

Nobelius Heritage Park & Emerald Museum Success Again: By Chris Britton

The Emerald Museum is pleased to announce it has been successful in obtaining a grant for the final fireproofing of the museum. Thank you to Cardinia Shire Council for this Capital Works Grant stage 2, which will finalise the installation of fire proof shutters and a skylight. The protection of the archives in the museum is vital, and with this completed, we will have done everything in our power to preserve our collection in the case of a future bushfire.

The Museum Committee is going from strength to strength in the quest to apply for grants to see the museum move forward while simultaneously recording and preserving the past.

After a very successful exhibition of early pioneers and farming – ‘Ploughing up our Heritage’ we now plan for a bigger and better display of the Nobelius history.

It was 130 years ago in 1886 that Carl Axel Nobelius came to Emerald with a plan for a nursery. Within 6 years his family moved into their first home in Lawsons Rd. It took 14 years for Carl Axel to build up his business using bullock wagons to transport his trees to Narre Warren station. From there they were sent all over Australia and the world, beautifying many council streetscapes.

Nobelius was involved in lobbying the government with a group of local fruit growers and farmers for a train (Puffing Billy) which was finally opened in 1900, making transport so much easier. The Nobelius Nursery became the largest nursery in the Southern Hemisphere. However, with the onset of W.W.1 the business was greatly diminished. Nobelius died in 1921 and his sons carried on the business until well into the late 1930s. It was then sold to Linton's, and later Din

San nurseries, before the property was put up for sale. After much lobbying to the Victorian Government and Sherbrooke Shire Council, the land was purchased for the local community as a park.

The four and a half hectares of Nobelius Heritage Park, is the last remaining remnant of this historical enterprise. The Museum committee and volunteers take great pride in Nobelius Heritage Park now recognised as being of ‘national significance’. Come and visit the Museum and walk in and enjoy this beautiful park – it is free and there for all.

Does anyone have any receipts from the sale of plants from the original nursery? We have only one in the museum collection and would dearly love to acquire more, there must be some still around when you think of how many millions of trees that were sold. The committee plans to produce an Interpretation tree trail brochure in the near future to name the trees in the park. Many of them rare species.

The Emerald Museum collects and preserves history from Gembrook, Macclesfield to Menzies Creek, if you have any items of historical interest we would be grateful for any donations. If you have any spare time on a Wednesday to donate a few hours to help catalogue our collection it would be much appreciated. Please come and visit us.

**THE MUSEUM IS OPEN EVERY
WEDNESDAY 10AM-3PM and
SUNDAY 1.30-4PM**

**Chris Britton, President.
Emerald Museum & Nobelius Heritage Park
5 Crichton Rd, Emerald**

**E: enquiries@emeraldmuseum.org.au
W: www.emeraldmuseum.org.au
P: (03) 5968 2152 Please leave message**



Museum Committee and Volunteers



Budding Peaches at Gembrook Nurseries



Chris Britton with Nobelius Nursery Sign

ANZAC Walk Brochure

The ANZAC walk audio trail was officially opened on the 11th March 2015 by the Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove.

The Emerald RSL has now produced a comprehensive brochure designed to use in conjunction when experiencing the audio trail.

The brochure provides background to our local ANZAC history and stories of the 32 local men who lost their lives. The brochure also covers history on the Emerald Heritage Walk & Puffing Billy Railway. Brochures are available from the Eastern Dandenong Ranges Visitor Information Centre located on Emerald Railway Station.

