

Hello Aurorians,

Welcome to the summer edition of the Aurora Community Association (ACA) newsletter and my first newsletter as President of the Association.

It's been a busy and fruitful few months for the ACA, with ACA members being involved in organising and participating in the following projects which have benefitted the community since June 2011:

- AGM at the end of July, with new office bearers being voted in and Victoria Police speaking about Neighbourhood Watch;
- Two very successful free Coffee and Chat events held at the General store/ café and then Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre (CFLLC) with guest speakers from VicUrban relating to Fibre to the Home (FTTH) issues and also new Town Centre plans;
- A General meeting in September which had Jocelyn Harte from City of Whittlesea as guest speaker on waste and recycling;
- Facilitation of planting activities at the Spring Garden festival in October;
- Running of end of year function (BBQ lunch) on a beautiful Sunday in late November;
- Creation of the soon to be launched ACA website and forum throughout 2011;
- The writing of a letter to and subsequent meeting with VicUrban in relation to the FTTH issues most of us have been experiencing;
- ACA member working groups advocating on behalf of the community by:
  - o Meeting with the leader of the Opposition Daniel Andrews, Local Member of Parliament Danielle Green and City of Whittlesea councilors to encourage support for better public transport/ transport infrastructure in the area;
  - o Writing letters to relevant Members of Parliament on the state of our 575 bus service;
  - o Making submissions to the Parliamentary Inquiry on Outer Suburban Melbourne about our community needs (transport and other infrastructure); and
  - o Applying for grants to run workshops and get much needed IT equipment.

Many of these projects are covered in this newsletter so read on to see real life examples of ways you can be involved in our community, meet new friends and make Aurora/ Epping North a better place to live.

There are other ways you can be involved too. We need:

- Letter box droppers periodically for delivering this newsletter and other flyers advertising upcoming events;
- People to add content to the new ACA website;
- People who can help organise and run events such as our upcoming trivia night in March next year or smaller social activities;
- A motivated person to coordinate and manage fundraising efforts, including advertisements on the ACA website (ideally as part of ordinary committee member role); and
- New committee members each July willing to stand for a year or two (depending on the role)

Please get in touch via [enquiry@aurora.asn.au](mailto:enquiry@aurora.asn.au) if you are keen to be involved.

It's exciting times here in Epping North and I marvel every week at how the area (not just Aurora) is evolving and changing before our eyes. Despite what many of us think or feel, we have the ability to exert a positive influence on the development which is occurring on our doorstep. Speaking with a united voice and creating a strong, resilient, connected community is the best way to do this and the most efficient way to do this is through our own Aurora Community Association. So join up and get involved!

On behalf of the ACA committee we hope you had a safe, happy and healthy holiday season and we hope to see you at one of our upcoming events in 2012.

Warm Regards

Cara Horner  
President

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### Dates to put in your Diary

**February**  
**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> -**  
**General Meeting 7.30pm**

**March**  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> - Trivia  
night 6.30pm- Major  
fundraiser for the year

**April**  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> - Coffee  
and Chat 10.30am

**May**  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> - General  
Meeting 7.30pm


**June**  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> - Coffee  
and Chat 3pm

**July**  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> -  
Committee meeting  
7.30pm.

**July**  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> - AGM  
7.30pm

The ACA website and forum are now officially released to the public! You can them access through <http://www.aurora.asn.au>. We are also on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/auroracommunity>) and Twitter (<http://twitter.com/auroraecpping>).

On the coming year, we will continue to develop and promote the website and make it a powerful tool to serve the Aurora community. If anyone else has some spare time and is interested in helping out with continuing to improve and update the website content, managing business advertisements or maintaining the site, please email [enquiry@aurora.asn.au](mailto:enquiry@aurora.asn.au)



aurora

community association

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USERNAME:

PASSWORD:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

	TOPICS	POSTS	LAST POST
<a href="#"></a> <a href="#">ACA News</a>	0	0	No posts

GENERAL

	TOPICS	POSTS	LAST POST
<a href="#"></a> <a href="#">General Discussion</a>	0	0	No posts
<a href="#"></a> <a href="#">Events in Aurora</a>	0	0	No posts
<a href="#"></a> <a href="#">In the news</a>	0	0	No posts
<a href="#"></a> <a href="#">Sports Talk</a>	0	0	No posts
<a href="#"></a> <a href="#">Music, Media and Entertainment</a>	0	0	No posts
<a href="#"></a> <a href="#">Health and Wellbeing</a>	0	0	No posts
<a href="#"></a> <a href="#">New residents of Aurora</a>	1	2	by aurorafrog D Fri Dec 02, 2011 11:09 am
<a href="#"></a> <a href="#">Coffee Break</a>	0	0	No posts

