



Spring Newsletter

November 2010

Aurora Community Association
Incorporation Number: A0053583T
PO Box 1354, Lalor Vic 3075

auroracommunityassociation@gmail.com

Epping North Railway line update

Aurora Train Background

Design of the Aurora Estate was very much based on having a railway line – especially with medium density housing to control infrastructure costs, narrow and at times winding streets to encourage alternatives to car use. This railway line started off as a major selling point for those considering purchase of an Aurora home. Then the railway line became indefinitely deferred, with the Victorian State Government becoming increasingly uncommitted and uncommunicative about this transport option.

In campaigning for the Aurora railway line around September 2008, about 200 Aurora residents signed a petition to the State Minister for Transport that supported prompt development of this line. Although the State Government response was to “improve” the local bus service, the service is still limited. An Epping train passenger can typically miss the Epping North bus by a minute or two and have to wait 40–50 minutes for the next bus.

A residents' association was formed in 2009, called the Aurora Community Association (ACA), which has included an objective to campaign for such causes as the immediate construction of a railway line to Epping North. The ACA has witnessed a rapidly growing population in the Epping North area combined with worsening road congestion. The ACA has attempted to draw attention to this with coverage in the local newspapers, the *Northern Weekly* and the *Whittlesea Leader* in October 2010.

What needs to be done, but looks too difficult at present, is to set up a central autonomous authority responsible for all transport planning in Melbourne (hopefully this will enable more funding for Whittlesea shire transport needs by doing away with the very powerful vested interests promoting freeways and private transport).

So far at least several residents from the Aurora Estate and Epping North have been making public statements about local transport needs which have appeared in print and on the internet.

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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.

Epping North Railway line update continued...

But more State Government attention is likely if there are large numbers of concerned residents who could show their concern about transport in their voting at the State elections. The challenge is to convince the politicians that such large numbers exist. Currently that is not happening. The Aurora Community Association needs your help to improve our situation. For example, we need help with media articles, writing to politicians and campaigning. If you are concerned about lack of public transport in Epping North and would like to help lobby for better services, then please email me.

Tony Francis
Aurora Community Association
6 November 2010
Phone: 8320 3933
Email: tony.francis1@bigpond.com

This article ran in the Whittlesea Leader on the 12th October 2010

Aurora estate residents in push for extension to Epping North

Area's rail wait

EPPING North residents are still waiting for a train that never comes.

The Aurora Community Association, made up of residents in the Aurora estate, will use the November state election to launch a fresh push for the Epping North rail extension.

President Brad Costin said a rail solution to Epping North's growing transport woes was needed sooner rather than later.

"The projected population for Epping North is 40,000 and if we don't start looking at ways for those households to get better transport options, then it's not going to be a pretty sight," he said.

"The works at Miller St are going to help a bit. But it's not going to cope with future demand."

Original plans of Aurora before 2006 showed a rail line branching off the Epping line at Lalor, with new stations at Epping Plaza, Aurora and Epping North.

But the reality is different, with the Epping North extension on hold indefinitely.

Aurora resident and association member Tony Francis said the State Government had been neglectful in its approach to addressing road and transport issues in the north, including the 540 Aurora households.

"The State Government big picture approach of focusing on more and hugely expensive freeways contributes greatly to this neglect, especially when the freeways con-



Aurora Community Association members Brad Costin, Tony Francis and Cara Horner.

N16WP203

tinue to result in more of the congestion than they are supposed to eliminate," he said.

"Until the State Government does something effective about the vested interests, there is little chance that the major transport problems will be effectively solved.

"Especially in a world of looming peak oil prices that are likely to discourage typical road traffic."

Mr Costin said there was a lot of support among Aurora residents for the railway.

State Government spokesman

Chris Owner said it was focused on the South Morang rail extension project.

"There are no plans to extend the rail line to Aurora or Epping North," he said.

Anyone interested in supporting the Aurora Community Association's campaign, email auroracommunityassociation@gmail.com



Does Epping North need a rail line? Post your comments at whittlesealeader.com.au

Aurora residents win Whittlesea sustainable Living Awards

City of Whittlesea announced the winners of the 2010 Sustainable Living Awards at an awards ceremony in October, attended by the entrants.

Congratulations to the winners, and all of the entrants, who provided inspiring applications full of all the wonderful sustainability actions they have undertaken.

