 1.30pm	77 Pakenham Rd, Cockatoo	Local artisan market with locally grown and made products.
Emerald Craft & Produce Market	3rd Sunday 17/9, 5/10,19/11	10am - 3pm	2/321 Main St, Emerald	Locally made products and home-grown produce, food stalls & plants.
Gembrook Market	4th Sunday 24/9, 22/10, 26/11	9am - 2pm	Gembrook Community Centre, 4 Gembrook Rd, Gembrook	90+ artisans and craftspeople selling unique items. Home grown produce and kids' activities.
Menzies Creek Market	Summer, Autumn, Winter, Spring – select dates Spring Market, Sunday Nov 5	10am – 3pm	1-3 Menzies Rd, Menzies Creek VIC 3159	Live music, food, fashion, and homewares stalls.
Monbulk Produce Market	2nd Saturday 9/9, 14/10,11/11	9am - 1pm	73 Main Street, Monbulk	Fresh seasonal produce, home baked good and wares.



# REFLECTING ON SELBY COMMUNITY HOUSE

**Pioneering, empowering  
and serving for nearly  
50 years.**



**Selby Community House (SCH) is one of Australia's very first community houses. It was started by a group of local women who opened a playgroup in the old Minak house in 1975, after reportedly chasing out "cats, rats and bats" from the disused building!**

A year later, SCH played an important role in the development of an action group that allowed local residents to have input into council's social planning decisions, giving a voice to local community members who had previously struggled to be heard or to receive the services they needed.

The history of SCH demonstrates the power of women working collectively in community development, in what one of the founding members called a "participatory democracy". In other words, they made decisions together, rolled up their sleeves and got things done. They also had a lot of fun along the way.

If you would like to know more about the history of Selby House and its early days, you can watch the excellent film or listen to a series of podcasts at:

<https://www.selbyhouse.org.au/selby-history-project/>

SCH is known as a pioneer in advocating for and exploring new ways of delivering Early Childhood programs. In fact, it is reported that the entire concept of Family Day Care began here. As a result of this initiative, many local women have been able to transition from motherhood to a career in Children's Services.

From its early days, SCH became known for the Creative Arts, the Selby Folk Club (which continues to be held on the first Friday of every month) and The Pottery Co-operative as well as organising and hosting the annual SelbyFest which attracted over 1,000 in 2022.

After nearly 50 years, the House continues to stay true to its roots with a strong focus on childcare, playgroup activities, lifelong learning and the environment. It is leading the way in sustainability projects, thereby reconnecting with an original principle of the House.

To learn more about what SCH offers, the course program can be found at:

<https://www.selbyhouse.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/TERM-3-2023-2.pdf>

Yvette Hayes, House Manager at SCH commented that whilst adequate funding of community houses and maintenance of the old Minak Road weatherboard building always present challenges, "Shelby House has been fortunate to receive a number of significant grants over the past 12 months and is able to employ staff to deliver projects. We have also been fortunate to have placement students completing community development certificates".

Talking about the future, Yvette said: "Our main aim for the future is to complete a needs analysis of the community. The first one was completed over 50 years ago at a different time when isolation, and lack of childcare were issues.





We aim to survey 300 to 500 residents in the local area to determine their greatest need. The survey findings will inform us for the future - for resourcing, funding, grants and help us support the community in the most beneficial way possible". So, if you're approached to take part in the survey or would like to express your thoughts, please get involved.

Today, Selby Community House is part of a coalition of twelve Yarra Ranges Neighbourhood Houses that provide opportunities for learning and social participation to their communities. The building may have undergone multiple extensions and renovations since that first playgroup in 1975, but it has always retained a welcoming and home-like atmosphere alive with community involvement.

Selby Community House is located at:  
1 Minak Road, Selby.

Email: [selby@selbyhouse.org.au](mailto:selby@selbyhouse.org.au)



Words by Annie Tamblyn, Sherbrooke.  
Photos supplied by Selby Community House.  
Images: *Selby Community House in 1975* (top left and right),  
*Selby Community House now* (above).

## Invitation to contribute to the summer edition!

If you'd like your local news article, poem or short story to be considered for inclusion in future "Hills Community Focus" magazines, please send your Word document to:

**[hillscommunityfocus@gmail.com](mailto:hillscommunityfocus@gmail.com)**

including your name and suburb. High resolution photos are optional, attached as a jpeg or png file. Submissions should be a maximum of 350 words. Please submit your contribution on or before Friday 3 November.





