

Sunrise

at **aurora**

Aurora Community Newsletter March 2009

Welcome to Aurora Sunrise...

We hope you had a wonderful break over the festive season and are refreshed for a big year ahead. There is a lot happening in and around Aurora, so please sit back and read all about it.

Aurora growing every day!

The Aurora community is growing everyday. Who would believe that just over 2 years ago the Aurora Display Village opened, our first residents moved in and people flocked to see the new standard of 6-Star design housing.

Aurora now has:

- 347 occupied homes
- 946 residents (approximately)
- 47 homes under construction
- 223 lots under construction

This year:

- H2O Live Festival (March 29)
- Recycled water to go live to all homes at Aurora (March)
- Parks underway with 2 playgrounds
- Upgrade to regular 575 bus line running to Epping Plaza, Epping Train Station, Northern Hospital and beyond
- Construction of tennis courts begins
- Construction begins on Living and Learning Centre and General Store



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Recycled water coming to Aurora

VicUrban is excited to report that recycled water will be turned on at Aurora this month.

Soon Aurora will be one of the lucky few developments in Victoria where you will be able to water your vegies and have the garden you desire, thanks to commencement of a unique recycled water system.

Yarra Valley Water is completing the final checks for the separate purple pipe recycled water system, and has recently completed the changeover of everyone's front garden taps to purple taps. You should have just received an information pack from Yarra Valley Water, providing you with the information you need to know on using recycled water.

Water plumbed from your home is now being sent to Aurora's Water Treatment plant, located just off the Hume Freeway. Water is being treated to the highest recycled water standard, Class A.

Once testing is complete, Yarra Valley Water will notify all residents of the exact date that recycled water will be available via a letter to each home. Recycled water will then flow down the separate purple pipe direct to your home for garden watering and toilet flushing.

The use of recycled water will help Aurora residents save up to one-third of their drinking water compared with most Melbourne homes.

This is good news for Melbourne's water storages and is a big step in greener living for our community.



Join us to celebrate recycled water at the H2O Live Festival at Aurora Park on Sunday, March 29 from 12 to 4pm. The free community festival will provide recycled water demonstrations, showcase exhibitors with water saving products, drought tolerant plants and a range of children's activities including an Easter Egg Hunt.

For further information go to auroraliving.com.au or yarravalleywater.com

Aurora Bollywood feast

The Aurora Bollywood Feast was a highlight of 2008, showcasing growing community spirit and international flare at Aurora.

Tickets for the Bollywood Feast were sold out in less than a week, with more than a third of Aurora residents joining in celebrations on the day. Over 40 local residents were involved in planning and performing during the event, including the 'Super 6 Aurora Mums dance troupe' and the Aurora children's dance troupe.

The Feast was dreamed up during Coffee 'n' Chat sessions by local residents, who subsequently coordinated Bollywood dance classes three times a week, debated the menu and song-lists for the day, and encouraged each other into DJing, MCing, fashion parading and sharing traditional ceremonies as part of the event.

Many residents met for the first time through being part of the event, forming strong bonds as they shared a sense of their culture and traditions with their neighbours. We look forward to sharing in more events in 2009.



A third of Aurora's population enjoy a Bollywood Feast.

Hearts skip a beat during charity house auction



A large crowd attended a charity house auction at Aurora last September, raising the highest amount so far for The Northern Hospital charity auction.

VicUrban and Orbit Homes' auction of the house and land package on Redding Rise, delivered one of the largest single donations this year with every cent of the \$392,500 sale going to The Northern Hospital.

VicUrban and Orbit congratulated successful purchasers, Preet and Gurman Sekhon on their new luxury four bedroom Orbit home. The couple's purchase was just in time for the birth of their first child in January.



Above: The Sekhons interviewed by Channel Nine.
Right: Aurora kids entertained by Captain Carlton.



In fact, Mrs Sekhon said she was so intent on buying the home on the day that she bid above their limit of \$370,000 to secure their second home at Aurora.

"We love living at Aurora and at this stage we plan to keep our existing home and rent it out," said Mrs Sekhon. Auctioneer Nick Petrovsky from Stockdale and Leggo donated his services to the fundraiser with four bidders taking 25 minutes to close the sale.

Aurora residents plan for the future

Despite heavy rain and wind, around 90 residents squeezed into the Redgum Cafe and Discovery Pavilion in mid December to take part in a community feast and trivia games, along with group discussions about establishing a Residents Association or Co-op at Aurora.

Residents are keen to incorporate early this year and look forward to running a series of workshops exploring a vision for the Aurora Residents Co-op as part of establishing decision-making processes.

