



Winter Newsletter

June 2011

Aurora Community Association
Incorporation Number: A0053583T
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auroracommunityassociation@gmail.com

Welcome to another edition of the Aurora Community Association newsletter.

More residents at Aurora have been busily involving themselves on a few projects to make our community a better place to live. Working groups on our web site, as well as public transport issues and community events have made great progress. Please see their updates contained in this newsletter.

However there is certainly more opportunity for more residents to help out in areas such as:

- Letter box drops for newsletters and other events
- Special interest groups on
 - Telecommunications
 - Infrastructure
 - Helping community events
- Committee roles
- Social activities
- Letter writing and research in local issues
- Attending information sessions on issues relevant to Aurora

If you think you could play a role in any of the above, please let us know. It is only with residents helping out that we can ensure the association remains relevant and acts as an advocate for our community.

Please come along to our Annual General Meeting (AGM). It will be an opportunity for Aurora Community Association members to nominate themselves or others committee roles such a president, secretary, treasurer or ordinary committee positions.

We will also hear about Neighbourhood Watch in response to burglaries at Aurora.

Regards

Brad Costin
President Aurora Community Association

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Annual General Meeting Aurora Community Association

When: Thursday July 28th

Time: 7.30pm

Where: Epping Views Primary School,
20 Mansfield Street, Epping,
Multi Purpose Room at rear of School

Guest: Les Mathieson from Vic Police talking about Neighbourhood Watch.

This is in response to community concerns at our last meeting and also from recent burglaries in Aurora.

It will also be a chance to elect new committee members and also sign up new members / renew existing memberships.

'ACA Meets with Victorian Members of Parliament'

On Tuesday 21st June 2011 the Aurora Estate was visited by two Victorian State Labor parliamentarians, Fiona Richardson (shadow Minister for Public Transport) and Danielle Green (local member for Yan Yean). They were particularly interested in local transport problems faced by the Aurora community at the individual level and spoke to two members of the Aurora Community Association, Cara (Vice-President) and Tony. The meeting was held at Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre (CFLLC) in the presence of the Centre's Executive Officer, Rose Babic. The visit was at least partly inspired by recent Parliamentary discussion on replacing VicUrban with the Urban Renewal Authority and on an amendment to the Growth Areas Infrastructures Bill. Fiona and Danielle had just come from a meeting with the Whittlesea Council where they had been provided with Epping North demographic details.

The parliamentarians were provided with information on how the absence of a railway line extension to Epping North was contributing to heavy car use in streets not designed for heavy traffic and how the extra cars required were adding to high levels of debt requiring local families to have both parents working long hours and often not able to provide the amount of attention they would like their children to have. The deficiencies of the local bus service were pointed out - the small portion of the Aurora Estate travelled by the bus, long times between buses (especially in the evening peak hour), connection failures for train passengers at Epping station waiting for a bus to Epping North, slow bus travel caused by peak hour road congestion, etc. There were also problems for people outside the Aurora Estate trying to reach the CFLLC without a car.

In the meeting Ms Green and Ms Richardson also expressed concern over the changes to the mandate of VicUrban that were passing through the Victorian Parliament at the time. With the renamed VicUrban soon to focus on urban renewal, Ms Green had been advocating in Parliament on behalf of the Epping North community for the new Urban Renewal Authority to finish all of VicUrban's current projects and not abandon communities such as Aurora. There is a paramount need for continuing with the development business as usual, to ensure that master planned infrastructure and services are delivered and the integrity of the Aurora estate's design is maintained. The ACA is very glad to have support from our local member of parliament on this matter.

After vigorous and sometimes raucous debate in both the lower and upper houses of the Victorian parliament, the Victorian Urban Development Authority Amendment (Urban Renewal Authority) Bill 2011 was passed by the upper house on the 28th June 2011. So what do these changes mean for the residents of Aurora? Well a name change for VicUrban (to the Urban Renewal Authority Victoria, URAV) for a start, a new Chairperson (Peter Clarke) for the organisation, and importantly all employees of VicUrban becoming employees of the URAV.

