



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

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

President's Report

As a newly elected president of this Association, I write this report with some trepidation. I have very big shoes to fill, and the task ahead is somewhat daunting. So, it is only fitting that I take this opportunity to pay tribute to my predecessors, and particularly, Immediate Past President, Toni-Marie Wuelfert. I hope to be able to do her and the Association proud.

Any community association has a number of functions, and here are the Big Four:

To galvanise the community into reacting quickly and appropriately in case of emergency.

The grass fires of February 2013 demonstrated clearly that preparation is vital. The ACA has been instrumental in organising a number of emergency planning and information sessions, in partnership with the City of Whittlesea, CFA, SES and the Red Cross. Two of these sessions were held in September this year.

To disseminate information on group activities and events occurring locally. Our newsletter, website and social media pages give you regular updates on what is happening in Epping North and Wollert. Moreover, the Association itself organises relevant information sessions during its Coffee and Chats and general meetings. Our next will be two Candidate Meet and Greet Sessions leading up to the State Election. Please see page 6 for details.

To provide an advocacy channel to express community concerns. Many of those concerns are related to traffic, public transport, schools & other deficiencies in infrastructure, highlighted by our video Congestions Costs. (available at <http://youtu.be/AFbrPBjDWqA>)

The Association has been supported by the City of Whittlesea in launching the very successful Access Denied campaign. Placards and other advertising are impossible to miss in this area, and I trust you all completed postcards to add your voice to the petition which was presented to parliament by Greg Barber MP in early October. This campaign has focussed on the need to build the O'Herns Road Hume Freeway Interchange. The Council has also awarded a grant to allow us to make rubbish bin stickers, with messages such as "Where's our bus?", "Where are our roads?", "Where's our train?". Remaining monies will go towards Facebook advertising and a banner for use at campaign events.

To encourage a sense of community. Social activities form an integral part of bonding residents in a particular area, and, therefore transforming them from disparate individuals into a vibrant community. Our Coffee and Chat meetings afford a great opportunity to meet your neighbours, while finding out more about what is happening in Epping North and Wollert. We have a Trivia Night, to raise funds for the Association, but it is also a fun event, where you can win prizes, and socialise. Our newly formed Tennis Club will provide more opportunities for fun activities. Finally, please join us at our end of year barbecue on 30 November, to help us celebrate the conclusion of a very eventful year.

I would encourage you to be more than passive members, and become true participants in the life of your community. If you are not members already, please join us. You can ask any committee member, or check out our website <http://www.aurora.asn.au/join-today/> for details on how to join. We would love to have you on board.

Kathleen Ager
President

Table of Contents

1. President's report
2. 2014 ACA Committee, End of year Celebration
3. Membership renewal reminder
4. Train load of postcards
5. Trivia night helpers needed for 2015
6. Candidates meet and greet
7. Creeds Farm LLC update
8. City of Whittlesea news
9. City of Whittlesea news
10. Grassfire— What to do! Firewatch Dashboard
11. Epping Views PS Student Leaders
12. Opinion piece on transport
13. Dads and Kids club
14. ANZ Hotshots Tennis
15. Mobile Library in Epping North
16. Whittlesea Community Legal Service
- 17 Future Powered Families
18. Magpie swooping fact sheet
19. Aurora CAC update

2014 ACA COMMITTEE

The ACA held it's 2014 AGM on Wednesday 23rd July. We had another great turn out this year with around 40 people in attendance, some attending an ACA meeting for the first time that night.

Mary Sayers, Manager Family & Youth from City of Whittlesea told us about the Epping North Community Activity Centre and Kindergarten currently under construction and also the planned Champions Parade Child and Family Centre.

Mary Agostino City of Whittlesea's Executive Manager Advocacy also updated the group on behalf of the **Department of Education and Early Childhood Development** about the Epping North Primary School that was funded in the recent Victorian state budget. It was great to hear about the new educational facilities being planned and built for our residents.