# EMERALD REGIONAL BEEKEEPERS (ERBK)



**The Emerald Regional Beekeepers (ERBK) are a local group of people all interested in bees, honey, gardening, pollinators, insects and conservation. We are all local, and it's a great environment to discuss all the happenings of everyone's beehives!**

There's a good mix of experienced beekeepers and new-bees. Each meeting welcomes questions and discussion about anything and everything to do with bees, pollinators and honey.

You can always learn something new, even if you are very experienced! You can always ask for help and mentoring if you'd like some advice. The ERBK group believes that by helping other beekeepers, we help the whole region be good beekeepers – and this transposes directly into healthy bees interacting with our own healthy bees in the region.

This winter, ERBK offered honey tasting and showcased all things bees at the Community Group Expo. ERBK also partnered with the Emerald Men's Shed for a Honeycomb frame construction workshop. The Shed was a hive of activity! Loads of new skills were learned and new friendships were formed on the night.

Honey mead making was also a successful Winter workshop for ERBK members, with each participant making a personalised batch of mead.

ERBK will be running repeat workshops for members soon, and there are plans for a Eucalypt ID day, to help beekeepers pick ideal sites for hive placement to ensure good pollen and nectar supplies for the busy bees over the summer. We have regular biosecurity updates and information from Agriculture Victoria and the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC).

New members are always welcome to join in on the activities and the discussion at each meeting (second Tuesday of the month) at 7:30PM at the Hills Hub. Door prizes, raffles, fun and friendship all included. Membership is \$40 for individuals and \$60 for partners / families. Members can borrow from the bee library or even loan from a range of specialised bee equipment. We also have a dedicated member's online chat group where conversations are exclusively available to paid members.

Please call ERBK's dedicated swarm phone (0491 715 840) if you require assistance with a swarm collection this season. A member or two will arrange for the safe collection and rehoming of the bees. All our members are trained and insured. Our volunteers will get to you as soon as possible, depending on the time of day and availability.

Bees are a valuable and precious part of our insect world. They pollinate flowers and provide honey as well as many other useful resources.

Words and photos by Bron Koll,  
on behalf of the ERBK executive team.







# LOCAL LIVES WELL-LIVED!

First of a four-part series  
on Emerald Cemetery.

**Emerald Cemetery is exquisite in Autumn,  
especially when the sun shines as it did for our  
Emerald U3A course on “local lives well lived”.**

This special place of love and loss is nestled next to natural bush, going down to Macclesfield Creek. My husband Alan Clayton and I wanted to honour people laid to rest in our cemetery whose contribution to the community and the wider society is at risk of being forgotten as time passes.

Among the people we explored were:

**Leonard Mann**, the First World War veteran, poet, novelist, lawyer and in retirement, a poultry farmer in Macclesfield

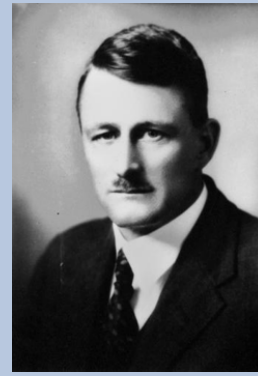
**Clare Wositzky**, the humanitarian who did inspiring work with refugees in Europe after World War Two and who was the founder of Amnesty International in Australia

**Gus Ryberg OAM**, the colourful character and local mover and shaker who was key to the development of the Emerald Museum and the Emerald Lake Park

**Myrtle Ivy Quicke**, who, as an army nurse, worked with the UN to assist refugees in post-war Germany, founded the College of Nursing Australia, and in her retirement in Cockatoo established the bush nursing service, a maternal and child health centre and the bowling club.

Alan and I enjoyed researching each of these people and we were delighted that family members of some of these individuals were able to join us. At our first class, focusing on Leonard Mann, we were privileged to have his daughter, Pauline, and grandchildren, Robyn and Richard, join us. Their remembrances made a truly enriching experience for our class.

We began with a poem Leonard Mann wrote about the very place where he is buried.



## Bush Cemetery

In this small cemetery  
Bush people are settled close  
In death's dull company  
Who were scattered across  
These hills. Perhaps a bone  
With bone may sometimes speak,  
Not in loud sepulchral tone,  
But in an elfin squeak  
Through the thin tunnels built  
By worms. But now no more  
Is heard the cheerful lilt  
Of voice when at pub or store,  
At fence or one the road,  
Old Jack met his mate Bill.  
All that is now stowed  
Forever in this hill,  
At this unpastured spot  
Where the slow gum leaves drop  
And with brown grasses rot  
That the green springs draw up.  
  
