



This edition and all back issues of ACA newsletters are available at:

<http://www.aurora.asn.au/downloads/aca-newsletters/>

President's Report

I hope many of you have heard the good news that a State Primary School has been approved for Epping North, a feasibility study for Edgars Rd funded and the new Community Activity Centre is well on the way to be open for the 2015 kinder year.

As this is my last report for the ACA as President, I would like to draw your attention to our major local issue: the lack of roads and public transport in the area. The ACA has advocated for better roads, bus services and the promised train line over many years. We were promised so much, but little has been delivered, now the community and businesses are suffering because of the underinvestment in infrastructure: Epping Rd needs to be duplicated, Edgar's Rd extended, the traffic lights at Harvest Home Rd and the traffic lights at Findon Rd/ O'Herns Rd - High St/ Epping Rd constructed, and the O'Herns Rd Freeway Interchange ramps built.

The fruit and vegetable market will open later this year/early next, and when it does, residents will see an influx of heavy vehicles on already congested roads. With the knowledge of the traffic increase on Cooper St and the influx of new residents, no major political party has committed to providing necessary roads and upgrades to our area.

Earlier this year the ACA partnered with the City of Whittlesea and the Mernda Rail Alliance to advocate for two major projects, the O'Herns Rd connection to the Hume Freeway and for a Mernda train station. The campaign has had wide publicity, but continues to need your support in filling in the Access Denied postcards and going online at www.accessdenied.net.au to send a message to politicians that you support these two vital projects.

As well, the ACA has produced a video 'Congestion Costs' which we launched in May, it can be accessed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=AFbrPBjDWqA. The video showcases local people telling their stories of how the road congestion and lack of public transport affects them.

We are fast approaching a new State election. Electoral boundaries have changed in our area, with the East side of Epping Rd now in the Mill Park electorate, while the extended Thomastown electorate boundary is now the West side of Epping Rd. The ACA continues to meet with our politicians and some understand the situation and know the issues but not all. Now is the time to be approaching candidates and seeking their views on what concerns you!

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Neighbourhood Watch

Recently many of the ACA committee attended the Whittlesea Police and Community Forum held at the Council offices.

During the night it was mentioned that residents in the Epping North/Wollert area do not ring the police and report when they have had property stolen. If you have had someone steal from your car, house etc. and you are in NO danger then it is best to ring the local police or go to the station to report the incident. If you are in DANGER or it is an emergency then ring 000.



Whittlesea City Neighbourhood Watch held its first barbeque of the 2014 on the Queen's birthday public holiday (Monday 9th June). Members were there to set up at 7:30 and food was cooking from 8am. Sausages were sold from 9am to 4pm with a good rotation of members throughout the day. We did see some sun in the afternoon, which was a pleasant change from the chilly morning start.

Whittlesea Neighbourhood Watch have a public meeting on Monday, 7th July 2014 at 7pm with a presentation from our Victoria Police Liaison Officer and from a Whittlesea City Neighbourhood Watch member.

For more information you can watch www.nhw.com.au/whittlesea, contact us at Whittlesea@nhw.com.au or follow us on facebook at www.facebook.com/wcnhw.

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In regards to the ACA's other activities recently, we have held three successful events: the annual Trivia Night, a Cultural Celebration and the Video Launch.

Our Trivia night was a huge success and we would like to thank all our sponsors, supporters, and everyone who came along and made the night so entertaining. We also held our first Cultural Celebration, a joint event between the ACA, Whittlesea Multicultural Community Council and Creeds Living and Learning Centre. There was food, dancing, face painting, henna art, poems, a fashion parade and the fantastic performance by African Drummers, Shabba African Star.

With all the activity over the last few months we have continued to work with the City of Whittlesea to prepare for emergencies, and have applied for a grant to provide localized projects.

Interest has also been shown for a Tennis Club at the Tennis Courts in the Aurora Estate. We are in the process of forming a committee and seeking approval from Tennis Victoria to eventually use the courts for a range of activities, we are also hoping the club rooms will be built shortly.

