



Summer Newsletter

March 2011

Aurora Community Association

Incorporation Number: A0053583T

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auroracommunityassociation@gmail.com

Hello to Aurora residents,

Welcome to the third Aurora Community Association (ACA) newsletter. The Association has been busy in a number of areas on behalf of Aurora residents in the past few months. You can find out more inside this newsletter about how the ACA have:

- Met with VicUrban about the state of telecommunications infrastructure.
- Lobbied to get a Post Box closer to the estate.
- Publicised the need for improved public transport for Epping North
- Begun organising a website for the ACA, so to improve communication.

We encourage residents to get active in their community to make Aurora a better place to live and create a strong, resilient community. There are plenty of opportunities for involvement in the ACA- apart from the executive committee (which is re-elected annually at the AGM), we have a number of working groups which focus on different areas of need within the community. These working groups give ACA members a way of having a say, working to find solutions to community issues and representing the views of the general community to the relevant body (ies) in a united and organised fashion. The greater the membership of the ACA, the stronger the Association and the more likely that the bodies holding the purse strings or power to make change will listen to our concerns. Therefore it is very important to join as a member of the Association, not just admire us from afar!

On this note we'd like to say many thanks to the people who have recently joined as ACA members and who have kindly volunteered their time to help with newsletter drops, fundraising and work on issues which benefit our community. Recognition of the contribution of the long standing members of the ACA in these activities also cannot be forgotten. We are always looking out for residents to help with letter box drops, letter writing, research, meetings with relevant authorities, attendance at publicity events and to raise awareness on issues that are of importance to the community. Apart from working on areas of concern to the community, there is always the opportunity to be involved in something a little lighter like organising a social event eg. community celebration/event (anyone remember the Bollywood Feast a few years back?), trivia night, bike ride or other fun activity. Volunteering with the ACA is a great way to meet people in our community, make friends and help make our community a great place to live!

We urge more Aurora residents to get involved in their community by becoming ACA members and look forward to meeting you at our next AGM on the 28th of July 2011.

Brad Costin and Cara Horner
ACA President and Vice President

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Aurora Community Association

The Aurora Community Association (ACA) was incorporated in September 2009 as a means for residents to become involved in the community.

Being part of the group puts you in contact with other residents who may share your issues and concerns, and collectively can work towards improving our area.

We are seeking new members, with membership open to anyone in the Epping North area. Only together can we make the Aurora Community a great place to live. Please remember that the Aurora Community Association is not part of **VicUrban** whatsoever. We are an independent community-based organisation aimed at improving our area. As such, we are free to pursue our own aims.

Council Stands Firm on Epping North Train Line

Media Release

7 December 2010

The City of Whittlesea believes the recently extended Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) has strengthened the case for an Epping North train line.

Donnybrook is now included in the UGB and preliminary projections suggest it will eventually be home to around 15,000 people. A train station, a stop on the Melbourne to Sydney line, already exists in Donnybrook. Council believes building a spur line from Lalor to Epping North and then onto Donnybrook makes good sense.

"As well as connecting new and future communities with central Melbourne, it would also improve the efficiency of Melbourne to Sydney passenger rail services," says City of Whittlesea General Manager Advocacy Griff Davis. "In the case of any operational problems on the interstate line between Donnybrook and central Melbourne, those Sydney to Melbourne services can be diverted with little delay to Epping North and onwards to the city centre via the suburban rail network."

The City of Whittlesea has supported establishing a rail link to Epping North since 2001, when State Government developer VicUrban first approached Council with its plans for the Aurora development in Epping North. Those plans have included a train service throughout Epping and Epping North from the outset.

"Council understands the importance of a train line to Epping North's current and future residents and we'd like to see it built as soon as possible," says Mr. Davis.

"The land for the rail reservation has been set aside and we expect a rail line to be delivered in accordance with the Epping North plans, which have been approved by the State Government."

The City of Whittlesea also supports State Government initiatives, such as the recently announced \$48 million bus way which will connect Mernda with the South Morang train station, currently under construction.

"Heavy rail, serving the Plenty Valley growth corridor to Mernda, is Council's preferred public transport option for residents but, is only one important piece of a complete public transport service," says Mr. Davis.

Reproduced from City of Whittlesea website

Information taken from City of Whittlesea website

If you are moving in to a newly built house you will need to order your bins. Bins take 2 to 3 business days to be delivered.