Perform on your trombone,  
Angel, for all your worth,  
To put flesh back on the lean  
White bone and summon forth  
All to be saved or damned,  
But when the mobs are driven  
And in the yards are crammed  
Before the judge in heaven,  
You'll not find Jack or Bill,  
They'll have slipped off to the last  
Pub on this side of hell  
To drink "Good Luck" in their last toast.

Born in 1895 and educated at Moreland State School before he won a scholarship to Wesley College, Leonard Mann showed promise as a writer from his school days. After leaving school he worked in the pre-World War 1 Defence Department as well as attending law lectures at night at the University of Melbourne in 1915 and 1916.

In 1917 he enlisted in the army and saw action on the Western Front in France with the 38th Battalion. Leonard Mann, like many other First World War veterans, suffered from the hidden wounds of war. His entry in the Australian Dictionary of Biography tells us that “his experiences in the trenches, including being buried alive by a shell burst and losing consciousness in the mud before his rescue, would affect him for the rest of his life”. As we gathered in the rotunda, Leonard Mann’s daughter, Pauline Laughlin, told us that her father was deeply affected by his war experiences and sought solitude in nature.

Trench warfare is captured powerfully and evocatively in his novel about the First World War, *Flesh in Armour*, which was published in 1932. Acclaimed as the Australian equivalent of *All Quiet on the Western Front*, Leonard Mann won the annual Australian Literature Society’s gold medal for *Flesh in Armour*, depicting war as it really was. He did not always portray Diggers as selfless heroes, and this offended some critics. He also won prestigious awards for his collections of poetry. Leonard Mann’s exposure to appalling working conditions in the 1930s Depression when he was Secretary of the Victorian Employers’ Federation marked a shift in his politics.

His grandson, Richard Mann shared what his grandfather had told him - “the further right my work took me, the further left my allegiances lay”. During the 1930s Leonard Mann was part of a small circle of eminent Australian writers, including Vance and Nettie Palmer, Frank Hardy and Frank Dalby Davison. In the late 1940s he became President of the Fellowship of Australian Writers (Victoria).

In the Second World War Leonard Mann and his brother Jack Mann (a very senior military officer) convinced Prime Minister John Curtin in 1942 to insist on Australian troops returning from Europe to defend Australia from the Japanese.

Words by Dorothy Scott.  
Images: *Leonard Mann, 1895-1981*,  
*Emerald Cemetery*.  
Photos supplied by Dorothy Scott.



Following his retirement in 1950, Leonard Mann became a poultry farmer in Macclesfield where he continued to write. He spent his final years in Emerald. A quiet and modest man, Leonard Mann was described by Stephen Murray-Smith as “a man of singular sweetness of disposition”. After hearing about his life, our group walked to his grave and reflected on his life. We finished our afternoon with a short poem Leonard Mann wrote about coming home to his wife and two children.

### The Family

Unheard I stood and waited at the door  
And let the haggard world drop off  
That should not enter to the love  
Of wife and children, ah, so happy there.

And when I entered in with a glad heart  
Only the three was changed to four,  
Love was not less and was not more;  
It was the all and all was each one’s part.





## ST. MATTHEW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, OLINDA: 120 YEARS ON!

### **On July 9 this year, St. Matthew's Anglican Church celebrated its 120-year Anniversary.**

The church was erected in Olinda in 1903 by a small but determined congregation of pioneers. It is one of the earliest remaining timber churches, on its original site within the Dandenong Ranges. Dedication of the church was celebrated by Archdeacon A.W. Handley on 9 July 1903.

Early services were conducted by Lay Reader W.R. Newton. Reverend Newton, after his ordination in 1904, continued to travel from Clergy House in Ferntree Gully, (the base from which Lay Readers and the clergy lived). It was only later, when the Parish could afford to build a Vicarage, that Olinda had a resident Vicar.

The Hall dates back even earlier. It was built in 1901 and was originally the former Mernda Methodist Church and was the first church in the district. It was purchased by St. Matthew's in 1935 and brought to the church site by horse drawn cart to become the Parish Hall.

St. Matthew's underwent an extensive renovation, completed in 2022, to bring it back to its original glory.