Lastly as we approach July we will be holding our AGM where we will elect a new committee for 2014-2015. This year I have decided not to nominate again as President. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the current committee for their continual support and all the amazing work they do for the community. I would also like to acknowledge the immense support the committee and I, have had from the ACA members, local businesses and residents of Epping North and Wollert.

Over the past two years the ACA has grown in numbers and in influence but there is so much more work to be done. I am excited about the future of the ACA and I hope to continue to be a part of this association and the great work it is doing.

This month I would like to welcome Ozge, our current Vice President, into the role of collating the ACA newsletter. Thanks Ozge!

Keep safe and I hope to see many of you soon!

Toni-Marie Wuelfert
ACA President

Aurora General Store & Café

Fully catered café

Delicatessen / Mini supermarket services

ATM onsite

Grinders Coffee Focaccias Cakes Breakfast and Lunch

Trading Hours:

Monday to Friday 6.30am to 9.30pm

Weekends

Saturdays 7am to 9.30pm,

Sunday 7.30am to 9.30pm

1 Gammage Bvd Epping VIC 3076

(03) 8320 5000

aurora
community association

Did you know we have a FORUM?

Why not follow the link and register and chat with your neighbours and fellow residents.

<http://www.aurora.asn.au/forum/>

Have your say!

You can share gardening tips, tradesmen names and phone numbers, recipes, handy tips about internet, child minding, schools, activities in and around the area.

The annual ACA trivia night was held on Saturday 29th March 2014. We had nearly 100 people attend on ten teams, including Bronwyn Halfpenny MP and Lily D'Ambrosio MP, and all attendees had a fantastic night at the event!



Having Fun at the trivia night

The ACA raised over \$2200 from the event after all costs were considered! This is enough to pay for our ongoing annual costs such as public liability insurance, association fees and web hosting costs! The ACA is sincerely grateful to everyone who helped raise the money at the event– it's a fabulous outcome and this will keep us financially viable in 2014-15!

We must say special thanks to the organising committee for all their time and dedication that went into organising the event. Thank you Sally, Cara, Sri, Sash, Thomas, Toni-Marie, Katerina and Zeinab. Apart from being on the organising committee, Thomas also did a wonderful job as Quiz Master on the night. We'd also like to thank Em and Nic who performed a few acoustic songs at the beginning of the evening. Thanks to Dan for setting up the PA/ sound/ IT system again this year!

The night wouldn't have been possible without the support of the local business community, who, even in these tough economic times, were prepared to chip in and support the event and thus our Association. We held numerous raffles and silent auctions on the night, with a lot of competition for the fantastic prizes we had on offer including a 6 month gym membership from Jetts Lyndarum and a Camera from Officeworks! Venad catering again also provided some delicious samosas and vegetarian rolls which were enjoyed on the night. We also mustn't forget to thank John Tindall who created the event artwork! Thank you to all the businesses who supported us- you can see their logos below and links to their web pages on the front page of our website, <http://www.aurora.asn.au>.

Saavi's TOP CHOICE UNISEX HAIR & BEAUTY SALON	EGAN REAL ESTATE				
One Health & Fitness One Life. Live It Well	Jetts 24 hour fitness				
BA GROUP accountants Building success together	Silver Blades Ladies & Mens Hairdressing				
Danielle Green Local Labor State MP Yan Yean					
Officeworks					

ACA AGM- we need people to help keep up the momentum!

Do you appreciate all the advocacy work the ACA has done in the past year on road and infrastructure issues for our area? Did you attend and enjoy attending the multicultural celebration, end of year members event, trivia night or kids and bubs market? Have the ACA helped to solve a community issue you have raised?

If your answer is yes, then please consider becoming a member of our committee and helping to keep this great community work going!

