

Nobelius Heritage Park & Emerald Museum

Newsletter No. 10

Summer 2014-2015

Works in progress

Steps connecting the entrance of the Museum to the Park below are now finished thanks to a Cardinia Shire Capital Works Grant; Council will be landscaping the surrounding bank with plants in the New Year to complete the project.

On one side of the steps is a beautiful Flame tree which is in bud again, it flowered for the first time 3 years ago. The Smoke Bush as you enter the Park has been a picture this past month, have you noticed it?

A path is about to be constructed through the Park to connect the central road with Princess St. This will enhance the new footpath along Princess St to make Nobelius Heritage Park more accessible for walkers.



Museum Curator

We are thrilled that Cardinia Shire has continued our Museum Officer, Catherine McLay's, tenure for a further six months. This will allow her to contribute to a number of other projects. We would like to thank the Ranges Ward Councilors, Emerald community groups and Cardinia's senior management team for their support.



Award winner

In November, Beryl Bartacek, a past committee member and long-time volunteer at the Museum received a La Trobe Community Award from Jason Wood for her community service over the past 20 years. You will find her at the Museum every Wednesday and Sunday afternoon without fail, sharing her knowledge of Emerald's history with visitors. Thank you Beryl.

Pictured above L-R: Elaine Morris, James Randall, Beryl Bartacek, Jason Wood, Chris Britton & June Styling at the La Trobe Community Awards presentation.

Postcards

October 2014 – January 2015

We are continuing our exhibition of historic postcards throughout the summer, now featuring Christmas postcards in time for the holiday season! The Emerald Museum is open Wednesdays between 10am and 3pm and on Sundays between 1.30pm and 4pm.

Did you know?

There used to be a Eucalyptus industry based in Emerald begun by Joseph Bosisto, who set up eucalyptus distilleries in Menzies Creek, Emerald and Macclesfield. In 1890, Bosisto bought a twenty acre block at Butterfield Park where he built a two-roomed slab hut and later a two-roomed weatherboard home.

He established an experimental plantation of Camden Woollybut (*Eucalyptus macarthurii*), which produced good quality Eucalyptus along Lakeside Drive in Emerald. Arch Nobelius and D'Urban Stuart later used the distillery to distill lavender in the late 1930s to 1940s.

Pictured below: Unidentified workers at a distillery in Butterfield Park, Emerald c1920.



New volunteers

We have two new volunteers joining us in January who will be working on digitising the Nobelius sub-collection. It takes many hours of work to copy these fragile and historically precious ledgers, which we plan to make available online for the public to view in the future.

President's update

– Carey Williams

After an exceptionally good spring for growth on the deciduous trees, the oaks, beeches and maples in particular are looking spectacular and well worth a summer visit.

All four seasons have their own special beauty but summer sees these trees in their lush splendor. Nobelius Heritage Park is a quiet place good for a picnic in the shade of a beautiful tree, where you can soak up the ambience of the historic site and reflect on earlier times.

On Sundays and Wednesdays the Museum is open and the friendly volunteers on roster will welcome you and show you around.



Lavender harvest

January 10th

We are planning a lavender harvest on the 10th of January, and welcome any volunteers who would like to assist us from 10am.

Pictured: Flame tree at Nobelius Heritage Park

Call for assistance

We are **in need of computers** to help accommodate our expanding team of volunteers.

More volunteers are always welcome to help with archiving, cataloguing and other small jobs at the Museum. No experience necessary and training will be provided.

If you can spare any time on a Wednesday, Thursday or Sunday, or would like to donate a computer, please get in contact with Museum Coordinator, Chris Britton via:

enquiries@emeraldmuseum.org