



Our full Winter Newsletter is available at:

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

President's Report

Last time I wrote to Epping North/ Wollert residents was the day of the grassfires and though we have moved on and it is winter, the repercussions of the fire are still on-going. The ACA, Whittlesea Council, Red Cross and CFA all took part in four post fire sessions, at St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Catholic Primary School. Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre, Epping Views Primary School and the Wollert market. The ACA also had a small team of people from the Fire Services Commissioner Victoria and RMIT University visit the ACA Coffee and Chat to talk to local residents about their experiences during the Donnybrook fire.

Recently I met with Gail Cumming from the Whittlesea Council's Resilience and Emergency Management Team and Kathy Pompetti, Community Development Officer, we discussed the need for the Epping North/ Wollert residents to be prepared for emergencies in the future, not just grass fires.

If you are interested in being part of this areas development of a local community emergency plan please contact Kathy Pompetti on (03) 9404 8846 or email the ACA on enquiry@aurora.asn.au and we will inform Kathy.

The ACA in the last few months has met with Northern Metropolitan MP's: Craig Ondarchie and Mathew Guy the Minister for Planning, Andrew Giles the Labor candidate for the Federal seat of Scullin, Bronwyn Halfpenny representing the Electorate of Thomastown, and Whittlesea Councilors', Kris Pavlidis and Adrian Spinelli, bringing the needs of the Epping North/Wollert communities to their attention. Over the next few months we will be contacting all the candidates in the Federal election nominated for the seat of Scullin and asking them about their commitment to our area. We will keep you updated on outcomes of these meetings.

Now to update you on the ACA Committee, earlier this year we welcomed Sri, he is fast becoming a very valuable member, we would also like to congratulate Shali our Public Officer on her upcoming wedding and starting a new job, and we cannot wait for the news of Dan and Kerryn's new addition to their family.

Keep in your diaries our next Coffee and Chat on Saturday the 22nd June and our AGM on Wednesday 24th July. At the AGM we will be electing a new committee to represent the Epping North/ Wollert community and vote on the new rules for the Association.

Keep safe and warm over the coming months!

Warm Regards,

Toni-Marie Wuelfert

ACA President

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12. Annual General Meeting Invitation

The ACA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) is coming up on Wednesday 24th July 7.30pm at Epping Views PS.

See ACA website - Community Calendar for further event details and for more to see and do:

<http://www.aurora.asn.au/community-calendar/>

ACA AGM- our Association needs YOU!

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

The ACA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) is coming up on Wednesday 24th July 7.30pm at Epping Views PS.

Each year at the AGM, according to the ACA rules of incorporation, members must nominate and vote in an **Executive Committee** from our members to oversee the running of the ACA. The executive includes:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- 3 x General Committee Members (in future this number can be changed by vote at an AGM)

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

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!

We need a committed bunch of people to lead our organisation in the 2013-14 financial year and carry on the great work that Toni-Marie and her team have achieved in 2012-13. 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:

- Contribute to decisions that affect OUR local community.
- 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.
- Have an opportunity both to learn and to teach others.
- Make new friends in the Epping North/ Wollert community.
- Feel satisfied that they are making a difference to the lives of the Epping North/ Wollert community.

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 (2012-13 FY before Sunday 14th 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 <http://www.aurora.asn.au/association-structure/>.

If you would like to discuss becoming a member of the ACA executive committee, please 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 North or Wollert area. Only together can we make our community a great place to live. First year membership is \$20 or \$15 depending upon what time of year you sign up (\$10 a year admin fee and a \$10 membership fee (\$5 in second half of year ie from January - June)).

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.

To be able to vote at the AGM you need to be a current member (ie paid up before the AGM).

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.

-Cara Horner, Secretary

The ACA trivia night was held on Saturday 16th March 2013. We had over 80 people attend and all had a fantastic night at the event- though in the end it was a tight competition, with the top 3 tables all separated by only half a point each!