First place

Cara and family, who have focused on behaviour change as much as they have on the design features of their new home, won the award for:

- purchasing 100 per cent Greenpower
- having solar hot water
- using a washing line or clothes horses for solar drying
- having appliances and fittings that are high rating for water and energy efficiency
- choosing environmentally-friendly detergents and shampoos
- using microfibre cloths for cleaning
- buying organic and fair-trade products where possible
- composting
- trying to buy products with little packaging, if any
- only needing to put their bin out every six weeks



Second place

Victoria and family, who considered environmental sustainability from the inception of their home design, won the award for:

- choosing to add double glazing and tinting to their windows
- taking advantage of the north-facing aspects
- having very efficient down lights
- composting, recycling and creating a garden that is low water use, grows vegetables, and provides shade and windbreaks
- using the children's artwork for wrapping paper
- making a bird feeder from leftover decking and recycled materials



Third place

Vinitha and family, who have retro-fitted their home with solar panels and solar hot water, won the award for:

- having sealed draughts
- changing their light bulbs and showerhead
- composting
- growing vegetables
- donating unwanted items to charity
- using email for their library notices to save paper



Infrastructure Group Update



1. We now have the demographic information for the area and this could help with attaining a post box. From all information received Australia Post prefer main roads so it looks like Lyndarum near the new Woolworth might be the location to push for, but we will keep trying for the General Store in Gammage Bvd.



2. Lianne Gee and Lisa Hall, to meet with Kathie Schnur from City of Whittlesea on the 17th November re the Tennis Courts and toilets



3. Lisa Hall has written to City of Whittlesea re the opening of Edgars Road to Harvest Home Road. This may help with getting the bus to at least come further into the Estate and perhaps down Rockfield St/Lyndarum Drive.



4. Looks like the Council have no plans for a dog off-leash park in Epping North, but have noted our desire to have one. Tracey Millen and Tori Dillon to investigate writing a letter to Council, possible door-to-door petition of dog owners to gauge the level of support.



5. If you are unhappy with the mud and rocks all over our roads, please fill out the litter report form on page 7 and post it to the EPA or the Whittlesea Council. Fill out as much information as you can.

Internet @ Aurora

Residents of Aurora are having significant issues with existing internet and with getting new connections. However there are several avenues available to address these concerns and one of them is TIO. The Telecom Industry Ombudsman (TIO) can assist individuals with residents' home phone, mobile and Internet issues. Each individual will have to register their complaint with TIO as

they address each complaint separately. Complaints can be submitted online at <http://www.tio.com.au/> or call 1800 062 058.

Currently the Association is also working with States Ombudsman Victoria (www.ombudsman.vic.gov.au) and Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) (www.accc.gov.au) to find out the best course of action for all the members.

Few members are able to get home phone and internet service without fibre connection to their property.

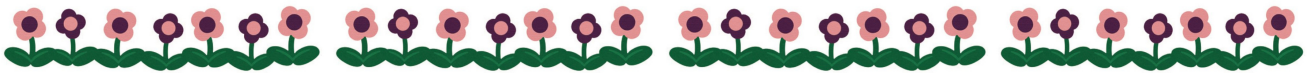
Telstra provides wireless home phone and internet service. Visit www.telstra.com or call 1800 331 286.

Wireless internet coverage within the estate is available from 3 and Vodaphone. They have month to month plans to suit most of us due to monthly extensions by VicUrban.

<http://www.three.com.au/cs/ContentServer?c=Page&pagename=Three%2FPage%2FThreeLayout&cid=1155054450841> or call 131 683

<http://vodaphone.com.au/personal/mobile-broadband/index.htm> or call 1300 500 222.

Thanks Khush for the update



Community Garden



Community Garden at Aurora - seeking interested residents.

Local residents met at the Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre recently to discuss the beginning of the Community Garden. Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre have allowed some space for garden beds. It is open to all of the community and aims not only to be a productive and attractive garden but also a place for people to share their gardening skills and meet new people. People are needed to help with a gardening group that will help guide the garden. No experience necessary, just a willingness to learn and be involved. We will be meeting again soon to discuss how the garden may operate and what is needed. For more information or if you would like to be involved, please contact Ping Vincent on 8320 3973 or office@cflc.org.au



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

Special Thanks to CFA Epping

Some of the Epping team came to our last meeting and advised us how to protect our homes from fire and gave us some handy hints for the summer fire season.