The ACA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) is coming up on Wednesday 23rd July 7.30pm at Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre. Each year at the AGM, according to the ACA rules, current executive committee members stand down and members must nominate and vote in a new committee to oversee the running of the ACA. The executive committee includes:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- 4 x General Committee Members

You can find out more about the roles at <http://www.aurora.asn.au/association-structure/>

We need a committed bunch of people to lead our organisation in the 2014-15 financial year and carry on the great work that Toni-Marie and her team have achieved in 2013-14. People choose to join the ACA committee because they want to give something back to their local community as well as recognising that committee work can bring benefits to the individual. Being a committee member can add lots of additional skills and experience to your CV, as well as strengthening skills you already have. So, in return for their time, committee members can expect to:

- Develop professional and personal skills and experiences eg project management, event planning, financial management, communication, community advocacy.
- Build and/ or strengthen networks of business and community associates.
- Contribute to decisions that affect OUR local community.
- Make new friends in the community.
- Have an opportunity both to learn and to teach others.
- Feel satisfied that they are making a difference to the lives of the Epping North/ Wollert community.

The Association plays a vital role in our community, advocating on our community's behalf on matters of local importance as well as providing a means for residents to connect, socialise and make friends in the area they call home. **Without a functioning committee the ACA will cease to function** and our community will be without an important asset which makes a difference in our community every day!

If you would like to become a member of the committee or vote for committee membership then please make sure you are a current financial (paid up) member for the 2013-14 FY before Sunday 13th July 2013, details below or at <http://www.aurora.asn.au/join-today/>.

If you want to join the committee you should indicate your interest to be nominated for a position prior to the AGM by completing the nomination form available at the bottom of <http://www.aurora.asn.au/association-structure/>.

If you would like to discuss becoming a member of the ACA executive committee, please call 0490 140 078 or email enquiry@aurora.asn.au with your contact details to arrange a discussion and we will call you back at a time convenient for you.

Membership Matters

We are **always open to new members**, with membership open to anyone in the Epping or Wollert area. Only together can we make our community a great place to live. First year membership is \$20 in the first half of the financial year (\$10 a year admin fee and a \$10 membership fee) or \$15 in the second half of the financial year ie from January - June (\$10 admin fee plus only \$5 membership fee).

All ACA memberships, regardless of when you signed up to be a member, are renewed at the start of the new financial year (usually at AGM). Membership renewal cost is currently \$10 per year.

Membership fees support the ACA in their ongoing community engagement activities. The ACA has a number of annual costs that need to be met to keep the Association functioning, such as public liability insurance, incorporation fees, website costs and event costs. Annual membership fees cover some of these costs, thereby reducing the amount of fundraising that needs to occur, thus keeping the Association alive.

Any questions? Don't hesitate to email enquiry@aurora.asn.au or call 0490 140 078 during office hours.

-Cara Horner, Secretary

Transport Working Group Update

All residents of Epping North/ Wollert have suffered at some stage, if not daily, from transport woes. If you rely on public transport, you might have walked for a considerable distance to wait for an unreasonable amount of time for an overcrowded bus, which will make slow progress through traffic to its destination. In fact, it could take you 40 minutes to cover five kilometres – just slightly faster than a brisk walk. Or you might be one of the motorists stuck in the treacle-like traffic stopping and starting your way to work or school. And many will remember bitterly that plans of the Aurora Estate which prominently displayed a train station and many bus routes.

The traffic conditions in Epping North/ Wollert rose to prominence in early 2013, when grass fires forced many on the roads in an attempt to escape what could have been a disaster. Photographs of motorists caught in a – for some – four-hour blockade on Epping Road made the front page of Victorian newspapers. However, nothing changed. And the forthcoming opening of the wholesale fruit and vegetable market on Cooper Street in late 2014/ beginning 2015 can only make matters much worse.

The Transport Working Group was set up to draw attention to the plight of local residents and to fight for the adequate transport options we were promised. These include more buses, more bus routes, more and wider roads, and, ultimately, a spur line to a train station in Epping North.