ACA 2013 Trivia Night Winners



Having Fun at the trivia night

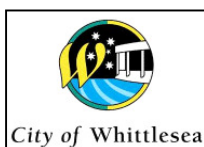
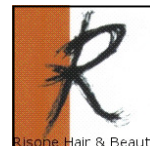
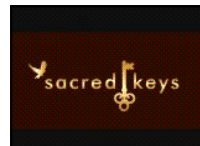


Felishia performs at the
ACA trivia night

After all costs were considered, the ACA raised over \$1600 from the event! This is enough to pay for our annual public liability insurance, association fees and web hosting costs! This truly is a tremendous outcome and the ACA is sincerely grateful to everyone who helped raise the money- this will keep us financially viable in 2013-14!

Special thanks must go to the organising committee for all their time and dedication that went into organising the event- Thank you Lisa, Cara, Sri, Shali, Ron, Felishia, Jason, Thomas, Toni-Marie and Selva. We mustn't forget that as well as being on the organising committee, Jason also did a marvellous job as Quiz Master on the night. A big thanks also goes out to [Felishia Patania](#) who performed a couple of fantastic acoustic sets on the night. Dan, Chris and Thomas did a tremendous job setting up the PA/ sound/ IT system on the evening and Dan also took photos on the night too!

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 on the night, with a lot of competition for the fantastic prizes we had on offer. A silent auction for a 12 month [One Health and Fitness](#) gym membership (worth \$1000) raised nearly \$400 for the Association! Venad catering also provided some delicious samosas and vegetarian rolls which were enjoyed on the night. 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>



Aurora Residents vs. Places Victoria FTTH VCAT Case

In June 2012, eight Aurora residents started a VCAT action against Places Victoria in order to gain legal access to the Fibre-To-The-Home (FTTH) cabinets which were locked by them after the transition from Arise. If you are an Aurora resident you would know that Places Victoria no longer allows residents to access inside their FTTH cabinets and requires their technicians to come out for even the simplest of tasks. Numerous complaints and attempts to change this situation had fallen through and the residents were extremely unhappy about being locked out of the cabinets to which they need legitimate access for basic troubleshooting and reconfiguration.

I was one of those residents. Having suffered from an unsuccessful attempt to switch between the RSPs for my internet and phone services I was frustrated. The system was unnecessarily complex and there were no proper rules or procedures that governed the process which resulted in this. For example, despite being told during my application to change providers that everything would happen smoothly and with minimal disruption, I later found that this was far from the case. Unlike the ADSL provider changes (or churn overs as they are called) there was no system in place to seamlessly switch between providers despite there being a grand total of two of them and a single infrastructure provider that was Places Victoria. Instead I had to cancel my service with my current provider and wait until the service was decommissioned **before** applying with the other provider which meant unspecified number of days without any of the services. Since I could not afford the risk of being without internet or phone services for a prolonged period as both me and my wife studied and worked at the time. I simply had to give up.

When I discussed the matter with other residents I learned that others have suffered in various other ways too. Some people had their very own equipment locked inside the cabinet because they were not told that their locks were being changed. Others were angry that their access to the cabinets that they paid for (residents Stage 1-7 own their cabinets) were locked away without their consent. The feeling was that we were all treated with contempt so we agreed to do something about the situation.

How the matter progressed

We started talking about the possible options and decided that pursuing the matter through VCAT may yield a relatively quick and cost effective result. Since I had some knowledge about the technical details of the devices inside the cabinets and some contracts law knowledge dating from my university days I took the initiative to coordinate the effort. First order of business was to apply in concert so the applications could be merged and we would have combined hearings. We prepared some application templates and agreed on a date range to enable this. After a bit of liaising with VCAT we managed to get our applications to be heard at the same time. But it was clear from the beginning that the process was going to be far from quick, smooth and efficient. We observed that VCAT was under a lot of pressure with more cases being opened than they could reasonably handle so there were a surprising number of material errors made from the beginning. As our performance expectations from government agencies were set fairly low however it was still sad to see such a great idea that was VCAT suffer from severe under-resourcing.