The major focus of the URAV will now be on urban renewal projects. *'The authority will have a reduced presence within greenfield locations, compared with its predecessor VicUrban.'*, however the bill provides *'transitional arrangements to transfer all current activities of VicUrban including its rights, assets, liabilities, obligations, contracts and agreements to the authority.'* It is this somewhat vague sentence which had Danielle Green and other State Labour MPs alarmed about VicUrban's current greenfield developments (such as Aurora) and what might be in store for us after the changes to organisational focus.

All quotes above are directly from the Victorian Urban Development Authority Amendment (Urban Renewal Authority) Bill passed in parliament. In light of this concern, Danielle Green (Member for Yan Yean) lobbied for the Aurora community in the lower house (even mentioning the ACA!), whilst Brian Tee (shadow Minister for Planning) and Jenny Mikakos (member for Northern Metropolitan region) also spoke on our community's behalf in the upper house to get guarantees from the Minister for Planning, Matthew Guy, that the URAV wasn't going to abandon the Aurora community and the Aurora Development Plan (master plan) which all of our homes are a part of. Out of the debate and questioning came the following assurances from Matthew Guy:

'All the contracts in place, the community services and community infrastructure that have been committed to for places like Aurora, will be fulfilled.'

'The Urban Renewal Authority Victoria will come in with a mandate, which will be the board's to direct. The areas could be in outer urban Melbourne, Melbourne's middle suburbs, as we have talked about, Melbourne's southern suburbs, in areas such as the Maribyrnong defence land or regional cities like Geelong and areas.'

'It is very clear: reduced [presence within greenfield locations] does not mean none. It is as simple as that.'

'All the contracts and all the structured planning and development plans that have been submitted will be honoured. They will be honoured, and they will be honoured in a timely manner, in a manner that has been set out in the development plans.... I say simply: the development plans that have been put forward are plans we are still working towards, and they will be honoured.'

'I simply say again that the government has made commitments. The Urban Renewal Authority will complete the projects and the contracts that have been put on the table and the development plans within them in the outer urban areas'

All quotes above taken from Victorian Parliament Hansard 28th June 2011 (go to <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/>, click on Hansard tab, quick search and search for Victorian Urban Development Authority Amendment (Urban Renewal Authority Victoria) Bill 2011).

Let's hope that the guarantees of the Minister for Planning will hold true and that Aurora (and other VicUrban greenfield developments) will be completed as per their master plans.

Article by Cara Horner (ACA Vice President) and Tony Francis (ACA member).



From Left to right - Jesse Martin, Tony Francis, Danielle Green, Fiona Richardson, Rose Babic, Cara Horner,

Below are three articles of interest to our community taken from the Northern Weekly dated the 5th and 12 of July 2011

Bus shortage drives folk to cars

BY REBECCA THISTLETON

A lack of buses is making evening peak hour a battle for North Epping residents, according to the Aurora Community Association.

More buses connecting new estates with train stations would make commuting easier for residents of Melbourne's fastest-growing areas, said association spokeswoman Cara

Horner. But no funding for extra buses has been allocated in the government's 2011-12 budget.

Reservoir Bus Company managing director Russell Ward said the company was assessing the area's needs. By extending services, he said residents would be encouraged to use public transport rather than cars.

Ms Horner said North Epping residents averaged 2.3 cars per house-

hold, one of the highest in the state, which she attributed to infrequent bus services.

Yan Yean MP Danielle Green said Epping North was one of the fastest-growing municipalities in Australia. "The only way that roads and public transport can keep up with the demand ... is for the state government to put funds into roads and public transport every year," she said.

Bus company aims for longer routes to service clients

BY REBECCA THISTLETON

rebecca.thistleton@fairfaxmedia.com.au

RESERVOIR Bus Company has outlined an ambitious plan to extend routes out to the northern suburbs.

Suburbs including North Epping and the Aurora estate have boosted the population in recent years but residents have complained of a lack of bus services.

The company's proposal will be considered by the Department of Transport after it is presented in the next few days.