If you would like to be involved or simply find out more information, please register your details by emailing Taegen on taegen.hannah@vicurban.vic.gov.au.



The Aurora Residents Association forms.

Great fun for all at inaugural Aurora Kidz Club

The inaugural Aurora Kidz Club activity day was held early in September at Creeds Park, with a great turn out of local families despite chilly winds.

The 'Tea-Party' in Creeds Park featured pavement art, kick to kick, BBQ and "balloon-animalia", all with the help of local Aurora parents and kids.

First initiated by local rising stars Flynn, Arshdeep and Alex, with the support of their parents, the Aurora Kidz Club is keen to get more local Aurora kids and families involved.

The activity day was an exciting beginning for Aurora families, who are eager for local kids to develop friendships around the estate and foster a welcoming, safe neighbourhood. We look forward to more kid's activities during 2009.

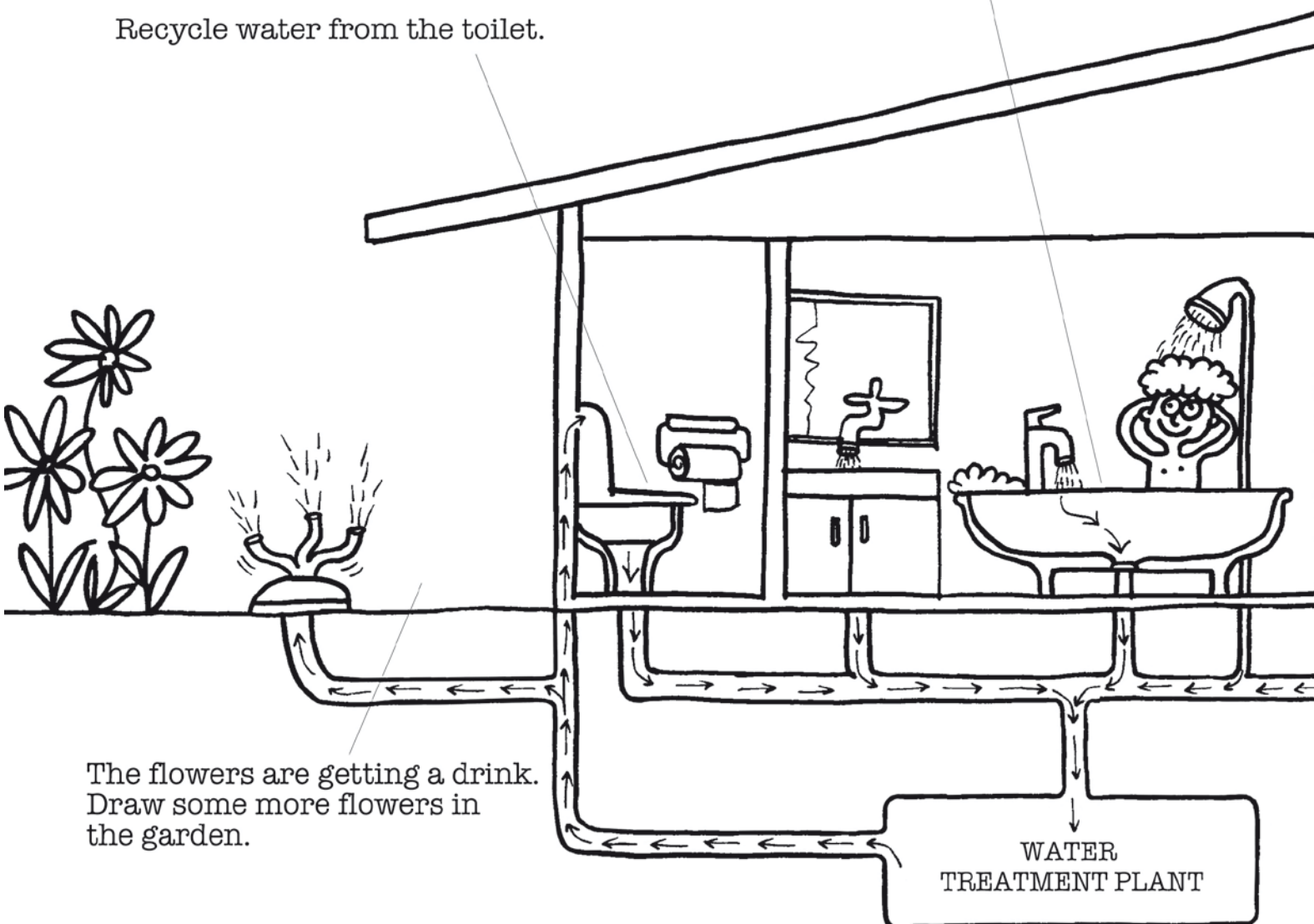
Families gather for Aurora Kidz Club.