Services are held at St. Matthew's every Wednesday at 10am and Sunday at 9am. St. Matthew's is one of two churches of the Anglican Parish of Mount Dandenong, the other is St. Michael's, Kalorama which holds services every Sunday at 11am.

St. Michael's also holds a drop-in centre every Tuesday afternoon from 1pm to 4pm in the hall and everyone is welcome to drop in for a "cuppa", slice of cake and a chat.

Words and photos by Peter Adams  
on behalf of the Parish Council.

# HUNTER-GATHERER PARENTING

We often think of the nuclear family as traditional or ideal. However, many parenting strategies are only about 100 years old, and many arose more recently than that. When we look at the past 200,000 years of human history, what was traditional and normal was a communal model of working together to take care of children.

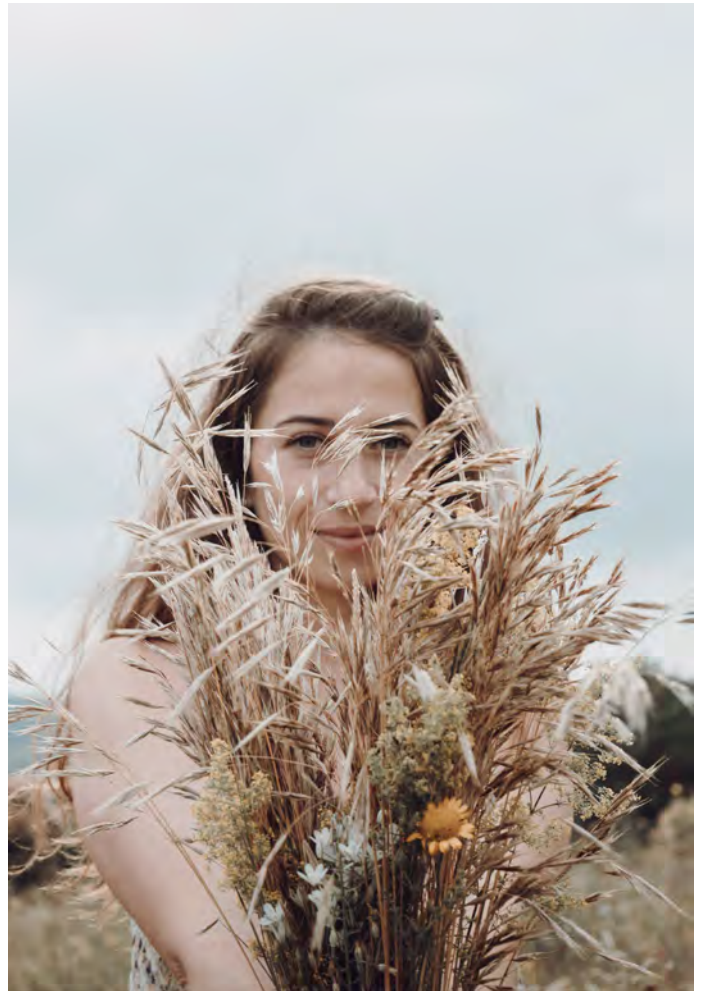
Modern parents can try to do everything by themselves. They might think that asking for help is a sign of weakness or failure. However, young children are designed to be raised by a group of people, not just two. Modern mums and dads often do the work of several people. So of course, they feel worn down and exhausted.

Try to include ‘alloparents’, or ‘other parents’, in your child’s upbringing, such as older siblings, grandparents, day-care providers, teachers, and psychologists. You might like to build an ‘aunty-uncle’ network – a few families you can share the load with.

Another characteristic of modern parenting is a high focus on both praise and punishment. Try not to overpraise your child – it can lead to attention seeking and entitlement. Instead, try giving gentler feedback, such as a smile or nod, when they do something right or well. When a child throws a tantrum, try to respond with calmness and composure rather than conflict.

Kids don’t throw tantrums on purpose or to manipulate. They are kids, they don’t know how to manipulate. Children are illogical and irrational and haven’t matured enough to acquire understanding and reason. There’s no point arguing back. Kids are trying their best. If your child’s energy goes high, your energy should go low. Say something like “we don’t do that” and then redirect them to something calm or fun.

Modern parents often have a high need for control. In other words, they may feel like they need to be involved in every aspect of their child’s life. This can lead to constant vigilance, further entrenching parental burnout. The idea that parents are responsible for entertaining a child or “keeping them busy” was not present in most cultures throughout human history.