In the past year, the group has produced, with the assistance of the City of Whittlesea, *Congestion Costs*, an eight-minute polished video illustrating how badly we have been treated by developers and government bodies, and what needs to be done to alleviate the situation. The video was launched on 30 April this year to much acclaim. The Transport Working Group's aim is to ensure as many people as possible see and share this You Tube video to urge both state and federal politicians to take notice and address the issues raised. To watch and share this video, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AFbrPBjDWqA>

The Transport Working Group has also allied itself with the City of Whittlesea's Access Denied Campaign, which aims to petition both sides of politics in the State Parliament to address at the very least two priorities for the Whittlesea area, the fastest growing outer council in Melbourne: Building access ramp interchanges from O'Herns Road to the Hume Freeway, to allow traffic heading to Melbourne to bypass Epping Road/ Miller Street and Cooper Street, and to extend the railway line along the existing railway reserve to Mernda. Post cards are available from Council offices and from the Transport Working Group to add your signature to the petition. You can also head to online to send an email letter to local Members of Parliament: www.accessdenied.net.au.

Finally, we wish to applaud Minister for Planning Matthew Guy's pronouncement that areas of future growth, such as Fisherman's Bend, need infrastructure put in place prior to development. We are just puzzled that he has not initiated this for Epping North/ Wollert! Perhaps you can join those other residents who have written to him to ask him for clarification?

People power is what makes organisations such as the Transport Working Group successful. We are a small team and are very keen to recruit new members to help us in our fight for equal access to workplaces and schools! If you are interested, please write an email the Transport Working Group at transport@aurora.asn.au. Thank you!

Kathleen Ager
ACA Transport Working Group Coordinator



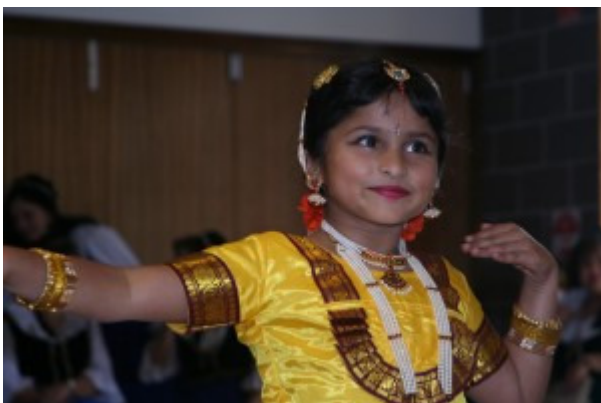
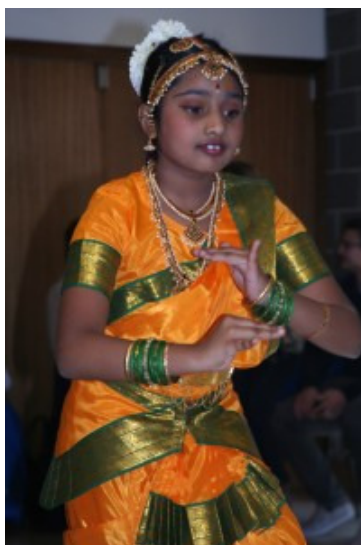


MULTICULTURAL CELEBRATION– 25th May 2014

As part organiser of the Multicultural event I would like to say the day was a success for all involved, we had a great turn out which included mainly Epping North residents and lots of friends and families from our municipality.. There was no shortage of food and entertainment from our culturally diverse community.. Children especially enjoyed the face painting and sausage sizzle, while others taste tested cultural foods which included vegetarian rice paper rolls, spanakopita, samosas, Turkish delight and much more.. The fashion parade and cultural dancing proved to be very popular and the day was completed with the very enjoyable performance from Shanti our Ghanaian friends..

The event proved to be very popular and I look forward to being a part of many more in years to come..

Nessie Sayar ACA Member



Transport Campaigning for Growing Outer Suburbs

ACA transport campaigning is currently oriented to encouraging politicians and political parties to show support for fixing transport problems around Epping North. This has worked particularly well with the involvement of a number of local parliamentarians who have been listening closely to local residents and ACA members and have been showing an interest in and concern about local transport issues. Nevertheless the current political and economic situation does not offer much hope with regard to a change for the better.