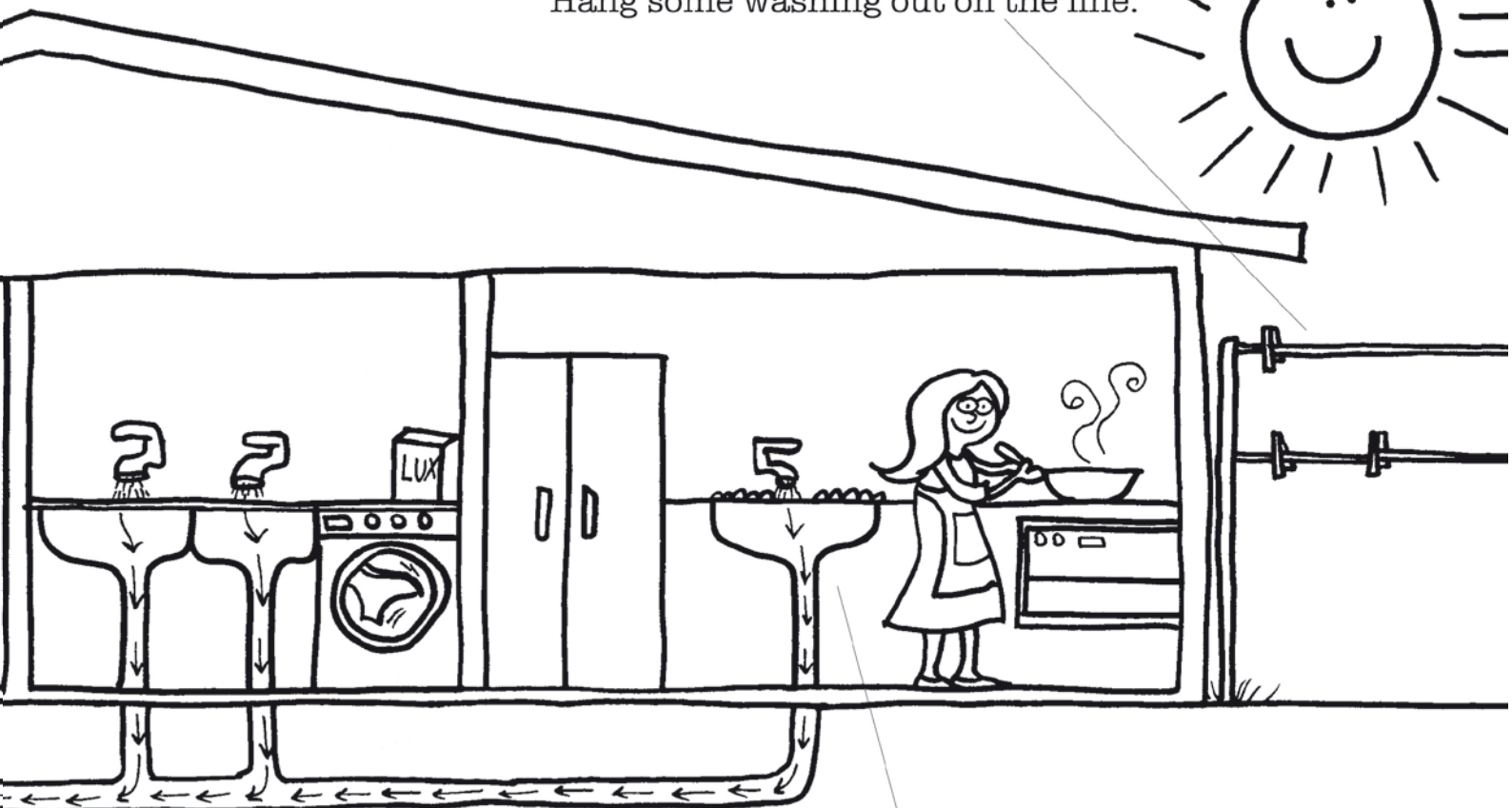
Recycling water means
having more water, especially for the garden!
Fill in the missing words.

1. Recycle _ _ _ _ _ from the bathtub.

Recycle water from the toilet.



2. The _ _ _ is shining.
Hang some washing out on the line.



3. Recycle _ _ _ _ _ from the kitchen sink.

4. What colour is the recycled water pipe? P _ _ _ _ e.

A word from our residents:

'Aurora, the place to be'.

"I think buying house in Aurora was the greatest thing my wife and I did.

Living in this estate makes you feel that you are in living back in your own country. This is a place where all the neighbours get together frequently at each others house and if not then we have walking group on Wednesday's where walking is less but more laughing. We end up having coffee at someone's place.