AGM minutes are available online at <http://www.aurora.asn.au/downloads/meeting-agendas-and-minutes/>

The ACA is proud to announce that the following community members were elected as executive committee members for the 2014-15 financial year:

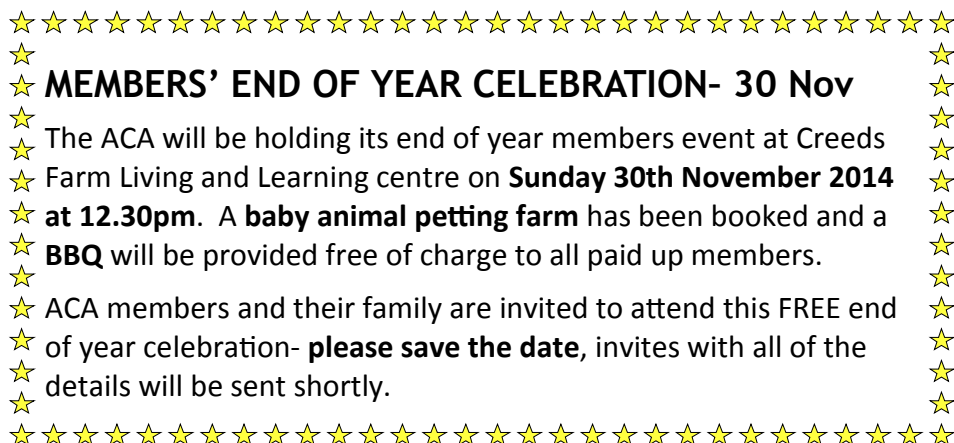
President: Kathleen Ager (returning in new role)
Vice President: Nessie Sayer (returning in new role)
Secretary: Ann Distefano
Treasurer: Chris Borg (returning)
Ordinary Member: Tony Francis (returning)
Ordinary Member: SriBashyam Thulasiraman (returning)
Ordinary Member: Cara Horner (returning in new role)
Ordinary Member: Toni-Marie Wuelfert (returning in new role)
Ordinary Member: Sash Srinivasan
Ordinary Member: Vacant (Thomas Di Palma on Leave of Absence)

We were unable to elect a President at the AGM, however a short time after the meeting Kathleen Ager stepped up as President (from Ordinary Member). Tony Francis then stepped into the Ordinary Member role that Kathleen had vacated.

Thomas Di Palma was elected as an ordinary member on the committee at the AGM, however Thomas took a three month leave of absence in early October to focus on standing as an independent candidate for Thomastown electorate in the upcoming State Election.

The ACA congratulates the new committee members and wishes to thank them for taking on these roles, thus keeping the Association running for another year! We mustn't forget to thank the 2013-14 ACA committee members for all their hard work during the year!

The ACA congratulates the new committee members and wishes to thank them for taking on these roles, thus keeping the Association running for another year! We mustn't forget to thank the 2013-14 ACA committee members for all their hard work during the year!



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

2014-15 membership renewal fees are now due for those members who didn't pay at the a recent meeting or haven't already transferred money via EFT. Members with outstanding dues would have received a reminder email about it recently.

The Aurora Community Association is the result of many individuals coming together to create an independent, grass roots, community-based organisation aimed at improving the Epping North/ Wollert area. By being an ACA member you are helping to create a strong, resilient and connected community.

Membership fees paid by members go towards the following ongoing costs associated with the ACA and support the ACA in our ongoing community engagement activities:

- Annual Incorporation fees
- Annual Public Liability Insurance
- Website costs
- Room hire costs for functions
- Food, drink and other catering costs for functions
- Stationery, printing and other office consumables

As a paid up member you have:

- voting rights at the ACA AGM and other general meetings;
- the opportunity to participate in the ACA executive committee and working groups;
- a place at our special members only end of year family activity;
- the ability to make the ACA larger, stronger and more representative of our community; and most importantly
- a united voice about community needs and concerns.

Renewing your membership is easy- simply pay the annual membership fee of \$10 per year via one of the methods outlined below - no need to complete another membership form! Receipts will be given in person or posted/ emailed upon clearance of funds.

There are three payment options for renewing members:

1. Electronic funds transfer to BSB 814 282, Account 310 737 28, Name: Aurora Community Association, Bank: Credit Union Australia. *Ensure to include your name in the funds transfer* and if possible email enquiry@aurora.asn.au a screenshot of your payment receipt so we know to expect your payment.
2. Cash payments can be made in person to the Treasurer at an ACA event- **our next scheduled events are the free Coffee & Chat/ Candidate Meet & Greet on Sunday 9th November, 2.30pm – 4.30pm at 3rd Place Café and Sunday 16th November, 2.30pm– 4.30pm at CFLLC.**

If you haven't already done so, please renew your membership by **the end of November** to ensure your membership stays current. If you wish to sign up as an Aurora Community Association member please go to <http://www.aurora.asn.au/join-today/> for more information. It costs \$20 in the first year and \$10 thereafter to be a member of the ACA.

Thanks for your continuing support and seeing you at one of the ACA events this coming year!



ACCESS DENIED CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As part of the *Access Denied* campaign, residents of the City of Whittlesea including Epping North/ Wollert residents signed more than 7000 postcards calling on the State Government and State opposition to commit funding to build access ramps on the Hume Freeway in Epping North and extend the railway line to Mernda.