Places Victoria, on the other hand, was showing no signs of under-resourcing when it came to deploying a legal team to defend themselves against residents with no professional representation. They engaged a large law firm and a barrister to do their defence. On the other hand we, as residents, decided that we would continue to represent ourselves as we were weary of the dangers of turning this into a lawyers' picnic. What we were after was fairly clear and straightforward so decided to go it alone.

After the directions hearing a few of the original applicants decided not to continue as they either felt intimidated or they sought some legal advice and were told it would be a long and complex process with no guarantee of success, which was fair enough. Ultimately no one could guarantee any result when it came to legal matters. Others, however, thought it was worth a go (for various reasons) and stuck together.

VCAT ordered a Compulsory Conference between the parties where they would get together and have "off the record" negotiations to resolve the matter, as per usual practice. However Places Victoria's legal team made a submission and objected to VCAT's jurisdiction over the matter and requested that this be decided before a Compulsory Conference can be held. VCAT agreed and ordered a hearing for this in January 2013. The time allocated to this hearing did not suffice as Places Victoria's barrister went through their submission in detail and questioned a couple of the residents under oath so the hearing had to be adjourned with a date in May 2013 being set shortly after the hearing.

The result and its implications

In the hearing in May 2013, the residents responded to Places Victoria's application to summarily dismiss the cases on the basis that VCAT did not have jurisdiction to decide on them. Nevertheless VCAT, on balance, decided that it did not have jurisdiction therefore the cases could not be decided there. The key to this decision was that VCAT Member (akin to a judge in a normal court) came to the conclusion that there was no ongoing contract between the residents and Places Victoria, therefore absence of this commercial relationship prevented VCAT from making a ruling on the matter. The Member also said that he couldn't see how the residents would be successful in establishing unconscionable conduct. Despite the fact that the residents did not agree with this decision, they had to accept it because VCAT decisions are final with no avenue of appeal.

But the decision was probably not as one sided as Places Victoria hoped. The VCAT Member clearly stated that he could see several areas where Places Victoria has made misrepresentations, which was an important part of the argument of the residents. Nonetheless since it was ruled that VCAT didn't have jurisdiction, it could not deliver a judgement on the main arguments of the case. This, however, leaves open the possibility of taking the matter into ordinary courts where jurisdiction would not be questioned and the matter could be decided on its merits.

The main implication of this result is simply the continuation of the status quo. In plain terms, everything stays as it is because the residents could not get an injunction order from VCAT to overturn the decision to lock the cabinets. There are currently no other negative effects, certainly not ordered by VCAT.

Takeaways and lessons learned

It goes without saying that the outcome was disappointing. Nevertheless none of the applicants who saw this through to the end felt that it was a waste of time. There were a number of positives that each one mentioned after the decision was handed down.

The overwhelming feeling was that the residents did what they had to do and not gave up without a fight. It was crucially important to stand up for what we believed, not only to feel good about ourselves but also to demonstrate that large organisations, government or otherwise, can't just do what they like with no objection.

Secondly, the process revealed a number of aspects of the relationship between Places Victoria and the residents of Aurora. For example, as it was shown that there was no ongoing contract between the parties, Places Victoria could in fact cut the Free-to-Air TV signal without any warning or consent as it does not charge for the service and the residents could not seek intervention from VCAT. This does **not** mean no issue between residents and Places Victoria can be resolved by VCAT. For instance if a service or good is purchased directly from Places Victoria (e.g. cables and wiring services etc.) this would still be subject to VCAT jurisdiction as there would be a new contractual relationship due to the transaction. But it is an important limitation to keep in mind.

Finally, we were very pleased with the fact that we were able to meet regularly over a period of time and work together for a common cause as members of the same community. It certainly contributed to the belief that Aurora residents are able to stand shoulder-to-shoulder against a large corporation and stay committed to each other to seek their fundamental rights, which is a key feature of closely knit communities. This was probably the best outcome of all.

Thanks,
Ahmet.

Good food, close to you!

If you have too much rhubarb or rocket, carrots or coriander, pears or potatoes, bring them along to the newly-established Epping North Food Swap and take home someone else's home-grown produce. This local event operates monthly and is a wonderful opportunity to exchange your excess veggies, fruit and herbs for the extra food from a neighbour's garden. No money is involved, only fresh, locally-grown goods (and maybe a handshake).