Industry body BusVic has called for the government to support northern bus services, where growing demand has outstripped supply.

Reservoir Bus Company director Russell Ward said his staff had investigated short, medium and long-term ways the company could better meet demand. The company ideally hopes to introduce short-term changes to better connect areas serviced by train stations, such as Thomastown and Epping, with Epping North.

Mr Ward said the main challenge was keeping up with the speed of growth.

"The growth is so quick, we're constantly

'The growth is so quick, we're constantly changing plans'

changing plans," he said. "The new estates go up that quickly, what we thought was needed six months ago has already changed."

Last year's Coalition win, lack of state government investment in buses this year and changes to train services have also weighed in on the bus company's plans and proposal.

Department of Transport spokeswoman Jo Davie said the department was evaluating options presented in bus review reports and future upgrades would be subject to funding.

Ms Davie said bus 575 ran services into Epping North and Aurora Estate until 9pm, seven days a week.

BusVic transport planning and policy manager Chris Loader said Epping North was one of many fringe areas where public transport was not keeping up with urban growth.

"Significant areas of Epping North are beyond reasonable walking distance of existing bus routes," he said.

Size does matter for proposed town centre

AURORA estate's northern town centre could quadruple in size pending council discussions.

The VicUrban estate in Epping North originally had plans for a 6000 square metre northern town centre, but plans have been presented to Whittlesea Council to increase it to 24,000 square metres.

The bigger town centre could include a department store, up to two super-

markets, a library and a community centre. VicUrban will seek a retail development partner in August with a view to start work in 2012.

But Aurora Residents Association vice president Cara Horner said she had not seen the revised plans.

"There's been no community consultation on it whatsoever," she said.

VicUrban urban communities general manager Rob Vines said community

engagement would occur later in the process.

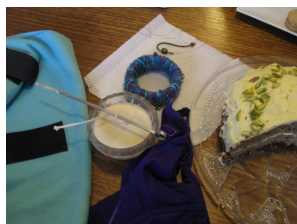
Whittlesea Council strategic planning manager George Saisanas said: "Any change to the location of the town centres and/or the retail floor space quantum will require council approval."

The increased northern town centre would be in addition to the 14,000 square metre southern town centre.

— Meagan Weymes

Craft Circle

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.



Faulty Street Lights

You may report a faulty street light via the Faults & Emergencies number – 131799 or via email on streetlight@sp-ausnet.com.au

You need to advise the street address that the light is located outside of. You must also report each light separately, and give the light identification number from each of the poles. They're easy to find on the poles, there's a metal plaque attached to each one at about face height with the number on it.

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.

Community Garden



Everyone is welcome to join the group.

Keep an eye out for future gardening events.

For more information, phone 8320 3973

ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS — email: auroracommunityassociation@gmail.com

Aurora Event planning update.

Some of you may have completed the online survey a couple of months back asking you about what community events you would like to see at Aurora. The most supported events were the following:

1. Multicultural Feast and celebration
2. Spring Garden Festival with speakers and workshops
3. Trivia Night

4. Workshops on lobbying for/ instigating social change

Other suggestions which came out of the survey included:

Wine and cheese night

Swapping of backyard produce (at spring garden festival)

Reinstatement of the coffee and chats

After the closure of the online survey a group of interested residents met (along with Tagean Hannah from VicUrban) to discuss how to move forward with the results of the Survey and to potentially form working groups. After discussing the merits of each event, funding opportunities (VicUrban- potential depending on event) and City of Whittlesea community development grants- up to \$5K) , manpower, collaboration with Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre, and levels of organisation required for the respective events, the following decisions were made by the group:

1. Reinstate Bimonthly coffee and chats will be restarted at the Cafe/ general store, run by the ACA and supported by VicUrban- two have been scheduled- 11am Saturday 20th August and 3pm Sunday 23rd October- a more detailed flyer is soon to follow.