You don’t need to change your entire life to suit your children. You don’t need to redesign your house to suit children. You don’t need to do child-centric activities all weekend or evening. In fake, childlike worlds, children are separated from reality. They don’t learn how to behave as an adult. Instead, try including your children in your life and family. Do the activities you did before you had kids but modify them slightly to include your kids.

Finally, children should help with division of labour in your household. Kids have an innate instinct to cooperate and work together with their families. Child-centred activities can kind of strip away their family “membership card” – the feeling that they’re a part of the family and working together as a team.

Children are not the VIP of the family. You don’t have to serve them. Kids want to help us and be part of our lives, and child-centred activities deprive them of that opportunity. Ask them to help with chores – they want to help, even if they don’t know it yet.

Words by Dr Matt Blake, Clinical Psychologist, Eucalyptus Psychology, 146 Cardigan Road, Mooroolbark, VIC 3138, 03 8740 3754. Reprinted with permission. <https://eucalyptuspsychology.com.au>  
Photo by James Kovin, Unsplash.





**Burnham Beeches, located in Sherbrooke, is an icon of the Dandenong Ranges. Built in the vintage of Art Moderne, a streamlined, late variant of Art Deco, the mansion was built in the early 1930's for wealthy industrialist Alfred Nicholas, and is surrounded by gardens, containing a mix of indigenous and exotic plantings with a lake and boathouse. The Alfred Nicholas Memorial Gardens are a popular tourist attraction, and are managed by Parks Victoria, having been gifted to the Shire of Sherbrooke in 1965.**

The Burnham Beeches estate has had a number of lives. Alfred Nicholas only lived there for a few years before his death. The family then offered the home for use as a children's hospital during part of the second World War. Later the Nicholas family used the residence as a facility for medical and veterinary research until 1981 when it was sold. The property was used as a luxury hotel until the early 1990's, having been classified by The National Trust in 1987.

In the last forty years or so Burnham Beeches has seen up to eight different owners and operators, each proposing development plans with varying degrees of changes and interventions.

Each has hit stumbling blocks with planning authorities and the local community. As a result, the building has been unoccupied for over 30 years and is now in a state of serious disrepair.

Many of us enjoyed the wonderful 'Empire' exhibition in 2019, in which the house was transformed into an art installation by street artist Rone. The installations captured the beauty and soul of the house in all its jaded glory, but the level of dilapidation and decay of the building was sad to see.

Any development of this iconic site is always going to be difficult and controversial, not only because it is a historically important building (or group of buildings if The Piggery and its attached buildings are included), but also because of its special and unique location and fragile ecosystem which requires our protection.

Local residents have raised a number of issues around Burnham Beeches redevelopment over the years that include exacerbating existing problems with traffic and parking, bushfire and emergency management and waste disposal. Residents have also sought assurances that significant trees will not be removed or subjected to additional stress.





The newest owner is the consortium of Trenerry, Victor Smorgon Group and Kanat Group, which has also redeveloped Sorrento's Continental Hotel. The Consortium has received a Heritage Victoria permit for the entire proposed master plan and the green light for the initial stage component from Yarra Ranges Council. This stage will enable conservation and repair work which is now urgent.

The mansion will be restored and a 'village square' will be created around The Piggery, with eating options, a brewery and event spaces. Perhaps more controversially, a non-permanent glamping offering is proposed that would increase the hotel accommodation to 82. The developer argues this amount of accommodation is required to make the enterprise commercially viable.

Words by Annie Tamblyn, Sherbrooke.  
Images: *Alfred Nicholas Gardens, Sherbrooke* (above left and right); Photos by Sonya Boadle, Emerald.  
*Burnham Beeches* (far left). Photo by Trust Advocate.

## Partner with us!

Consider partnering with us to help fund the production of the Hills Community Focus Magazine for 2024. Our plan is to create and distribute four seasonally-focused issues. As we are experiencing fantastic feedback, we want to continue to produce a magazine for the local community.

Your support would greatly assist in covering the costs of the production of this magazine. Your sponsorship will also entitle you to an ad in each edition, and you'll be acknowledged in the magazine, complete with your business logo. Please email [hillscommunityfocus@gmail.com](mailto:hillscommunityfocus@gmail.com), and Ian, one of our volunteers would be happy to chat to you about sponsorship.