The Mayor of Whittlesea, Cr Mary Lalios and ACA members delivered a 'train load' of postcards to the steps of Parliament House on Wednesday 8th October 2014, highlighting critical transport issues facing residents of one of the nation's fastest growing municipalities.



Presenting the postcards to political leaders was a reminder that a failure to fund these projects is denying residents access to jobs, services and community participation. The postcards represent the frustrations of a disheartened community to parliament and formally ask all parties to listen to the community and deliver these two critical transport projects in the first term of the next government.

Cr Lalios commented "These postcards demonstrate a united voice from our residents that the next state government must commit to building Mernda rail and connecting O'Herns Road to the Hume Freeway. The evidence that City of Whittlesea residents experience significant transport disadvantage is overwhelming – highlighted by the Auditor General who last year revealed an estimated \$764 million needs to be invested in the City of Whittlesea to address long standing transport needs."

In a pleasing outcome the Greens, Liberals and Labor have committed to building Mernda Rail if elected to government. Unfortunately we are yet to receive a commitment from any party regarding the funding of the O'Herns Road Hume Freeway Interchange.

Eventually 44,000 people will live in Epping North and 32,000 will live in Wollert, placing a massive additional burden on an already congested road network and there are no immediate plans to improve the arterial road network. Connecting O'Herns Road to the Hume Freeway and extending Edgars Road is critical to the economic viability of the area and for improved access and safety of the growing residential community.

The Hume Freeway ramps would relieve the congested Hume Freeway/Cooper Street interchange and accommodate the imminent traffic growth of in excess of 8000 vehicles a day when Melbourne Wholesale Fruit Vegetable and Flower Market open.

TRIVIA NIGHT

The ACA is planning to hold its annual trivia night on **Saturday 21st March 2015**.

Do you think you could help to organise the 2015 trivia night? We need a committed group of people to help organise our major fundraising event for the year. We will start initial planning in November to spread the workload and reduce the rush at the beginning of 2015.

The purpose of the trivia night is twofold-

1. To provide a family friendly social function for residents and
2. To raise funds for the ACA so we can pay for our ongoing annual costs that keep the association functioning e.g. public liability insurance, website hosting fees, hall rental etc.

We'll need help with:

- Design of promotional material (real estate boards, posters);
- Marketing (local paper ads/ stories, newsletter articles, poster distribution etc.);
- Contacting businesses for prizes/ collection of prizes;
- MC/ Host for the night;
- Organisation of questions/ activities/ raffles/ refreshments;
- Hall/ furniture/ prize organisation on the night;
- Table bookings;
- Website updates etc.

Previous trivia night organisational experience isn't required – just an ability to work as part of a team, attend meetings, check emails and be reliable/ trustworthy are most important.

In return you will get to meet other locals and make friends with other Epping North/ Wollert residents, learn/ practice event organisation/ management skills, have fun and get satisfaction from running a successful event.

The first meeting is planned to be held on Thursday 25th November (depending upon availability of interested people). Meeting schedules will be set by the team members- before Christmas there may be another meeting (depending on need) and from February until the event fortnightly meetings with perhaps an extra one the week before the event would be reasonable to expect (though it may be less than this). Much of the communication will occur via email.

If you would like to help organise the 2015 Trivia Night then please email events@aurora.asn.au. If we do not get enough people volunteering to help out (around 6-8 people) then we will be unable to run the event; we hope that this won't occur as it really is an important event for the ACA.

Hope to hear from you soon!

Cara Horner

ACA State Election 2014 Events

Candidates Meet & Greets

These events are designed to let voters meet candidates for the state seats of Mill Park and Thomastown so they can find out more about them and how they plan to work for constituents if they are elected. Light refreshments provided.

Each candidate will be given 5 minutes to tell the audience about themselves and more importantly about their election platforms. After each candidate has spoken, a panel discussion will then be held where audience members can ask the candidate panel or particular candidates questions. There will also be time for informal mingling/ discussions at the start and end of the event.

All candidates for the state seats of Mill Park and Thomastown have been invited to attend their respective event.