You must contact Building Services Department via fax, email or in person, and provide:

- your name, address and phone number
- information about whether you are the owner/occupier, tenant or landlord
- a copy of your Occupancy Permit (we are unable to deliver bins if an Occupancy Permit has not been issued)

You must display a house number on your property for identification, whether it is on a letterbox or on a piece of cardboard in a front window.

Building Services is Located at our Civic Centre offices in South Morang.

P: 9217 2259 F: 9217 2428

E: building.services@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 8.30am – 5pm

As the end of Victoria's period of daylight savings approaches on Sunday the 3rd of April 2011, at 3:00am move clocks backward one hour to 2:00am. If you don't have hard wired smoke alarms, please don't forget to also change the batteries in your smoke alarms.





Arise TV

Well, as most of us know there was a blackout in the Epping area on Christmas day at approximately 4pm. (I hope no roasts or celebrations were ruined). Sadly I know that those intending to watch the Boxing Day test couldn't.

Once power was restored it seems the internet and phone systems were working again, but digital TV reception was not. As there is no recorded fault message on Arise's answering machine regarding the fault I then emailed every resident I had on my email list to inform them of the action being taken.

After being contacted by a neighbour and trying to contact the support help desk to no avail, Tori and I resorted to ringing The Manager Director of IP Systems Mr Peter Riella at home on the 27th of December at around 11.30am to see if he knew there was a problem (his phone number is in the white pages phone book). He apparently didn't know and it seems he got straight on the phone and approximately 4hrs later it was fixed. This still meant that T.V. reception was unavailable for nearly two full days.

NOT GOOD ENOUGH ARISE!

by Lisa Hall

Infrastructure Update

1. Dog off leash park - City of Whittlesea have no plans for one in Epping North area, but have noted our desire to have one and will consider it in the next financial year.
2. VicUrban advised that Edgars Road will be through to Harvest Home Rd by mid 2011. We can then approach Reservoir Bus Company to come further into the estate.
3. Cara Horner and Kathy Pompetti from City of Whittlesea have been pursuing this and Aust Post are going to put a post box at the Lyndarum town centre on the corner of Lyndarum Dve and Epping Rd once the centre is complete. (Good work Cara and Kathy!)
4. Tennis club and toilets - meeting and follow up emails sent to City of Whittlesea as yet no reply. Lianne Gee and Lisa Hall to follow up.

Swales and naturestrips

These questions and more will be answered at the next ACA General Meeting on the 7th of March

1. When I buy my block of land are the swales/naturestrips planted with turf, seed or sprayed with the green spray to promote grass growth?
2. Once my house is built and I move in am I responsible for the swale/naturestrip straight away or is VicUrban responsible for a certain amount of time?
3. What about the laneways that have earth outside back gates and the side fence - are they supposed to be landscaped by VicUrban and then handed over to Council?
4. How long does VicUrban look after all the green space/parks and garden before they are handed over to Council?
5. How would a resident know who is the relevant Authority to contact regarding these issues.?
6. When a house changes hands how does a new resident know if they have a swale that needs particular care or a naturestrip that requires different care?
7. Can swales/naturestrips be planted with some type of grass plant that requires less maintenance as has been done in later stages of the estate?
8. A lot of the 'conservation' reserves are now very overgrown and full of weeds, which by law should be controlled and pose a significant fire and/or snake risk - again who is in charge?
9. Watergardens.... information about looking after them and what plants to plant. We weren't given any info on them when we moved in.
10. Can the water gardens be removed? I know that they have not been installed in later stages.
11. Keeping roads clean - why aren't there wash bays for the trucks during construction? I note that the works happening just off Cooper St and Edgars road have a wash bay... Clumps of rock and large clumps of mud plus excess mud is very dangerous.



Recycled Water Charges Explained

*This is the response that Joanna Durst received from
Mon Gan, Manager Water Growth Projects at Yarra Valley Water*

Price of recycled water.

Currently the price of recycled water is equal to the price of block 1 drinking water which is the lowest priced ie \$1.25 per KL (for use of 1 - 440 litres/day)). Drinking water prices increase with increased usage and are \$1.47 per KL (for use of 441 - 880 litres/day) for Block 2 and \$2.17 per KL (for use of 881+ litres/day) for Block 3.

Unlike drinking water, there is the only one flat rate of \$1.25 per KL for recycled water, regardless of how much has been used.

All the Melbourne Water Retailers charge recycled water at the lowest block for drinking water, and this has been set by our pricing regulator, the Essential Services Commission.