A big concern is that governments are preoccupied with costly major inner city road projects such as the \$16 billion East West Link road tunnel. These projects are supported by arguments that they will fix road congestion when in the past such projects have not only failed but have usually made congestion worse (see PTUA President Tony Morton's paper 'Neat, Plausible and Wrong: Melbourne's East West Link', website <http://bit.ly/T8RKi2>). Such projects also mean that little government funding is left for other transport projects, especially public transport.

There is a serious problem with political parties, especially the major ones, that important decisions are often made by faceless party powerbrokers out to increase their power and influence regardless of the needs and wishes of party members and voters. Important decisions here may be more influenced by lobbyists making party donations with the expectation of something in return. Lobby groups may gain extra influence by having their staff working for government agencies or by offering employment to former politicians and former government employees. There is a problem of key decision makers belonging to a car culture. There is strong pressure for governments to not get into debt with low interest loans from financial institutions. Instead they are pressured to launch Public Private Partnership projects where investment (requiring much higher interest rate returns) may come from large superannuation fund institutions. These institutions may be run by people such as a former state premier. This means even less government money left over for other projects. There are also ministers who are there only for the big end of town and have no interest in voters.

There have been many painful outcomes from the above corrupt system. The federal government will not provide any funding for urban public transport. The last Victorian state election was won on promises for rail line extensions which did not happen. The Melbourne East West Link project was not voted on at the last election. VicUrban (now Places Victoria) promises of a rail line extension to Epping North and of nearby bus services for most Aurora estate residents in Epping North were not kept. The Victorian state Labor Party is unwilling to cancel contracts for the East West Link project if the contracts are signed before the 2014 election.

The current situation is made worse because the outer growing suburbs of Melbourne are mainly safe Labor seats. Unfortunately the prevailing attitude from both major parties to safe Labor seats here is that there is no pressure to fund necessary major projects in these areas. The only solution for outer suburban residents may be to consider more closely a minor political party such as the Greens who do support public transport over roads. A more promising solution may be to set up a new progressive political party dedicated to the outer suburbs. But this may take up time and resources that are not available. There may be suitable independent politicians available but they may require more careful scrutiny with regard to ability and trustworthiness.

Another challenge is helping local residents to become more politically informed. The mainstream media, both print and television, are often providing inadequate or distorted information relevant to the democratic process. Mainstream print media such as the Herald Sun appear very reluctant to expose the deceptions of far right politicians working for big business. There are often better sources of news on the internet which are worth tracking down. Setting up Twitter with appropriate sources to follow can also be educational (just be careful about becoming addicted).

Tony Francis
ACA Transport Working Group Member

Meet candidates face-to-face to discuss transport– 7 September 2pm



You are invited to a forum about local transport issues in the forthcoming State election. You'll be able to hear from local candidates and ask questions in a town hall style meeting.

Speakers are:

Danielle Green MLA for Yan Yean, **Sam Ozturk**, Liberal candidate for Yan Yean and **Daniel Sacchero**, Greens candidate for Yan Yean.

7 September 2014 at 2pm - 3:30pm, Mernda Community Hall, 70 Mernda Village Drive, Mernda

Please RSVP to reserve your seat at <http://www.transportforum.org.au/whittlesea>

What'll we do this afternoon?

Our area sometimes seems to lack places to enjoy, when compared to suburbs closer to the city. However, there are definitely some worthwhile nooks and crannies to investigate.

The Donnybrook Cheese Farm continues an old family tradition of making their own cheeses, using milk from their own cows. There's a superb blue Brie, their own Havarti, an award-winning parmesan and other delicious varieties. Locally made, you will be buying a great product with low food-miles. It's on Donnybrook Rd, 10 minutes from the heart of Epping and worth the trip.

Further afield is **Silkies Rose Farm**, a gorgeous nursery that specialises in stunning rose varieties raised using highly sustainable practices. Diana and Graham are welcoming and helpful. Try chatting to Graham and you can learn about soil microbes, chook-raising, pruning or any number of gardening topics. Their rose farm is in Clonbinane so you can make a trip out there after lunch by heading up Epping Road and be back in time for tea with your new plant. (Along the way, keep your eyes peeled for an olive grove, a look-out spot, alpacas and a totally caged orchard!)