2. Run a Trivia night- to be run in autumn as a fundraiser and social event at Epping Views PS hall. If you would like to help organise this event please get in touch with the ACA via auroracommunityassociation@gmail.com

3. Apply for the three following grants with City of Whittlesea (applications close July 21st and will be announced early November for spending up until end of 2012) and if the grant application is successful then we will then look for community members to help organise the event(s). if no support is found then the grant money will be given back to the council.

a. Workshops on lobbying for/ instigating social change- the ACA will be applying for funding to run a series of workshops for residents interested in learning how to lobby for change with politicians, organisations and others in positions of power. this is primarily targeting improving public transport in our area but will also benefit many other future causes we may choose to support. eg environmental issues, social issues, other infrastructure issues.

Jo Durst and Cara Horner have completed a City of Whittlesea grant proposal for this event. We will update you in November about the outcome of the application once it has been decided by council.

b. Spring Garden Festival- VicUrban will be continuing to run their spring market and we discussed piggybacking off this festival and organising a series of speakers/ workshops on the same day to compliment their market. The CFLC Community Garden Group is putting in for a COW grant for a permaculture gardening course and it was decided it would be better for the Garden Group to run some community workshops at the festival to showcase what they will have learnt from their course rather than the ACA put in for something similar.

c. Multicultural Feast- although the most popular event, this is also the most difficult to organise and run. Nobody was willing to help complete the grant application for the multicultural feast, so if we decide to go ahead with running an event such as this then we will have to charge people to attend rather than it being a free event.

If you are interested in helping to organise an event or have another idea for an event then please get in touch with the ACA via auroracommunityassociation@gmail.com

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

ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS — email: auroracommunityassociation@gmail.com

Shopping Precinct Epping Road and Lyndarum Drive

The information below was from given to the Association from Kathy Pompetti from City of Whittlesea. Originally it was hoped that the precinct would open mid-year but Woolworths are now aiming to open in August/September this year.

We believe there will be a mix of businesses in addition to the Woolworths supermarket in the precinct including:

Food outlets

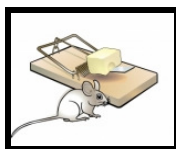
Kebabs, Asian, Fish and chips, Pizza, Indian, Bakery, Deli

Other retail outlets

Hairdresser, Pharmacy, News/lotto

There are a few premises still to be leased. Woolworths are expecting for there to be a café, but are still negotiating a signed lease. There may be an optometrist and there is some first floor office space still available.

The aim is for the precinct to be fully leased (or as close to as possible) and open when the supermarket opens in Aug/Sept.



MOUSE & RAT PROBLEM

Signs of mice and rats

Mice come out at night in search of food, and are rarely seen during the day. However, rats appear during the day and night.

Signs of rats and mice in the house include:

- gnawing
- mice droppings
- holes in walls
- a 20mm hole may indicate the location of a mouse's nest
- an 80mm hole may indicate the location of a rat's nest

Avoiding mice and rats

- Make sure you throw out all food scraps.
- Ensure all food packaging is sealed.
- Use plastic containers with lids to store grains, cereals & flour

Eliminating mice and rats

You can use poison bait to control the spread of mice or rats within your home. You can buy this from your local hardware store or supermarket. Ensure you follow the guidelines on the product packaging.

Note: Ensure people and pets do not eat the bait, and take extra care when children are in the house.

Infrastructure Update

1. Dog off leash park - am pleased to report that there are considerations for the Lyndarum Estate to be established hopefully within the next couple of months as advised by Cr Kris Pavlidis, West Ward City of Whittlesea.
2. VicUrban advised that Edgars Road will be through to Harvest Home Rd by mid 2011. We can then approach Reservoir Bus Company to come further into the estate.
3. Australia Post Box - Cara Horner and Kathy Pompetti from City of Whittlesea have been pursuing this and Australia Post are going to put a post box at the Lyndarum town centre on the corner of Lyndarum Dve and Epping Rd once the centre is complete. (Good work Cara and Kathy!)