Given the infrastructure investment for the production (after sewage treatment) and distribution of recycled water, we are charging the customer a lot less than what it cost us to produce, thus the recycled water price has been subsidised. It should not be considered as a lower quality water, as it has been treated to a standard that is appropriate for toilet flushing, clothes washing and external uses.

Sewage Disposal Charge

The Sewage Disposal Charge (SDC) is applied to the estimated volume of sewage discharged to the sewerage system and includes water discharged from the toilet, bathroom, kitchen and laundry fixtures. The estimation is based on the volume of water (both drinking water and recycled water) entering a property. The estimation recognises that the proportion of water discharged to the sewer varies from month to month to reflect the amount of water being used outdoors and hence not entering the sewer. On an annual basis, the sewage volume is estimated to be 70% of the metered volume of water entering a property for recycled water customers.

For non recycled water customers (drinking water only customers), water restrictions means there is less garden watering and thus a higher proportion of water entering a property is returned to the sewerage system. On an annual basis, the sewage volume is estimated to be between 73% and 90% of the metered volume of water entering a property, depending on the level of restrictions for drinking water only customers. Proportion of water entering a property estimated to be discharged to the sewerage system under different restriction levels.

PWSR*

Stage 1, Stage 2, Stage 3, Stage 4, 73%, 76%, 79%, 82%, 90%

* Permanent Water Saving Rules (with no restriction in place)

Even if no recycled water is produced, the sewage will still have to be collected and treated. Hence the sewage disposal charge. At Aurora, the sewage used to produce recycled water actually comes from residents in the Epping North area and not Melbourne Water. It costs us more to treat sewage than would be the case if we just sent the sewage to Melbourne Water's Western Treatment Plant. Again the cost of sewage treatment is subsidised.

In summary, for Aurora customers, the supply of recycled water is a two step process:

1. Sewage has to be collected and treated (sewage disposal charge – lower compared with customers without recycled water)
2. Recycled water production and distribution (recycled water usage charge – subsidised, and recycled water usage can reduce the likelihood of paying Block 2 or Block 3 prices for drinking water)

I hope I have answered your questions, please contact Mon Gan (details below) if you need any more information or clarification.

Regards,

Mon Gan
Manager Water
Growth Projects
E: Mon.Gan@yvw.com.au
www.yvw.com.au



Office Hours

Tuesday 9:30-5:30
Wednesday 9:30-3:30
Thursday 9:30-3:30

Venue Hire can be organised outside our office hours.

Address

2 Snugburgh Way, Epping North 3076
(enter from Redding Rise)

Phone

(03) 8320 3873

Staff

Rose Babic, Manager -
rose.babic@cflc.org.au

<http://www.cflc.org.au>



Calendar of Events

08.03.2011 Hatha Yoga Tuesdays 7:15-8:15pm weekly
09.03.2011 Funky Kids toddler & preschooler music class
23.03.2011 Funky Kids toddler & preschooler music class
25.03.2011 Cultural Cook Up – Cultural Diversity Week
02.04.2011 Experiential Movement Workshop
06.04.2011 Funky Kids toddler & preschooler music class
07.04.2011 Story time for preschoolers
05.05.2011 Story time for preschoolers
02.06.2011 Story time for preschoolers
05.06.2011 World Enviro Day Party



The Creeds Farm Hub convenience store is under construction and scheduled to open mid to late 2011.

Due to unexpected wet weather, the construction program has been fluctuating a little, so it is hard to be more definite.

Feel free to keep an eye on how construction is going on site to have a bit of an insight at anytime.

Do you want to know about issues in our local area?

Do you want to be more informed on current issues in Aurora?
(for example, internet issues, infrastructure problems, the tennis club)

Would you like to meet your new neighbours?
Do you like social outings?

If you answered yes to any or all of these questions please come and join us and be a part of a growing number of residents who want to help improve our neighbourhood.

To be added to our newsletter distribution list or to become a member please contact the
Aurora Community Association at
auroracommunityassociation@gmail.com

Community Garden



Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre is home to a Community Garden

program which fosters a sense of community and a connection to the environment. Local residents are encouraged to participate in the development of the space, which will be managed by a Leadership Group.

Everyone is welcome to join the group.

Keep an eye out for future gardening events.

For more information, phone 8320 3973

ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS — email: auroracommunityassociation@gmail.com

Woolworths comes to Epping North

The new Woolworths store on the corner of Lyndarum Drive and Epping Road is scheduled to be opened in June 2011.

In the town centre will also be fast food outlets, a newsagent, florist, hairdresser, child care centre and a proposed medical centre.