Maybe, on the way back home, you might decide to pop into our newest restaurant, **The Third Place**, on Epping Rd in Wollert. There's a large brunch / lunch menu and in the evening is a special dinner menu. All the dishes that I've tried have been extremely tasty and of generous proportions, but you might just want a coffee or a take-away focaccia.

Consider supporting our locality by visiting and buying from these terrific small businesses. They add much to our area and to our lives.

Disclosure: I have no connections to any of these people, other than being a very happy customer.

Joanna Durst



T H I R D P L A C E



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GREAT COFFEE

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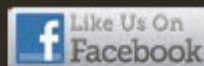
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We are located at
286a Epping Rd, Wollert
(Historic Bluestone Cottage)

MUMS NIGHT OUT



The ladies of Epping North and Wollert area had a grand time at the Mums Night Out, hosted by the Epping North Family Engagement Facilitators at Creeds Farm Living & Learning Centre on 10 May. Jumpstarting Mother's Day, over 30 women gathered for an evening of pampering and fun. We were treated to Kylie Adams of Express Mobile Massage, Mary Kay hand and nail pampering, soy candles and essential oils. We had lots of fun with dress ups and were treated to yummy food by Nisha Mistry. Which local "celebrities" can you spot in the photos?

Claire Butler
Manager, Creeds Farm Living & Learning Centre





Creeds' Seeds and Feeds

June's garden gathering includes:

- **"Garden on a budget" workshop**
- **Food swap**
- **Monthly dig and learn**

Join Creeds Farm Community Garden on the last Sunday of each month to create a thriving sustainable community garden and share in its rewards!

June's special guest is Maria from My Green Garden to talk about budget gardening techniques including propagation.

When: Sunday 29 June 2014, 9.30am-12pm

Where: Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre, 2 Snugburgh Way, Epping

Bookings essential: creedsfarmers@gmail.com or 8060 3895



A sustainable living program designed by Creeds Farm Community Garden



City of
Whittlesea

inform
educate
inspire
connect



Yarra Plenty
REGIONAL LIBRARY



Read with Me Babies



Epping Views Family and Community Centre

**Wednesday 25 June to Wednesday 16 July
(4 week program)
12.30pm – 1.30pm**

Free program for parents, carers and babies
(ages 0-12 months)

Demonstrating how to read to babies, simple early
literacy tips, music and activities. Take time to laugh,
sing and play with your baby.

Limited places, bookings required.
rrover@ypri.vic.gov.au or phone 0427 913 100



www.ypri.vic.gov.au

Epping North Project - Maternal Child Health

WHO ARE WE?

We are Family Engagement Facilitators working for the City of Whittlesea under Maternal and Child Health. Our role is to connect, include and inform Epping North/Wollert families with children 0-5yrs old about: one another, groups, services and events within their local community.

By working closely with the community, City of Whittlesea, Maternal and Child Health and local service providers, we are able to be responsive and supportive to the current needs of these families.

Transitioning families into playgroups, support groups, relevant parent education programs and creating environments and opportunities for connections are the main outcomes for this project.

Fiona Miller and Kathy Ball eppingnorthfef@whittlesea.vic.gov.au 0429 190 150





Family Fun Night

Funds raised go to supporting "sids and kids Red Nose Day"



sids and kids
NOW and VICTORIA

Friday 27th June

Time: From 5.30 - 8.30 pm

Venue: Kids Space Indoor Playground

560 High St Epping

\$25.00 per FAMILY

RSVP is essential

<https://register.eventbrite.com/23973/family-fun-night>

Entry to Kids Space, Light Pizza Dinner, and a special performance by
Tim Credible—Magician

Call Kathy Ball or Fiona Miller on 0429 190 150
(Drinks and Red Nose Merchandise available for sale on the night)
Proudly promoting this event are the COW Epping North Family Engagement Facilitators