IN AND AROUND THE HOME

	TOPICS	POSTS	LAST POST
<a href="#"></a> <a href="#">Landscaping and gardening</a>	0	0	No posts
<a href="#"></a> <a href="#">Sustainability and Energy Efficiency in the home</a>	0	0	No posts
<a href="#"></a> <a href="#">Interior Design</a>	0	0	No posts
<a href="#"></a> <a href="#">In the kitchen</a>	0	0	No posts
<a href="#"></a> <a href="#">Bathroom and Laundry</a>	0	0	No posts

## AGM and ACA Committee

The ACA held their Annual General Meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at Epping Views PS. It was a good meeting with over 30 people in attendance. All positions on the ACA committee were declared vacant (as happens each July), with Brad Costin, our first President stepping down from office as well Tracey Millen (Secretary), Ron Penney (Treasurer) and Tracie McBride (ordinary member). Cara Horner moved up to President from Vice President, Goran Zdravkovski to Treasurer from ordinary member, Lisa Hall to Secretary from ordinary member, whilst Carly Martin and Kathleen Ager both took up ordinary member roles. Steven Sansome remains as Public Officer whilst the Vice President and one ordinary member position still remain vacant. The ACA would like to thank Brad, Tracey and Tracie for their efforts on the committee, the continuing committee members for their commitment to the Association and also the newest members of the committee for signing up!

We are still looking for two more members of the committee- Vice President and an ordinary member (or two ordinary members if someone already on the committee steps up to Vice President). The current President (Cara) will only be president till the next AGM (in 2012) as she will have been in an officer role for 3 years by July next year so it's imperative that we have someone in the Vice Presidents role now to help them understand the Presidents role, which it would be assumed they would be taking on in July 2012. Could that person be you?

Between now and next July we have the following meetings scheduled which Committee members should ideally attend:

February- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> - General Meeting 7.30pm  
March- Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> - Trivia night 6.30pm- Major fundraiser for the year  
April- Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> - Coffee and Chat 10.30am  
May- Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> - General Meeting 7.30pm  
June- Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> - Coffee and Chat 3pm  
July- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> - Committee meeting 7.30pm.  
July- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> – AGM 7.30pm

As you can see the time commitment for an ordinary committee member isn't great. Remember if we don't have a committee, the Association cannot function, and without a having a quorum (minimum number of committee members attending a meeting) we cannot hold committee meetings which make the decisions that keep the Association running.

We are very keen to have someone representing the Sri Lankan/ Indian community on the committee as they form such a large percentage of the Epping North population and it would be great to have their views represented and needs known. Of course we would also love to have committee members from other sections of our very multicultural community- the ACA is open to, and represents all members of our community!

Its not hard to be on the ACA committee (and we do hand overs between old committee members and the new ones explaining what they need to do) and it's a way you can make a real difference in your community, so if you are interested in finding out more about being a committee member then please email [enquiry@aurora.asn.au](mailto:enquiry@aurora.asn.au) with your contact details and someone will be in touch via email or phone to chat with you about it.

## Advertising your business on our new website

Are you a local small business owner who wants to connect with local community members and increase business?

Then read on!

The new ACA website will have space for local businesses to advertise as well as a business 'hot offers' section and a business news section. It is expected that the website once launched will be quite busy with lots of local traffic on the site- which is great news for local businesses looking for a relatively cheap way to advertise their business to a target audience!

As a super special to celebrate the launch of the new website we are offering local businesses the opportunity to advertise on our website for \$10 for a quarter (3 months- February till the end of April), a saving of \$20 (2012 prices will be \$10 a month and will be reviewed at the end of 2012). This price is for a standard sized advertisement. Prices for business hot offers section are available on application.

All you will need to supply is the text you want included a logo if you have one and any pdf attachments.

If you would like to advertise on the website then please contact Roger Liang, the ACA website development coordinator at [admin@aurora.asn.au](mailto:admin@aurora.asn.au) or go to [www.aurora.asn.au/advertise-your-business](http://www.aurora.asn.au/advertise-your-business) for more information.

**ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS — email: [enquiry@aurora.asn.au](mailto:enquiry@aurora.asn.au)**

## Grant applications

The ACA with the help of some motivated members applied for two grants this year- one for support for IT equipment through the federal government, the other for support to run Workshops on lobbying for/ instigating social change through the City of Whittlesea. Both grant bodies received an enormous number of applications and it was unfortunate that we did not receive any funding to support the Association even though the applications were very good. We will keep trying to get funding as grant opportunities present themselves. Thankyou to Joanna Durst, Tony Francis and Brad Costin for their efforts.

## Public Transport in Aurora

Tony Francis, Cara Horner and Carly Martin briefly met the Leader of the Opposition Daniel Andrews, Local MP Danielle Green and numerous City of Whittlesea councilors' at the beginning of December to discuss the public transport needs of the area. Although a short meeting (which was inadvertently 'hijacked' by cute babies at CFLC) we hope that Mr Andrews has a greater understanding of the public transport needs of our area and that the Labour Party under his leadership will commit to working towards improving Epping Road, improving bus services into the estate and building a train line into our growth corridor.

On another related note, Brad Costin, Tony Francis, Selva Ponnuray and Cara Horner have all worked together on a letter to relevant MPs on the level and appropriateness of bus services to Aurora. The letter was sent to Hon Terry Mulder (Minister for Public Transport), Craig Ondarchie MP (Member for Northern Metropolitan) and Danielle Green MP (Member for Yan Yean). Craig Ondarchie confirmed he received the letter as did Danielle Greens Office but Terry Mulder has yet to contact the Association. We have received a reply from Craig Ondarchie who states that he has been in contact with the Department of Transport who report they are continuing to plan for increasing bus services and that service increases in Epping North will be considered for funding in future program. He also notes that connectivity has been improved between bus and train links since the new station has opened but bus drivers have been asked to monitor connections. Funding will always be a major constraint given each new bus timetable , according to Reservoir Bus Lines costs \$500,000.00 a year!

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Hon Terry Mulder,  
Minister for Public Transport,  
Level 16, 121 Exhibition Street,  
Melbourne.  
[terence.mulder@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:terence.mulder@parliament.vic.gov.au)  
24th November 2011  
Dear Mr Mulder,

### Re: Bus Problems in Epping North

I am writing on behalf of residents of Epping North, especially those who reside on VicUrban's Aurora Estate and those who are members of the Aurora Community Association, about a serious issue with public transport servicing the area. Epping North is typical of growing outer Melbourne suburbs which have been neglected with regard to public transport and infrastructure. One public transport issue of immediate concern is the **Route 575** bus service from Thomastown to Epping North. Problems with this service, some of which include safety risks, are listed as follows:

1. Morning frequency (5.40am – 9.00am) of the 575 to Thomastown - on all but three out of eight services- there is a 40 minute wait. These are critical times for students and workers and the low frequency of buses means residents either must leave for work/ school earlier than required to use the service or drive to work/ school/ Epping station.
2. Coverage into the Aurora and Lyndarum Estates is limited. VicUrban have designed the Aurora Estate with homes planned to be within 400 metres of a bus stop. However only a proportion of bus stops already built within the estate are currently functioning and therefore many Aurora residents are presently at least a one kilometre walk to a bus stop.
3. Timing of bus services to facilitate train connections and visa versa is unrealistic. In the morning, the current bus drop off at Epping station can leave as little as 4 minutes for connecting passengers to make their way to the station platform to catch a city bound train. Given increasing traffic congestion around the station actually making a train connection is bordering on the unfeasible. Running to catch a connecting train can be dangerous for those with health issues and due to the crossing of busy morning traffic on Cooper Street.
4. In the evening peak service, there is only a 4 minute window to catch the 575 bus from a train arriving at Epping Station. More often than not, trains are running late and connecting to the distant 575 bus stop is unachievable. Consequently missing this connection means waiting 40 minutes for the next 575 service. This wait is of concern for parents of adolescents, especially girls that have to wait in darkness for the next bus.
5. The current timetable is a real deterrent for residents to commit to public transport and pressures many to stick to cars. Epping North has one of the highest rates of car ownership in Melbourne at 2.07 cars per household (Reference <http://www.theage.com.au/national/outer-suburbs-forced-to-drive-20090523-bizw.html> and 2006 Census data). Epping North (20 – 25 kilometres north from the Melbourne CBD) is predicted to have substantial population growth over the next 20 years. The City of Whittlesea expects the area to grow from 7,081 in 2011 to 44,097 in 2031. Construction of VicUrban's Aurora Estate commenced in 2006, achieved about 800 homes in 2011 and is expected to have 8000 homes completed by 20 years with a final population of around 20,000. Such population pressures will add to the already congested road network and it is essential that the 575 service be improved. We ask that you assist in providing a solution to the points outlined above. We would appreciate an explanation as to why timetabling, frequency and route decisions have been made in the first place. We also ask that you could provide evidence of any current investigations or reviews that aim to improve public transport provisions in the Epping North area.