Aurora General Store & Café

Opened 4th June 2011

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

Website update

The ACA online project 2011 was officially kicked off in May. The ACA Web team members have been putting in a lot of efforts to get the project completed as soon as possible. Currently the project is at the development stage. Once the website development is completed, the website will be moved onto the internet server for the web team to complete the contents and testing.

The final product of this project is composed of an ACA website and an ACA online forum. The benefits are:

1. People who wish to know more about the ACA can do so quickly.
2. Any new information that may come by ACA's way can quickly be posted online.
3. A central place to collect, catalogue and index outstanding issues and concerns that community may have.
4. A central place for Aurora residents to communicate with each other, rather than have separate groups of people talking in a fragmented fashion across multiple websites and forums.

Cheers
Roger Liang,
ACA Website Development Co-ordinator

Business Card Corner

Do you have a local business you would like to promote?

Our newsletter is published quarterly and for a small donation of \$10.00 per issue we will publish a business card size ad for you. The \$10.00 will be used towards producing and printing the newsletter to keep you informed about our estate and surrounding areas.

Please contact the secretary at

Aurora Community Association
Incorporation Number: A0053583T
PO Box 1354, Lalor Vic 3075
or
auroracommunityassociation@gmail.com



Hayley Lee Mobile: 0437598276
ssbeautytherapy@live.com

facebook.com/suburbanstarlet

Waxing * Tinting * Spray Tanning * Body Treatments
* Professional Make-Up and much, much more...
Hayley is based in Mernda and does mobile calls as well



Advertise in this space



BIKE SAFE

Editors Note: After a neighbour had a close call with a couple of young people on bikes without helmets, I am particularly concerned about Aurora where the streets are very narrow and there are a lot of cars parked on the roads.

Car drivers please keep a lookout for bike riders and pedestrians and bike riders and pedestrians please beware of cars!

Bike riding can be fun for

the whole family but it needs to be enjoyed safely. Bicycle safety involves developing riding skills, wearing the right protective gear and looking after your bike. Parents should teach their children about cycling safety and caring for their bike.

Cycling safely

To help your child become a safe cyclist, let them have lots of practice on safe paths while offering tips on bike handling. Basically, they should be able to ride in a straight line, brake properly and corner safely.

Ride in designated areas such as bike paths when possible. By law, children can ride on the footpath up to the age of 12. Find out if your child's school offers Bike Ed, which teaches children about road safety and cycling skills.

Helmets are compulsory

It is compulsory to wear helmets when riding a bike in Victoria. This law applies on roads, bike paths, bike lanes, shared and segregated footways, and other public places such as recreational parks and car parks. Make sure that your child always wears a helmet when riding.

Your child's helmet should be:

- * Approved - make sure the helmet carries the Standards Australia mark.
- * The right size and fitted correctly - the helmet should be comfortable and not too tight or loose. Caps should not be worn under helmets as they ruin the fit - wear a visor over the helmet to protect you from the sun. Choose a helmet that is not too heavy and provides good ventilation.
- * Positioned on the head properly - the helmet should sit level on the head, covering the forehead with the rim just above the eyebrows. The straps should be correctly adjusted and the buckle securely fastened. The straps should form a 'V' shape with the plastic strap guide sitting just under the ear lobe. The buckle should be close up under your chin.
- * Kept in good condition - if the helmet hits an object or the road, you should replace it. Don't leave a helmet exposed to direct sunlight when not in use, make sure the foam is not old and crumbling, and clean it according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Solar panel problems



Back in March I sent an email out to residents asking if anyone has had any problems with their solar panels. From talking to other residents it appears that there are a number of you who have had to pay for new panels to be installed.

I'm not sure what we can do about the issues that some of us have had with the solar panels but I think as a group we would certainly have a better voice.

If haven't already can you all please provide the following:-

Full Name

Address of Property

Serial number off your hot water service. (the serial number is very important)

I will then collate the data and talk to the Warranty Manager at Dux as well as builders and VicUrban about how we get this problem rectified.

Thankyou to those who have already provide their information.

Please contact me on 8320 9109 or 0412 774 634 or aurora3076@yahoo.com.au