Run in conjunction with the Creeds Farm Community Garden group, the Epping North Food Swap is open for business on the last Sunday of each month between 10:30am and noon. Upcoming dates are 30th June, 28th July, 25th August and 29th September.

Like to find out more? Email creedsfarmers@gmail.com

We hope to see you soon!



LED downlight replacement offer

City of Whittlesea is offering Downlight Replacements through their Positive Charge Service.

Did you know that if you replace your Halogen downlights with Brightgreen LED downlights you can save up to 80% of your lighting costs?

LED downlights are up to five times more efficient than regular halogen globes. Each globe pays for itself in as little as 12 months and lasts around 25 years.

Fully installed for only \$38.50 each for a limited time*

Normally \$49, now only \$38.50 but you need to have them installed by 30 June 2013.

Be quick, we're booking up fast! Please allow two weeks from making your booking to having your installation complete.

Positive Charge tick for premium quality

- Each globe pays for itself in as little as 12 months, and lasts 25 years.
- Equivalent brightness to a 50 watt halogen (or 720 lumens)
- Ultra-low power use of just 10.5 watts
- Work with your existing transformers and dimmers (12V MR16)
- Reduced heat and lower fire-risk
- Three year product warranty



For more information contact Positive Charge on 9385 8555 or visit their website: <http://www.positivecharge.com.au/lighting.html>

HURRY! OFFER ENDS 30 JUNE 2013.

You may want to pass this onto your friends who live in the following local government areas which are also participating in the program- Melbourne, Port Phillip, Banyule, Manningham, Moreland and Baw Baw Shire Council.

For further details contact:

Lucy Best

(Available Mon-Thurs until 3pm)

Tel 9385 8532

Post PO Box 276 Brunswick, Vic 3056

Web www.positivecharge.com.au

positive
charge

Positive Charge is a not-for profit social enterprise run by independent energy-experts, the Moreland Energy Foundation, and supported by local councils.

* Minimum of five downlights per household. Lighting and energy-savers are available at quoted prices or free for eligible households only, provided energy-saving replacements have not been previously installed.

Bringing together **local business people** and the **Creeds Farm Community** on a cozy afternoon

Stalls include:

- 🌀 Arts & Crafts
- 🌀 Jewellery
- 🌀 Tupperware
- 🌀 Zaanta bedding accessories
- 🌀 Intimo lingerie and loungewear
- 🌀 Wooden toys
- 🌀 Naturopathy
- 🌀 Massage
- 🌀 First Aid
- 🌀 Homemade treats

As well as presentations, demonstrations and a raffle!

Learn about what's happening at Creeds Farm, new opportunities for the





FREE local TV/ computer recycling

There is now a free recycling skip for televisions and computers at the Transfer Station at Hanson's Wollert Landfill, located at 45 Bridge Inn Road, Wollert (Melway 389 E8).

You can place the following items in the designated recycling skip:

Computer equipment including desktop PCs, laptops, printers, scanners, monitors (flat screen and older style), hard drives, keyboards, computer mice, computer power supplies, network and memory cards, floppy disks, CD/DVD drives.

Any television (flat screen and older style)
You can also recycle car batteries, scrap metal, motor oil (up to 20 litres), cardboard boxes and excess recyclables that belong in your kerbside recycling bin for free at the Transfer Station at Hanson's Wollert Landfill.



The objectives of Plenty Valley Arts (PVA) are to bring together local artists to paint and to enjoy fellowship and fun. The group engages in the promotion of arts to all members and welcomes participation from the wider community. The group offers tours, exhibitions and publications as well as classes.

PVA was formed in 1995 by a group of local painters interested in painting and promoting the beauty of the area. Using the Le Page Homestead, built in the early 1850s, as a gallery, the group is able to showcase members' painting and to hold exhibitions. The gallery is open to the public on Saturday 10 am to 12 noon, Sunday 1 pm to 4 pm and Monday 12:30 pm to 3 pm. All art work is available for sale and the display is changed every 3 months.