Event Office 15 North Brunswick South Melbourne VIC 3206 Phone: 03 9593 1234 Fax: 03 9593 1235 Email: info@cityofwhittlesea.vic.gov.au Website: www.cityofwhittlesea.vic.gov.au	222 Victoria Road, Epping VIC 3103 Tel: 03 9377 3000 Fax: 03 9377 3001 Email: info@cityofwhittlesea.vic.gov.au Website: www.cityofwhittlesea.vic.gov.au
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Dads & Kids Club

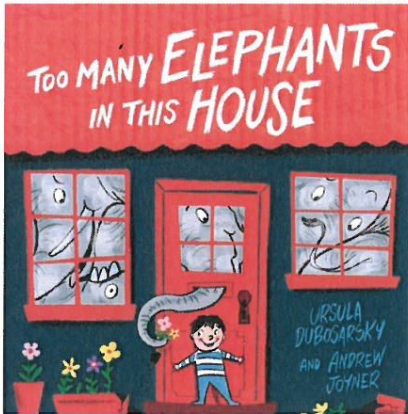
Where the work is play!!!!

Epping North project—City of Whittlesea is in the process of establishing a Saturday morning Dad's playgroup in the local Epping area.

Please Call Kathy or Fiona on 0429 190 150 or email us on eppingnorthfef@whittlesea.vic.gov.au to register your expressions of interest.




EDUCATION WEEK @ E.V.P.S.



Education Week - 18th to 24 May – at Epping Views Primary School was launched at our school assembly on Monday. The national simultaneous reading activity was led by our Literacy Coordinator Karen reading 'Too Many Elephants in this House'.

The focus this year was entitled '**Scientists do Amazing Things**', and we did!

Each grade level has been studying a science unit as part of our Integrated Studies.

Prep – Sorting, Classifying & Motion

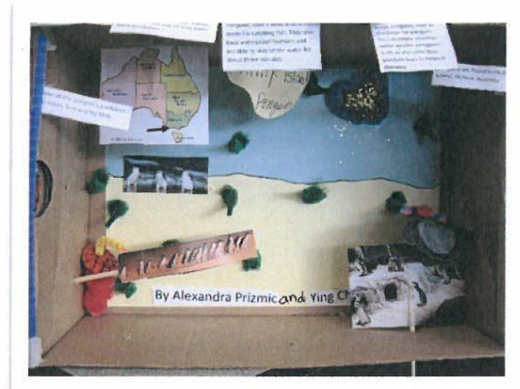
Grade 1 – Habitats

Grade 2 – May the Force be With You

Grade 3 – Simple Machines

Grade 4 – Spin Out – Forces through Contact

Grades 5&6 – Biology



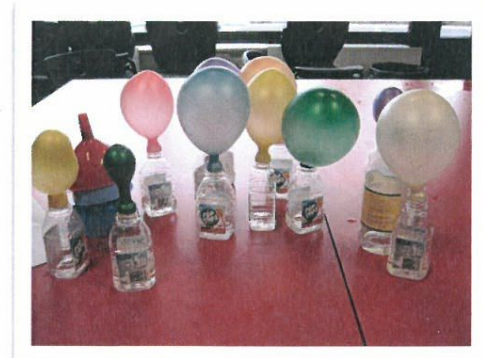
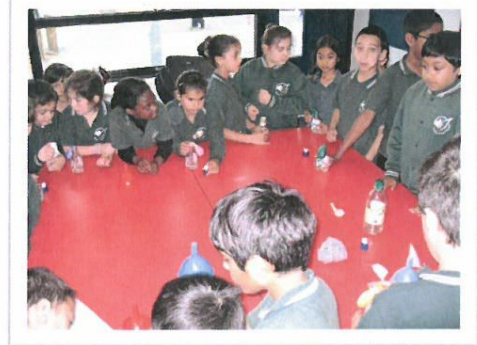
Each lunch time a Science Experiment was conducted

 **Lava Lamps** – oil and water with aspirin – Monday

 **Centrifugal Force** – cups and water – Tuesday

 **Rainbow Milk** – milk and food dye – Wednesday

 **Kitchen Chemistry** – bicarb and vinegar – Thursday



With excursions and camps, our week finished with open afternoons on Thursday and Friday!