Further campaigning on the Route 575 bus issue is being planned and a petition signed by local residents is likely.

Yours Sincerely,  
Cara Horner  
President,



Please note that the ACA now has a new email address

Please update your address books accordingly

Email—[enquiry@aurora.asn.au](mailto:enquiry@aurora.asn.au)

**ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS**



Every month or so, a group of women from the neighbourhood get together over some afternoon tea and devote some time to their crafts. There's no commitment, no expectations, no requirements. We simply want to make time in our lives to get cracking on some of the projects that otherwise don't get a high enough priority. We bring whatever we're working on and a plate to share and sit around working on our individual creations. This photo was taken at the May Circle: there was necklace beading, clothes dying, sewing a dog coat, candle making and bangle decorating. (The cake's in there because it was so delicious!) At other times there's been felting, yo-yo making (no, not the biscuit), knitting and embroidery. We help each other or just enjoy the opportunity to make progress. If there are other women who would like to join us, please ring Joanna on 9018-8169.

### **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.

### **Off-Leash Dog Parks**

Council has recently opened two more fully fenced off-leash dog parks. These areas contain dog training, exercise and agility equipment, and are designed to give dogs physical exercise and mental stimulation to help prevent behavioural problems. For more information contact Local Laws on **9217 2100** or email [info@whittlesea.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@whittlesea.vic.gov.au).

#### **Delacombe Reserve, Delacombe Drive, Mill Park**

Access via Delacombe Drive, Allan Avenue, Ronald Avenue or Wilton Court, South Morang. The off-leash area is in the middle of the park (Melway Ref. 10 F1).

#### **Lyndarum Wetlands, Manor House Drive, Epping**

Located in between Manor House Drive and Great Brome Avenue. The off-leash area is in the middle of the park (Melway Ref. 181 K6).



## Aurora General Store & Café

Fully catered café  
Delicatessen  
Grinders Coffee  
Breakfast and Lunch  
Focaccias  
Cakes

Mini supermarket services

Weekdays

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

Also ATM onsite



## Join the Clean Up Team at Lyndarum Wetlands North Epping

You are invited to help clean up the Lyndarum Wetlands, North Epping. Anyone and everyone can take part, it's fun, easy and a great way to get your neighbourhood looking clean and litter free. So get your family, friends and neighbours involved!

**Sunday 4 March - 10 am – 12 noon, followed by light refreshments**

Meet at corner of Great Brome Avenue and Wyena Grove, Epping North (Melway 182 A7), register with the site co-ordinator, Cara and help clean up.

This Clean Up site is right next to a shared bike/pedestrian pathway, so ride or walk down, if possible.

Wear sturdy covered shoes, old clothes, a hat and sunglasses. Also remember to bring along a pair of gloves, a drink and be sun smart!

For more information contact Cara via email on [eppingcleanup@gmail.com](mailto:eppingcleanup@gmail.com) or Council's Resource Recovery Officer on 9401 0579 or email [info@whittlesea.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@whittlesea.vic.gov.au)



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

program which fosters a sense of community and a connection to the

environment. Local residents are encouraged to participate in the

development of the space, which will be managed by a Leadership Group.

Everyone is welcome to join the group.

Keep an eye out for future gardening events.

For more information, phone 8320 3973



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 become a member email [enquiry@aurora.asn.au](mailto:enquiry@aurora.asn.au)

To be included in our newsletter distribution list email [newsletter@aurora.asn.au](mailto:newsletter@aurora.asn.au)

Check out our new website [www.aurora.asn.au](http://www.aurora.asn.au)

**ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS — email: [enquiry@aurora.asn.au](mailto:enquiry@aurora.asn.au)**