PVA works in partnership with Parks Victoria (owner of Le Page Homestead), the City of Whittlesea Heritage Committee and Historical Society. It is also affiliated with Regional Arts Victoria.

Find out more at: www.plentyvalleyarts.com.au and see PVA dates for your diary below.

Are you interested in being involved in strengthening community preparedness and resilience for emergencies?

Responding to emergency situations, such as fire, flood and storms, can be challenging, especially with limited planning and preparation.

I would like to support interested community members to meet together with myself and Gail Cumming, from Council's Resilience and Emergency Management Team, to discuss ways we can build community preparedness and resilience for emergencies in the future and explore any interest in developing a local community emergency plan.

If you are interested in being involved or knowing more about this, please contact me (details below). I will then arrange a time for everyone who is interested to get together and discuss the next steps.

Warm regards,

Kathy Pompetti

Community Development Officer - Epping North
City of Whittlesea
(Work days: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday)
Phone: 03 9404 8846 | Mobile: 0408 578 564 |
Email: kathy.pompetti@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

PVA DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

July 13th - Maureen Run - Flora Workshop in Watercolour

- Cost \$18.00
- Time: 10.00am to 12.00pm
- Venue: Wollert
- Contact: Anna Leech 0408 447 859

July 4th - Hermen Pekel workshop

- Cost: \$ 25.00 members
\$ 35.00 non-members
- Time: 10.00am to 3.00pm
- Venue: Wollert
- Contact: Anna Leech 0408 447 859

July 26th - PVA Exhibition

- Theme: From My Garden

September 16th * Maxwell Wilks Pastel Workshop

- Cost: To be advised
- Time: 10.00am to 3.00pm
- Venue: Wollert
- Contact: Anna Leech 0408 447 859

November 8th - Tentative date for PVA Exhibit

"Touch of Vintage"

November 17th - Music in the Park

Hawkstowe Park Picnic Area, South Morang.

ACA Transport Working Group Update

Since the previous report of the ACA Working Group in March 2013, the Group has worked further on the Action Plan. More detail has been produced on objectives, strategy and targets with regard to a communications marketing plan, increasing community involvement and advocacy on buses, roads and the train line.

Cara, the Group co-ordinator and ACA Secretary, has met with the editor of the Whittlesea Leader to discuss future article topics in this newspaper relating to Epping North and Wollert. Cara and ACA President, Toni-Marie, have raised local community issues and needs in a meeting with the State Minister for Planning, Matthew Guy, who is responsible for Places Victoria.

Members of the Group have met and discussed local transport issues with Craig Ondarchie, Andrew Giles and Bronwyn Halfpenny and with west ward Whittlesea councilors Kris Pavlidis and Adrian Spinelli. Craig Ondarchie and Matthew Guy are two of five MPs representing the Northern Metropolitan electorate in the State Legislative Council. Andrew Giles will be the next ALP candidate for the Federal electorate of Scullin which includes Epping North (replacing Harry Jenkins). Bronwyn Halfpenny is the sitting member for the State electorate of Thomastown which, prior to a likely change in local electoral boundaries before the next election, already includes part of Epping to the south of Cooper St.

In response to objections from opposition MPs and the ACA, the Minister for Roads, Terry Mulder, has qualified an earlier statement on the 2046 date given for major road works needed in the Epping North area. He has indicated there is nothing to stop a different time frame if road projects are required earlier.

A major challenge for the ACA Transport Working Group is that the recent State and Federal budgets have little to offer the City of Whittlesea, especially Epping North and Wollert. Future ACA campaigning will need to give special attention to issues such as the following. There are major obstacles to more infrastructure for the growing outer suburbs coming from:

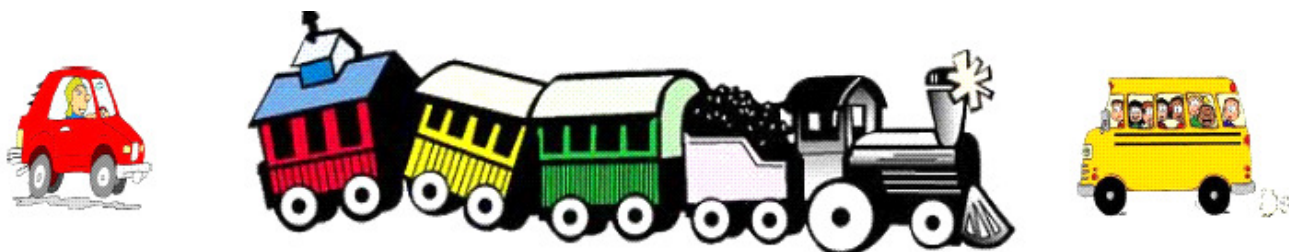
- road and property developers are able to powerfully promote their own interests at the expense of infrastructure in outer suburbs while the views on infrastructure of outer urban councils and urban planners are not taken into account sufficiently
(**alternative point of view:** rich and greedy road and property developers are out to maximise short term profits)
- bureaucracies and major political parties are not seeking sufficient input and guidance about infrastructure from outer urban councils and urban planners and are not dealing effectively with the excessive influence of road and property developers
(**alternative point of view:** senior political powerbrokers are seeking donations from such developers for election campaigning and their party; senior bureaucrats steeped in a car culture and road construction are opposed to urban planners who could threaten their influence and importance)
- unlike The Age, much of the State and national media are not paying sufficient attention to livability issues in the outer suburbs caused by lack of infrastructure
(**alternative point of view:** apart from The Age, certain State and national media are out to further the business interests of certain unscrupulous and self-seeking media moguls)
- there is a need to recognise that making outer suburbs livable can be a key contributor to economic growth
(**alternative point of view:** there is a total failure to recognise that making outer suburbs livable can be a key contributor to economic growth).

There is a major problem for local residents, not living in a marginal electorate, who can be safely ignored by the major political parties. In response to this, residents will need to work more together across electorates campaigning on outer suburb issues in general rather than focus solely on specific local causes. Political parties are more likely to respond to large numbers of campaigners indicating voting preferences rather than to submissions which are well reasoned and well researched.

There is a need to find out and deal with opposing arguments for more outer suburban infrastructure such as:

Opposing Argument	Countered With
growing outer suburbs are not fully developed	outer suburbs will not fully develop without necessary infrastructure
huge billion dollar inner city projects must be completed first	prioritising of city projects everywhere need to take into account cost-benefit analysis
the previous government did not do enough	the current government is doing even less

Tony Francis
28 May 2013





As most of you will now probably be aware, there is a McDonalds and BP service station currently being built on the corner of Harvest Home Road and Epping Rd/ High Street. People have been wondering why this development has gone ahead without any public consultation and also without traffic lights being installed.

Please see below a response from City of Whittlesea to the ACA in regards to development. Seems VicRoads did not require an intersection upgrade as part of the planning approvals and Places Victoria is in charge of building lights/ intersection improvements... no plans approved as yet for the intersection we hear on the grapevine! Also seems our much lauded masterplan allows developers to build whatever they want (good or bad) without any community consultation!

++++++

Master planning processes such as structure plans or development plans are put in place before anyone moves into a community. This is because they are a precursor to development occurring. These plans are public documents and are available to the community at any time. As a result of these factors, the planning system (which is set up by the State Government) does not provide for the advertising of applications which are in accordance with these plans.

The development in question is subject to the Epping North East Development Plan which was approved in December 2008. The development is generally in accordance with the Epping North East Development Plan, and as such was exempt from advertising requirements.

Development plans for the Epping and Wollert area can be found on Council's website here:

<http://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/building-planning-and-transport/planning-and-development/planning-for-the-future/epping-wollert-plans/epping-north-wollert-development-plans>

With regards to the intersection, it is a requirement for Places Victoria who are the developer of the Aurora Estate to build this intersection.

The development on the northeast corner of the intersection (110 HHR) will not include an upgrade to the HHR/ Epping Road intersection.

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.