Sunday 9th November 2014

Mill Park Candidates Meet & Greet

Time: 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Where: Third Place Café, 286a Epping Road, Wollert (Eucalypt Estate)

RSVP: preferable by 5pm Thursday 6th November to <http://mill-park-meeting.eventzilla.net/>

Sunday 16th November 2014

Thomastown Candidates Meet & Greet

Date: Sunday 16th November 2014

Time: 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Where: Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre, Corner Snugburgh Way & Redding Rise Epping North

RSVP: preferable by 5pm Thursday 13th November to <http://thomastown-meeting.eventzilla.net/>

Sunday 16th November 2014

New Citizens Practice Voting

Time: 1.00pm – 2.00pm

Where: Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre, Corner Snugburgh Way & Redding Rise Epping North

Please let us know if you need an interpreter when you RSVP

RSVP: preferable by 5pm Thursday 13th November to <http://practice-voting-2014.eventzilla.net/>

This event is designed to give new citizens the skills they need to confidently vote in elections & make sure their vote **counts**.

First time voters and voters who are not confident in the ballot process are encouraged to attend the event. **All welcome from either Thomastown or Mill Park electorate!**

Presented by Etimad Jaffer from the VEC, the session will cover information about the levels of government in Victoria, and how to complete the ballot papers for both the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council.

Attendees will be able to participate in a mock vote and complete *sample* ballot papers.

Not sure what electorate you are in? Go to

<https://electoratelookup.vec.vic.gov.au/LocalityFinder.aspx>

Farewell Claire Butler

After 2 years as Manager at Creeds Farm Living & Learning Centre, Claire Butler has left to take up a full time position at the Brotherhood of St Laurence as an Energy Engagement Officer. On behalf of staff and volunteers at Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre, we wish Claire every the success in her new position and thank her for all of her involvement at the Centre.

Upcoming events at Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre Halloween Party

You are invited to a free Halloween Party at Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre. Come along and join the fun with trick or treating, games, introduction to our new co-working program and much more. Dress in your scary best.

When: Friday 31st October

Time: 6:00pm-7:30pm

Address: 2 Snugburgh Way, Epping 3076

This event is free however you will need to book your attendance by 28th October via Trybooking at <http://www.trybooking.com/GCAE>

CFLLC Annual General Meeting

The President and Committee of Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre invite you to attend the CFLLC Annual General Meeting.

Thursday 13th November 7:00pm at Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre

Address: 2 Snugburgh Way, Epping

Refreshments are provided. RSVP your attendance for catering purposes by the 10th November via Trybooking at www.trybooking.com/GCKJ



Farewell to Claire Butler

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


community association

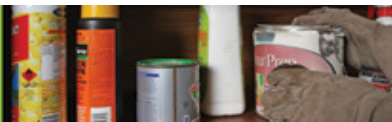
Did you know we have a FORUM?

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.



Free Household Chemical Collection Day - Saturday 22 November, 8am-4pm

Location: **Epping** (site address provided upon registration).

Detox Your Home is a safe, free and easy-to-use service to dispose of common household chemicals without harming your health or the environment.

Register online www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome or call 1300 363 744. Visit www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome for a full list of accepted items.

Unacceptable items:

Paint	Batteries	Motor oil
Compact fluorescent lamps		Gas bottles

These will not be collected at the Household Chemical Collection Day but can be disposed of throughout the year at the following sites:

- Take **paint and gas bottles** to the Darebin Resource Recovery Centre (30 Kurnai Avenue, Reservoir), Banyule Resource Recovery Centre (307-325 Waterdale Road, Bellfield) or Hume Resource Recovery Centre (Bolinda Road, Campbellfield)
- Take household **batteries and compact fluorescent lamps** to a Council Recycling Station, they are located at the Epping Depot (68-96 Houston Street, Epping), Civic Centre (25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang) and Laurimar Community Activity Centre (110 Hazel Glen Dr, Doreen)
- Take **car batteries and motor oil** to the Transfer Station at Wollert Landfill (45 Bridge Inn Road, Wollert).

If residents are unable to make the Epping collection, there will be a household chemical collection day in Reservoir on Saturday 13 December 2014. For more information see www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome.

Detox your Home is a free service for all Victorian householders. It is administered by Sustainability Victoria in partnership with local councils and funded by the Victorian landfill levy. For more info contact Council's Resource Recovery Officer on 9401 0579.



CFA at Lehmann's Farm Park – Sunday 16 November!

Come and check out the CFA trucks, talk to local brigade members about fire safety, learn some practical fire safety tips!

The action starts at 11am at Lehmann's Farm Park, Broadleaf Park Epping North on Sunday 16 November. Bring the family and find out what you can do to prepare for this summer – and keep yourself, your family and your property safe.



Tidy up and cut long grass – summer is coming

All the predictions are for a long, hot summer and increased grassfire risk. The City of Whittlesea Council has a comprehensive program of fire prevention activities and is also working closely with developers to ensure that they comply with requirements.