They will be looking for new recruits after fire season.

Also, anyone who is interested in buying a fire blanket or fire extinguisher for your home please let me know. I am going to try and get a collated order together and purchase them from the CFA.

Email Lisa Hall at aurora3076@yahoo.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

Ping Vincent, Program Coordinator -
office@cflc.org.au

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

New Home Building Forum, <http://forum.homeone.com.au>

I came across the forum whilst Googling Epping and surrounding areas one night. The people who post on the forum (link below) are people who have built or are planning to build in the Epping North and Lyndarum areas.

It appears they all have some of the same issues that we have been working on or have ourselves. Have a look for yourself, it's well worth the read.

<http://forum.homeone.com.au/viewtopic.php?f=31&t=15312&start=0>



Hi all,

Are you fed up with getting phone books dumped on your doorstep which you never use? Would you like to stop having them delivered? If so, you can actually stop them being delivered by registering on the Sensis website.

Just go to <https://www.directoryselect.com.au/ds/> and submit your details, it's quick and easy and you won't have them delivered for three years! At the end of the three years they'll send you a reminder email asking if you would like to continue to opt out of the delivery. Well that's the theory anyway!

Please pass onto your networks as you see fit- in this digital day and age it seems many people don't use their hard copy phone directories anymore so the more people who know about this service the better.

Thanks Cara for passing this on!

Swales/Naturestrip reminder

To all residents, the Swales/Naturestrips are the responsibility of the home owner. Recently VicUrban sent a letter out regarding this.

Please ensure you keep the grass cut. If the naturestrips are not looked after the council can fine you.



Recycling At Home

To find information about the recycling and waste services offered by your council as well as local drop off options for items including batteries, car batteries, computers, printer cartridges, mobile phones and many more. Call the Recycling Near You Hotline on 1300 733 712 (Mon - Fri, 9:00am - 5:00 EDST).

Holiday season is nearly here. Here are some things not to forget:-

1. If you are going away have your mail held at the Post office.
2. Turn your water and gas off at the meter.
3. Get someone to collect your junk mail.
4. If away for a long time ask a neighbour or relative to mow your lawn's.
5. Lastly travel safely and please don't drink and drive.

See you in the New Year!!!



City of Whittlesea

CONFIDENTIAL LITTER REPORT

Under the Environment Protection (Resource Efficiency) Act 2002 (Environment Protection Act 1970) as amended, you are able to report someone committing an offence by sending a signed report to the EPA or notifying an Authorised Officer in your council. The most likely outcome will be for EPA or Council to issue the registered vehicle owner with an infringement notice. If the fine is not paid, or if the matter is contested, you will be required to give evidence in court. You should only lodge the report if you are willing to appear in court.

Offence committed by (please tick)

Driver ☐

Rear Passenger ☐
(Driver's side)

Sex F ☐ M ☐

Reg No _____

Front Passenger ☐

Rear Passenger ☐
(Passenger's side)

Make _____ Example: Holden

Model _____ Example: Sedan

Colour _____

Time _____ am/pm

Date ____/____/____ Location _____

Street _____ Suburb _____

Nearest cross street _____ Direction of travel _____

Describe what you saw (including a description of the litter and the offender where possible).

Please ensure that the description is as detailed as possible, and retain any notes and photographs that you made at the time of the report. Post the report to the Council or EPA as soon as possible after the offence.

Your Details

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Contact phone numbers Home _____ Business _____

Name of Witness (if there was one) _____

I declare the above information to be true and correct and I am willing to attend Court.

Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Please send Report to:

City of Whittlesea
Locked bag 1
Bundoora MDC 3083

or

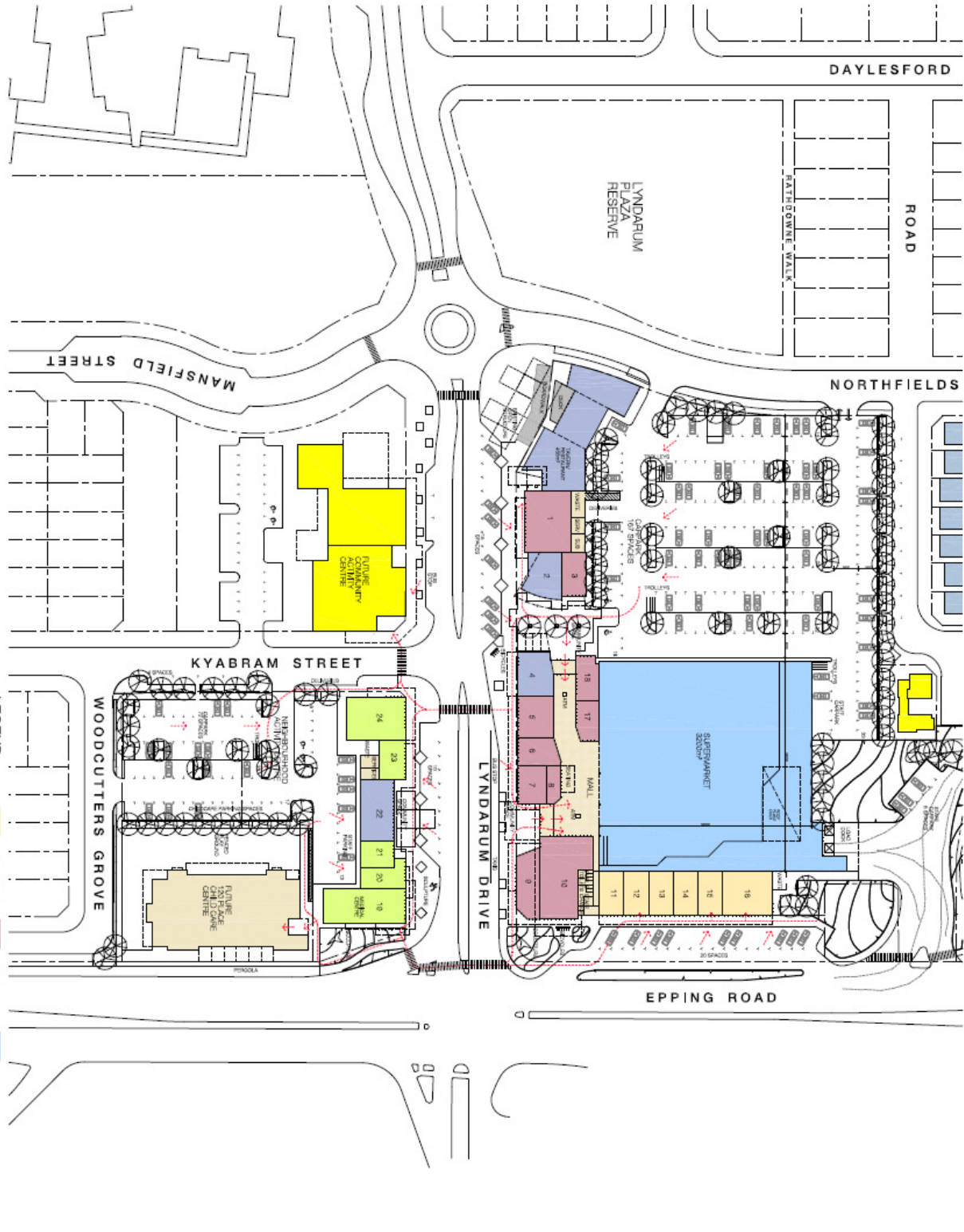
Reply Paid Permit 2326
Technical Support
EPA GPO Box 4395QQ
Melbourne VIC 8060

Fines

Offence	On the spot	In Court
Placing advertising material on vehicles	\$215	\$1,023
Having an unsecured load	\$215	\$1,023
Deposit burning litter (Cigarette butt)	\$215	\$4,090
Depositing household or business rubbish in a litter bin	\$215	\$4,090
General littering on or into land or water	\$215	\$4,090
Depositing a small item of litter	\$107	\$4,090
Throwing litter from vehicles	\$215	\$4,090
Aggravated littering	—	\$6,135

Plan of Lyndarum Future Activity Centre

Lyndarum Drive Epping



LEGEND

- CONVENIENCE
- OFFICE
- SHOP
- FOOD AND DRINK FREEMEE
- SUPERMARKET
- COMMUNITY ACTIVITY CENTRE
- CHILD CARE CENTRE