How to secure your Fibre to the home service in Aurora – Very Important information for IINET customers

Hi residents of Aurora, especially those of you who have chosen to use iiNet to supply internet and phone services to your property. This article is about making sure residents of Aurora understand how their internet is set up and what to do to make sure you enjoy using the internet without any nasty surprises.

The internet is now an integral part of everyone's lives, with TV, tablets, phones, PCs, security systems, even some cars and fridges now internet equipped. As more and more devices require the internet to operate, so it becomes critical that households manage their internet connections safely and securely. In Aurora, there are currently only two internet providers; iiNet and iPrimus. Both supply fast fibre to the home (FTTH) internet services. For those who are unaware, this is basically the same as having the NBN already connected to your door. However, it is important to remember, surfing the internet securely is vital for those who are using the internet regularly. For this to happen there are some things you need to know.

Service Providers:

iPrimus

As mentioned earlier, Aurora residents have the choice between iiNet and iPrimus to supply their internet. However both companies use distinct set ups to connect your home to the internet. iPrimus basically connects the internet to all of your wall plates through an Ethernet connector if required (Fig 1), while iiNet connects to a Wireless Router or a BOB router (Fig 2).



Figure 1 A typical wall plate that can be used to connect a device to the internet via a cable



Figure 2 Typical BOB router which is used by iiNet customers to stream internet around their house wirelessly. The yellow connectors on the side are used to connect devices via a cable shown in Figure 3.

For residents who are currently using iPrimus there is not much information you need to know or things to worry about except that the router you are using to transmit internet to your wall plates and to your devices within the house is within your Fibre box usually located in your garage. You cannot access this device and unless you would like to re-configure your router settings there is a good chance you will never need to. The important thing to understand is that your internet within your home is firewalled thus protected at the fibre box meaning that you can plug into any active data point within your home using an Ethernet cable (fig 3) to securely connect to the internet or alternatively you can use a wireless router like the BOB router used by iiNet customers (Fig 2) to connect devices wirelessly. However, for residents like me who use iiNet as their service provider, this is not the case.

iiNet

For those who use iiNet, there is one fundamental difference, iiNet setups do not allow for firewalling or protection at the fibre box, but only at the BOB router that everyone would be using to supply internet to their devices (Fig 2). Because of this, devices you are using to connect to the internet be it tablets, phone, laptops, PCs or TVs should always connect through the BOB router either physically using a cable or wirelessly.



Figure 3 Ethernet cable used to connect devices to the wall plates in homes

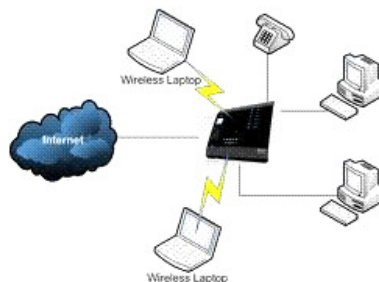


Figure 4 Firewalls help protect computers from malicious content travelling through the internet and to help prevent viruses and spyware from infecting systems

How to secure your Fibre to the home service in Aurora – Very Important information for IINET customers

Now, this has implications for your home network that iPrimus users do not have to worry about. Most homes in Aurora would have multiple data wall plates (Fig 1). While iPrimus users can connect to any of these wall plates via a cable, iiNet users are not permitted to connect to all data wall plates. The **only** connection that iiNet users can make to an internal wall plate (Fig 1) is via their BOB router; all other connections must be made from the BOB router. To connect any other devices to any other active data points in the home would mean that the device would be no longer secured behind a firewall. Firewalls are important because they control the incoming and outgoing network traffic by analysing the data and determining whether that data should be allowed through to your device (Fig 4). The BOB router in this instance is the firewall.

Most devices these days such as laptops, phones and tablets can all connect to the internet wirelessly, through a wireless modem built into the device. IiNet users can continue to use these devices with no changes and with nothing to worry about, as all the internet data is being streamed through the BOB router to your device. However problems arise when you would like to connect a device like a PC or TV that does not have a wireless modem, but can only connect through an Ethernet cable (Fig. 3).