Whether you live in an urban or rural area, you need to ensure your property complies with the requirements of the fire danger season.

Council fire inspections have now begun so **to avoid an infringement fine of \$1476** per rateable owner, make sure you:

- slash or mow grass around the home & out buildings
- remove tree limbs, branches, leaf litter and twigs
- keep gutters and roofs clear of leaf litter, twigs debris
- clear around trees and remove dead branches, prune lower limbs and cut back branches overhanging the roof
- maintain at least a 20 metre-wide firebreak around your home or residential development (greater if on a slope or within an urban interface area)
- remove accumulated bark, excess mulch, wood and any other flammable materials that are close to your home or sheds

Please note this does not apply to native vegetation, which is protected under the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.

Contact:

For fire prevention information or to report badly maintained blocks of land, call Council's Fire Prevention Team on 9217 2170.

For information on management of native vegetation contact Council's Land Management Team on 9217 2323.

Going away on Holidays

Yes it's approaching that time of year again, there are some things that you should consider before going away for the well-earned break or family holiday.

- Have you arranged to get your mail collected for you by a neighbour, friend or family member?
- Is your home secure? Let someone you trust know that you are away and can they check on your property
- Have you arranged for someone to care for your pet?
- Have you left your property in good condition, i.e. no long grass, no fire hazards, no litter?
- Have you arranged for a general maintenance schedule, i.e. Someone to mow the lawns, cut your vacant block, water your garden?
- Are your important documents copied and in a safe place aside from your home?

Above all have a safe holiday and keep well.



City of
Whittlesea

Business Development staff co-working at Creeds Farm

Every Tuesday starting 7 October 2014
9.00am to 1.00pm
(Excluding 4 November & 30 December 2014)

*If you are a local business or thinking
about starting one, come and talk to
us. Appointments are not necessary.*

Reducing Litter and Dumped Rubbish along Significant waterways within the City of Whittlesea.

The City of Whittlesea have recently been awarded a grant for \$200,000 for reducing litter and dumped rubbish along waterways in the municipality. The upstream education, infrastructure and enforcement project will target litter and stormwater pollution in the Merri, Edgar and Darebin Creeks and Plenty River catchments.

Council will be **employing a Litter Prevention Officer** to target litter and rubbish emanating from high growth residential building sites and estates such as Epping North and Wollert that are impacting stormwater and local waterways .

The project includes a focus on site clean ups, community engagement, awareness raising, installation of litter infrastructure and surveillance equipment. More details:

<http://www.mwrrg.vic.gov.au/component/content/article/10-pages/local-government/261-litter-hotspots-project-round-two>

What should you do if a grassfire starts near you?



Grassfires can start anywhere & spread fast.

If you live directly next to grassland: quickly move one to two streets away from the fire.

If you live close to but not right next to grassland: it's safer to stay where you are as grassfires are unlikely to spread past the first row of homes.

Don't try to get a closer look at the fire – you'll put yourselves and others in danger.

Avoid driving in a grassfire. It may be smoky and hard to see so traffic jams and accidents are likely, and the roads need to be kept free for the emergency services.

Reducing the risk to yourself and your home

If you live next to grassland on the edge of a city or town, you need to:

- Reduce the height and proximity of grass to your home and fenceline. eg mow your lawn.
- Clear weeds, sticks, leaves and other fuel from around your property.
- Remove firewood and rubbish from around your home and fenceline.

Report badly maintained blocks of land to Council's Fire Prevention Team on 9217 2170.

Find out more detailed information at <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/grassfires-near-cities-and-towns>

ACA Fire Watch Dashboard

The Aurora Community Association Fire Watch Dashboard <http://www.aurora.asn.au/fire-watch/> is a webpage that aggregates real time information from several sources to provide the local community with a combined snapshot of fire danger information specific for the Epping North/ Wollert area. This will help residents of the community make decisions about their fire safety.

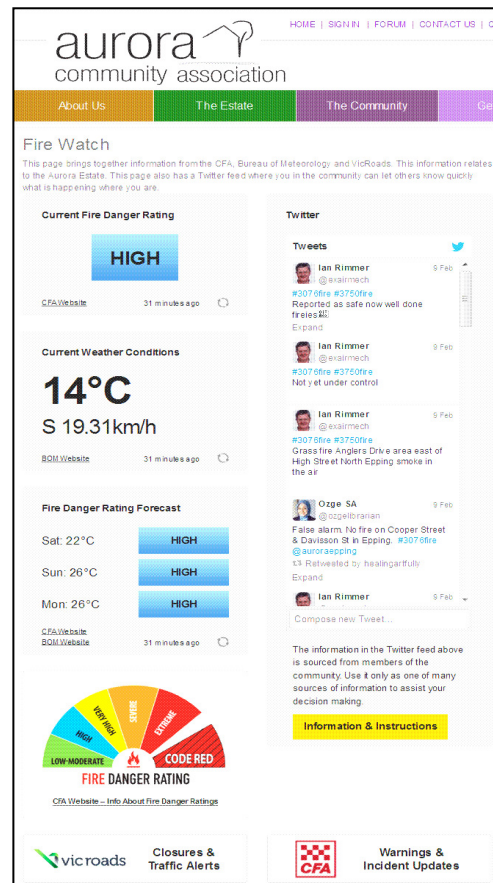
Information available on the webpage includes:

- Current/ forecast fire danger ratings from the CFA
- Current weather conditions from the BoM
- A link to the VicRoads website for the local area detailing any closures and traffic alerts
- An embedded Twitter feed which enables the community to share real time information and updates about fires in Epping North and Wollert with other members of the community.

Use the Twitter feed as one of many sources of information to assist your decision making in an emergency situation. The hashtags used are **#3076fire** for Epping and **#3750fire** for Wollert

You can find the Fire Watch dashboard at <http://www.aurora.asn.au/fire-watch/> or just click on the Fire Watch logo/ link on the ACA homepage.

You can find out more information about using the Fire Watch Twitter feed at www.aurora.asn.au/fire-watch/information-on-twitter/.





Student Leaders at Epping Views PS

Over the past term many of our students have attended activities where they have presented ideas, reported on their learning, participated in programs teaching others, both adults and children as well as kept up with their own studies here at Epping Views PS.

Some Year Six students attended the Student Led Parliament in Treasury Place, along with Pip one of the Year Six teachers. They travelled by train and spent the day sharing ideas with other like-minded students from across Victoria. It is amazing to hear these young people articulate their ideas on ways to care for our community. Some of our Sustainability Action Team Leaders attended a learning day at Edendale Farm where they taught others about growing strawberries. Made me want to go home and plant some strawberries of my own!

Our Energy Action Team Leaders along with students from two other local schools, were invited to participate in a presentation to the City Of Whittlesea Council members. Our students spoke about the need for more public transport and better road access in the Epping North area. The Energy Team were also recipients of several awards for walking to school this year and are to be commended on the number of students regularly riding and walking to school. As a school with a large enrolment, the students actions to reduce the number of cars in the vicinity of the school is a great way to reduce pollution and keep the community fit.

Within the school our year Five and Six students were trained as Peer Support Leaders and enjoyed the work they did with other year levels. Some even commented how hard it is to be a teacher!

Our Year Six Junior School Councillors run the weekly assemblies and do a fine job of organising the setting up and packing away of the equipment. House Leaders report on sports results at assemblies and there is always great excitement to hear which House has won the nude food points each week. Evie our chook (sculptured one) wears the winning house colours for the week and is proudly on display in the office.



During the Sunsmart months Evie wears a hat or in the colder months a scarf.

When we observe and listen to our young leaders talking and presenting we are sure that we can all be confident in their commitment to caring for our community and our natural resources.

Pauline Kubat (EVPS Principal) and the EVPS Team.

THIRD PLACE



THE GREAT GOOD PLACE

GREAT MEALS

GREAT PIZZA

GREAT COFFEE

GREAT AMBIENCE



GOOD FOR
CATCHING UP

GOOD FOR
MEETINGS

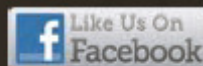
GOOD FOR
FUNCTIONS

GOOD FOR
CATERING



Ph: 9409 1897

Open Tues – Sun 'til 10pm



facebook.com/3rdplc

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

Lack of Government Funding for Public Transport

Public transport in Melbourne has been neglected for at least two decades despite usage increasing over the last several years. The most likely explanation is probably a combination of decreasing government revenue and increasing corporate pressure on governments to focus limited government spending on certain projects promising big corporate profits rather than focusing on important infrastructure elsewhere. There is insufficient awareness that decreasing government revenue results from big business convincing governments that they need to be looked after if the economy is to function. Typical government responses to this include reducing big business taxes, increasing subsidies or welfare for big business, reducing spending on health and education, and privatising government assets by selling off at below cost.