Recently, we had a Bollywood day where all the residents played a part in making the show a very tremendous one. This brought all the residents extremely close to each other. Here everyone respects different cultures and respects each other.

All I can say is that neighbours we have will never be found anywhere in the world. Guaranteed."

Rahul Naidu, Aurora resident

Aurora Wiki

Aurora is becoming very high tech. In addition to auroraliving.com.au, Aurora's community website, our residents have recently launched the first Aurora 'wiki'. A wiki is essentially a website that can be updated and edited by anyone who becomes a member.

Log onto www.theaurorarians.wikispaces.com to join and contribute to the site. News on events, photos, mates rates and current issues can all be found there.

Nature strips - your responsibility

Aurora's streets are filling fast with nearly a thousand people now calling Aurora home. You may have noticed when driving around that some Aurora homes are looking trim and terrific, with well maintained front lawns that would make a Jim's Mowing owner weep for joy. But some lawns have sprouted weeds thick enough to house a jungle tribe. With the availability of recycled water, these weeds can only grow faster.

Most of you have done a great job keeping your gardens alive through the heat of summer. Please enjoy using your new recycled water wisely and

remember to maintain your swales and front and side nature strips. These are yours to enjoy - but also your responsibility. As outlined in the letter from Council late last year, homes failing to keep those pesky weeds in check may be subject to fines.

Check out these examples below of the good, the bad and the ugly.

To help you keep your lawns and nature strips in check, lawn mowers are available to borrow FREE for 24 hour periods from the Aurora office. No need to hire Jim now, is there?



✓ Good



✗ Possible Council fine



✗ Possible Council fine

Display Village update

As you may have noticed, over the past few months several homes have closed in the Aurora Display Village to make way for new home designs to be constructed. We said farewell to Meletis Homes. Orbit Homes and Highview Homes have closed their displays until the opening of Display Village 2 planned for next year. Of course all homes under contract and construction will go ahead as planned.

New home designs will be built by Burbank, JG King, Zuccala, Timeless and potentially Highview Homes. Homes are due to start construction next to the Discovery Pavilion in the coming months.



New homes coming to the Display Village.



Big turn out for recycled water information sessions.

Recycled Water Information Night

Over one hundred Aurora residents have now attended information sessions to learn about recycled water, planned to go live in March. The sessions were presented by Mon Gan from Yarra Valley Water. Residents learned how to use recycled water for gardening and outdoor use and received an update about the commissioning process. If you missed out on attending the November or February sessions, you can visit Yarra Valley Water at the H2O Live Festival to learn more about recycled water.

Visit auroraliving.com.au for more information or go to yarravalleywater.com.

Christmas Recital Concert

In December, Youngsters from around Aurora got together to show off their musical talent as part of a Christmas Recital Concert in the Discovery Pavilion. The concert was organised by the local Harmony Music Studio, with the support of VicUrban.



Christmas Recital Concert.

Development Update at Creeds Farm Village

More parks are on the way and tennis courts to be served up!

This year Aurora is set to become greener, with more parks being delivered for our residents to enjoy. There will be no better time to get out and enjoy the outdoors with construction of tennis courts in Shields St near Creeds Park due to commence in June. Parklands and landscaping in Stage 11 are set to be delivered by the end of the year. Even better, some of the parklands in Aurora will soon be watered with recycled water, leaving them greener for everyone to use.



More parks are on the way.

Creeds Farm Primary School

Aurora is planned to have five schools including an independent primary school in the Creeds Farm Village.

VicUrban is in final negotiations with a school provider for Aurora's first primary school - prep to year 6. At this stage, we expect to finalise negotiations in mid 2009 and will soon announce details about the school opening (anticipated 2011) and enrolment details.



Artists impression of the proposed Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre.

Creeds Farm Living & Learning Centre

The Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre will host a range of formal and informal adult learning programs and a range of community activities and meeting spaces. The Centre will be located within Creeds Farm Village and is expected to start construction in mid 2009, opening in 2010.

General store and café

The General Store will provide local convenience shopping for day-to-day items and a café. Construction of the General Store is expected to start in June 2009 and is planned to open in 2010.



Early Living Centre planned.

Early Learning Centre

An Early Learning Centre, with childcare and kindergarten, is also planned for Creeds Farm Village. Due to recent uncertainty in the childcare industry across Australia, our plans to open the centre late next year have now changed.

We are closely monitoring the changes in the childcare industry and will work with childcare operators towards an Early Learning Centre opening in 2011. We plan to update you as soon as we know more.

For more information about what's happening at Aurora and how you can be a part of it, visit auroraliving.com.au