To safely use these devices, iiNet customers have only two safe options:

- 1) Connect your device to the BOB router using a cable (Fig 5); or
- 2) Purchasing a wireless network adapter (Fig 6). If the device has a USB connector (all PCs and most internet TVs should have them), connecting a wireless network adapter to your device will allow you to use it like your other wireless devices such as your laptop.

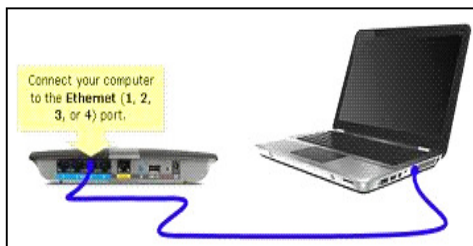


Figure 5 If customers devices are not WIFI, then iiNet customers will need to connect their device to the BOB router. No devices other than the BOB router can be connected to a wall plate data point within the home.



Figure 6 A typical wireless network adapter that can be used to connect a PC to a BOB router to allow wireless communication between the PC and the router, avoiding users from connecting the PC to the internal wall plates, which for iiNet customers would be insecure in Aurora.

IiNet customers, if you remember that **only** your BOB router is to be connected to a wall plate in your home and no other devices then rest easy, your internet use will remain secure behind the BOB router firewall. All other devices must either be connected wirelessly to the BOB router or physically to the BOB router using an Ethernet cable.

For iiNet customers who need further advice on how to securely connect non-wireless devices to the internet within your home, local stores such as Office Works or JB Hi Fi should be able to help you purchase a wireless network adapter to suit your needs. Below is the adapter I am using to connect to my PC to the internet (Fig. 6). It plugs into your PC via USB, and in a few simple steps you are connected to the internet via the BOB router.



Figure 7 This is my wireless network adapter I use to connect my PC to my BOB router wirelessly. It connects via a USB and takes 3 mins to set up. This model is a NETGEAR N300 wireless USB adapter and cost around \$70 from Office Works, although you can buy adapters for less. By using this adapter and not an Ethernet cable to the wall plate I reduce my chances of viruses and other malicious software from infecting my PC.

Happy surfing
David Sharley
Aurora Resident

Aurora Community Association Annual General Meeting 2013

Wednesday 24th July 7.30pm



Venue: Epping Views Primary School
20 Mansfield Street, Epping North, 3076

Time: 7.30pm – 9.00pm (arrive 7.00pm for a prompt 7.30pm start)

Light refreshments provided

RSVP: for catering purposes by 5pm Monday 22nd July 2013 to:

<http://aca-agm-2013.eventzilla.net/>

Each year at our Annual General Meeting, current **paid up** members must nominate and **vote in an Executive Committee** to oversee the running of the ACA.

This year, due to legislative changes, current **paid up** members will also have to **vote on the adoption of new rules** for governing the Association.

If you would like to be on the committee or participate in either of these important votes then please make sure you are a paid up member (2012-13 FY) before Sunday 14th July 2013. Membership costs are listed below. Email enquiry@aurora.asn.au for details on how to join.

The ACA will also have a **special guest speaker(s)** at the event, the speaker(s) will soon be confirmed- their talk will be related to the continuing development needs of the Wollert/ Epping North area.

The ACA was incorporated in September 2009 as a means for residents to become involved in the community and advocate on their community's behalf.

Without a functioning committee the ACA will cease to function.

Would you like to be on the ACA committee? If so, email enquiry@aurora.asn.au to arrange a discussion.

There are also **other opportunities** for members to become involved in the ACA apart from being on the executive committee. We are always looking for volunteers to help with roles such as newsletter drops, website updates, local campaign work, fund raising and organisation of social events.

We are **always open to new members**, with membership open to anyone in the Epping North or Wollert area. Only together can we make our community a great place to live.

Current ACA members should renew their membership at the AGM.

All ACA memberships are renewed annually in July regardless of the time of year membership of the Association initially occurred. Membership costs \$20 in the first year (\$10 Joining Fee + \$10 Annual membership) & \$10 annually thereafter. New members can sign up at the AGM but will be unable to participate in votes taken on the night.

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.