Increased wealth for big business is supposed to have a trickle-down effect which supposedly increases wealth for everyone else. The real result is taking from the less well-off and giving to the very rich which the 2014 Federal budget shows in the extreme. We are now living in a world of growing national wealth where most of the additional wealth goes to the superrich. At the same time the less well-off are having to pay more for electricity, gas, petrol and housing. With stagnant or falling incomes for most people; reduced welfare for the sick, unemployed and aged; and more costly education for young people - there is less money for people to buy what they have normally consumed in the past. A fall in consumption can hurt numerous businesses and their profits and consequently increase unemployment so that eventually a major recession or a depression can result.

U.S. economist and Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz greatly expands on the above points and goes into considerable detail on why governments are neglecting infrastructure - in his book "The Price of Inequality" (2012). (Stiglitz is writing about excessive or extreme inequality.) A useful review of this book appears at website <http://nyti.ms/N83qcX>. A helpful video presenting Joseph Stiglitz appears at website <http://bit.ly/1roGNbS> (a recent interview by Bill Moyers in US). Stiglitz visited Australia around mid-2014 and received TV coverage which may be found at websites <http://ab.co/1petWSf> (ABC TV Big Ideas address at the Sydney Town Hall by Stiglitz on the price of inequality) and <http://ab.co/TKJLHS> (an ABC TV Lateline interview).

Many voters at government elections appear unaware of the possibility that their party-of-choice is more concerned about responding to the needs and wishes of big business political donors rather than to the needs and wishes of voters. Other voters take the view, perhaps because of previous unfortunate experiences, that politicians and political parties do not deserve trust and/or respect and are therefore unworthy of attention. Unfortunately a likely consequence of this approach is the attracting of less able and less responsible people into politics. Voters need to take more responsibility for the consequences of their voting. Political parties and political candidates need to be more closely scrutinised and only supported when policies and actions are aimed at improving the well-being of the many rather than of the few. And more effective laws are needed to safeguard against large political donations from big businesses looking for government benefits in return - even if these benefits threaten the well-being of the many.

Tony Francis





Dads & Kids Club

Where the work is play!!!!

Starting from the 16th August 2014

Join us every Saturday Morning during school terms

At Epping Views Primary School

20 Mansfield St, Epping in the Multipurpose Hall

Between 9.30am - 11am

Gold coin donation on attendance

<https://www.facebook.com/WDAKC>

Inquiries call Kathy or Fiona

0429 190 150 or email us on

eppingnorthfef@whittlesea.vic.gov.au



**City of
Whittlesea**

ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN!

www.topseedtennisacademy.com.au  Find us on Facebook

Tennis Coaching for all Ages & Abilities

Group Lessons • Squad Training • Holiday Programs
Private & Semi-Private Lessons

ANZ HOT SHOTS

9 WEEK PROGRAM= \$145
Class format: 45 minute session
Age Group: 4 to 7 years

All new Hot shots enrolments receive a FREE tennis racquet & ANZ Hot Shots T-Shirt!

JUNIOR COACHING PROGRAM

9 WEEK PROGRAM= \$145
Class format: 45 minute session
Age Group: 8 to 16 years

All 8, 9 & 10 year old juniors will also be registered for Tennis Australia Hot Shots and will receive a FREE ANZ Hot Shots T-Shirt!

**Contact Yvonne at Topseed Tennis
for more information!
0411 443 627**



inform
educate
inspire
connect



Yarra Plenty
REGIONAL LIBRARY



Mobile Library New Location



Every Monday
9.00am – 12.00noon

The mobile library will be
stopping at **Creeds Farm
Living and Learning Centre**
Redding Street, Epping
from Monday 8 September.

Borrow books, DVDs, CDs,
magazines, audio books
and large print books.

Melways 181 J5



www.yprl.vic.gov.au

Dates

24 Sep 2014
22 Oct 2014
19 Nov 2014
17 Dec 2014
28 Jan 2015
25 Feb 2015
25 Mar 2015
22 Apr 2015
20 May 2015
17 Jun 2015

Free legal information session and advice for women on:

- Parenting arrangements
- Divorce
- Victims of crime applications

**Location: Anglicare
10 Hurtle Street, Lalor**

**Our
services
are:**

Free

Confidential

Available to
all members
of the
community

Information session from 9:30-11:30am

Appointments for advice from 1:30-4:30pm

To book your place in an information session or to make an appointment call our office on 9401 6655

Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday
9.00am – 5.00pm

We are located at:

Shop 111, Epping Plaza
Cnr. High & Cooper Streets
Epping Vic 3076
Tel. (03) 9401 6666
Fax (03) 9401 6677

Email: admin@whittleseacommunityconnections.org.au

Web: <http://www.whittleseacommunityconnections.org.au>



Want to learn how to save *hundreds of dollars* on your power bills?