BEWARE OF SNAKES

In January this year there was a snake found in Bright Avenue.



As you are mowing your lawns, riding your bikes, walking your dogs and playing with your kids in the parks please pay attention to your surroundings.

Snake Busters
9812 3322
0412 777 211

Critter Getters
9842 8422
0418 824 248

Some of Epping's History in Pictures



Creeds Farm - to be restored as part of the school development on the site



Old stone wall on Cooper Street near the site of the Melbourne Flower and Garden Market



Old hay shed on Cooper Street near the site of the Melbourne Flower and Garden Market



This derelict weatherboard house is in Wollert and despite its appearance, is actually occupied.

Use of Images approved by photographer Rowan Crowe From
www.fadingvictoria.com.au
Thank you so much for the glimpse at our history

IKEA COMES TO THE NORTHERN SUBURBS

Victorian Planning Minister Justin Madden has approved a planning permit and rezoning of Campbellfield's Pipeworks Market, paving the way for Swedish furniture giant IKEA to open a new store there.

The 41,000 square metre IKEA store will be the group's biggest in Australia. It will replace Pipeworks address at 400 Mahoneys Road.

In Melbourne, IKEA also trades from Victoria Gardens in Richmond, and is building another store in Springvale, near a new, large Harvey Norman store.

In the 1990s the retailer had three Melbourne stores, including one in Moorabbin, in the south-east near Springvale.

The new Campbellfield IKEA store is set to start construction in the middle of 2011, and be open for trade by mid 2012.

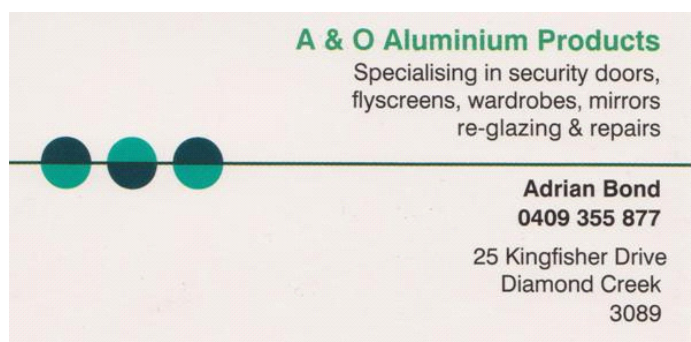
Business Card Corner

Do you have a local business you would like to promote?

Our newsletter is published quarterly and for a small donation of \$10.00 per issue we will publish a business card size ad for you. The \$10.00 will be used towards producing and printing the newsletter to keep you informed about our estate and surrounding areas.

Please contact the secretary at

Aurora Community Association
Incorporation Number: A0053583T
PO Box 1354, Lalor Vic 3075
or
auroracommunityassociation@gmail.com



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Advertise in this space

Thomastown Recreation and Aquatic Centre (TRAC) is owned by the City of Whittlesea and managed by Belgravia Leisure Group. TRAC was recently redeveloped and reopened to the public in September 2010.

The redeveloped facility is fully accessible to all users and has the following features:

Aquatic facilities

- 8 lane, 25m heated indoor lap pool
- hydrotherapy pool, spa and warm water pool linked via one ramp
- leisure play pool with beach entry and interactive water play equipment
- program pool for swim lessons (can be screened for private use)
- sauna
- steam room
- male and female change rooms
- 3 accessible change rooms all with overhead hoists, one with a hoist with direct access to the hydrotherapy pool
- 6 family change rooms
- 4 family shower cubicles
- student change rooms



Health and fitness facilities

- main gymnasium with:
 - 49 pieces of electronic cardio equipment including bikes, treadmills and stepping machines
 - free-weights area for weight-lifting
 - group fitness room with over 80 classes per week
 - indoor cycling room with 25 bikes
 - 125 square metre program gym with equipment specially designed for junior and senior fitness and strength programs
- multi-purpose hall for sports such as basketball, netball, boxing and volleyball
- meeting room
- early years room
- café and kiosk
- wellness centre for allied health services such as physiotherapists and dietitians
- male and female change rooms
- 6 accessible toilets



Programs and services

- memberships
- group fitness classes
- older adult programs
- teen programs
- swimming classes
- fully-accredited childcare with indoor and outdoor play areas
- program gym available for private use
- pool-side party and function room
- warm water pool can be fully enclosed by shutters for private use



TRAC outdoor recreation area is NOW OPEN.

Reproduced with permission from TRAC

ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS — email: auroracommunityassociation@gmail.com