**PARTNERS**



# YARRA RANGES COUNCIL NEW BIN SYSTEM!

Take our quiz to see how much you know!

- 1. What does FOGO stand for?**
  - a. Forget Our Green bins – they're Obsolete!
  - b. Fermented food Often Goes Off
  - c. Fortnightly collection for Our Garbage. Okay?
  - d. Food Organics and Garden Organics
- 2. True or False? Key changes to our garbage collection start from October 2, this year.**
  - a. True
  - b. False
- 3. The green (lime lid) bin is to be used for:**
  - a. Recycling glass
  - b. Food and garden organics
  - c. Recycling bottles, jars, aluminium, steel, and plastic products
  - d. Rubbish
- 4. True or False? Your rubbish bin lid will be changed from dark green to red.**
  - a. True
  - b. False
- 5. True or False? Your existing recycling (yellow lid) will stay the same and continue with fortnightly collections.**
  - a. True
  - b. False
- 6. True or False? Rubbish bins will continue to be collected weekly.**
  - a. True
  - b. False



- 7. True or False? You can start filling your new FOGO bin with food and garden material from 25 September 2023, ready for collection the following week.**
  - a. True
  - b. False
- 8. True or False? Even numbered properties will be the first to receive a kitchen caddy, a roll of compostable caddy liners and an information pack. Odd numbered properties will receive their "kit" later on.**
  - a. True
  - b. False
- 9. True or False? Up to 25% of the material in a typical Yarra Ranges household rubbish bin is food waste.**
  - a. True
  - b. False
- 10. True or False? From 2 October 2023, garden clippings and food scraps, including meat and bones, will go in your FOGO bin.**
  - a. True
  - b. False

Answers are on the page 3 - Welcome Page

Did you score 10/10 correctly? If not, have you learnt something important about the change to the Yarra Ranges bin collection system?

To learn even more, go to:

<https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/whywasteit/Changes-to-waste-collection-introducing-FOGO-collection>

or use your mobile phone's camera to hover over the QR code, and then you can agree to open the associated webpage.

Quiz and photo by Kate King, Olinda.

# BOOK REVIEW

## Stephen King – Fairy Tale (2022)

I know that Stephen King is a “No 1 Bestselling author”! Not only is it stated on the cover of this book – it’s confirmed by Sertan Sanderson, who confirms that “Stephen King is the single most successful writer of horror stories in history, selling more than 400 million books worldwide”, (<https://www.dw.com/en/bestselling-author-stephen-king-turns-75>).

I’d previously read *Finders Keepers*, *IT*, and *Mr Mercedes* and enjoyed them all. While King is well known for his horror stories and the movies that were based on these books; he has also written fantasy books. I was therefore intrigued to see what sort of book *Fairy Tale* would be. At 577 pages, it appeared to be a daunting task to read the entire book and I nearly thought it may not be the worth the effort – how wrong I was!

*Fairy Tale* is a cleverly written and imaginative book, with characters that were believable and brilliantly and consistently depicted. King introduces Charlie Reade, the key character, who is a seventeen-year-old curious and adventurous teenager. The challenges that Charlie faces, with his adopted and beloved dog, Radar, keep you on “the edge of your seat.”

What’s compelling too, is how as a reader, you’re fully immersed in the fantasy novel’s story. You end up “going with the flow” and suspending your disbelief with what is described, because you’ve been slowly immersed in an amazing parallel world.



At the start of each chapter there are key words and black-inked illustrations, which pique your interest and become signposts for the unfolding of what Charlie experiences as he journeys “to and fro” between his two worlds.

The fantasy world that you enter and live in, as you read the book stays with you long after you’ve read it. I’m reminded of my childhood favourite books, such as “*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*,” and “*Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass*,” and later the Harry Potter series.

*Fairy Tale* is one of the best books that I’ve ever read, and the themes of good versus evil, and sacrifice and heroism have remained in my memory for a long time.

By Kate King (no relation!), Olinda.

## Let’s hear from you!

If you’ve read an interesting book lately, or have a favourite book you want to describe, feel free to send your written submission (approximately 350 words) by Friday 3 November to:

[hillscommunityfocus@gmail.com](mailto:hillscommunityfocus@gmail.com)

If you have a vacancy in your local book club, you can also let us know and provide details of meeting place, date, times and contact details, we’ll add that information into our future edition.





*Menzies Creek Daffodils. Photo by Bruce Watson, Belgrave.*