Future Powered Families helps parents save energy and so save on their power bills, and we're looking for parents to take part. You could:

- Come along to a **FREE** short workshop for some energy and money saving ideas
- Have another parent visit your home for to give some **FREE** advice on easy ways you can save energy.
- Get some **FREE** training in how to visit other parents homes and get paid \$50 for every home you visit.

Who can take part?

Unfortunately, funding requirements mean only some people are eligible. To have a home visit or take part in a workshop, you need to be a parent whose oldest kid is three or younger. To learn how to do your own home visits your oldest kid needs to be 15 or younger. You also need a household income of \$78,000 or less, or to be on a Health Care Card or a Pensioner Concession Card. Unfortunately, people who live in public housing aren't able to take part.

How long does the workshop/training/visit take?

Workshops usually run from anywhere from half an hour to two hours. Training to do home visits is usually one all day session or several sessions of a couple of hours each. Home visits usually take about 45 minutes. We ask people we train to do eight home visits each.

How do you take part?

Contact Amy to find out when your nearest workshop, training or home visit is happening, on 9341 8121 or Amy.Yang@EnvironmentVictoria.org.au.



Fact sheet - Magpies

Why do Magpies Swoop?

August to December is the period where many of our schools, parks, reserves and bike tracks may become danger zones as native birds swoop to protect their nests, eggs and young.

Magpies attack people because they have an innate sense to defend their territory, particularly at nesting time. They are protecting their nests, eggs or young from potential intruders, irrespective of whether they are other magpies, predators or people.

Their territory may include your backyard, the park across the road or the local school yard. It doesn't matter to the magpie as long as he considers you are potential threat. However, the probability of an attack is increased by interfering with, or teasing the magpie.

Magpie scare tactics

Swooping is the common attack method. The bird is threatening or bluffing and only means to scare the intruder. It is unlikely to attack if you walk confidently keeping an eye on it.

Beak clacking as the bird swoops overhead is another form of bluff. Like some dogs, magpies can sense fear and will capitalise on it by continuing to attack.

In a strike attack, a magpie usually swoops, hovering momentarily and then strikes. The fluttering of wings as the bird hovers can be a warning to duck and avoid an attack.

What to do

Keep in mind that magpies attack only during the nesting and rearing periods, and that most attacks are really a bluff - the bird rarely has any intention of actually striking.

There are many ways to avoid the impact of magpie season:

- Try to stop children and others interfering with magpies
- Try to avoid the swooping area
- Wear a hat while working or playing in the backyard and garden is one of the simplest means of protection. The hat deters much of the magpie activity and also deflects any accidental or intentional strike by the bird.
- Magpies hate being watched so children playing in the yard could try wearing a hat or ice cream container with eyes painted on the back of it; sunglasses worn backwards have a similar effect.
- Waving a stick or a hat will often cause the bird to retreat.
- Avoid walking alone, birds tend to swoop at individuals not groups of people.
- Try not to be scared and run this will only encourage the bird to continue attacking.

For further information contact Health Services 9217 2277

Community Activity Centre

Aurora Development, Epping

Community Activity Centre Development Update

Construction has started on the community activity centre located on the corner of Mossfield Rise and Forum Way in the Aurora development, Epping.

Once completed the Centre will feature:

- Community hall and kitchen
- Three kindergarten rooms
- Two maternal and child health (MCH) consulting rooms and a program room
- Two multi-purpose meeting rooms
- Community lounge
- Car parking
- Two planned activity group rooms

A range of services will be provided at the Community Activity Centre including:

- Kindergarten operated by an independent community based operator
- Mobile Library operated by Yarra Plenty Regional Library



- Maternal & Child Health
- Planned activity groups (for older adults)
- Rooms for hire by community groups and activity providers.

Construction works are expected to be completed at the end of 2014 with all services expected to be operational by early 2015.

For more information on the project, call our Community Infrastructure Project Coordinator, Jess Bennett on 9217 2532 or email

community.infrastructure@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Regular updates will also be posted on Council's website [whittlesea.vic.gov.au](http://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au).

Council Offices
25 Ferres Boulevard
South Morang VIC 3752

Locked Bag 1
Bundoora MDC VIC 3083

Tel 03 9217 2170
Fax 03 9217 2111
TTY 133 677 (ask for 9217 2170)
Email info@whittlesea.vic.gov.au
www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Free Telephone Interpreter Service

عربي	9679 9871	Hrvatski	9679 9872
廣東話	9679 9857	Ελληνικά	9679 9873
Italiano	9679 9874	Türkçe	9679 9877
Македонски	9679 9875	Việt-ngữ	9679 9878
普通话	9679 9876	Other	9679 9879