

Sunrise

at **aurora**

AURORA COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER JULY 2009

Creeds Farm Village Living and Learning Centre

The Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre has commenced construction.

Developed through extensive research and consultation, the environmental and sustainable design of the building will aim to be a "green" demonstration house within the Aurora development. Importantly, the Centre aims to use activities and pre-accredited courses to engage the wider community and create the potential for further learning and development in formal and adult education.

Great news for Aurora resident's who may have not considered a start to further education or skills development. It will also offer the community a hub for social interaction, a meeting place for all to utilise and enjoy. We will keep you informed of the Centre's development in the lead up to its anticipated completion in early 2010.

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What's on in Whittlesea

Right:
Proposed community kitchen

Far right:
Proposed outlook

Below:
Creeds Farm Village Living and Learning
Centre artists impression



These plans and renders are for illustrative purposes only, are not to scale and are subject to change.



Getting to know our native flora at the *Go Wild at Aurora* evening.

How green is your lifestyle?

Aurora is regarded as one of Australia's leading developments for its 6-star energy designed homes, recycled water, habitat protection and its innovative neighbourhood design for greener living.

But what does it all mean to your home, lifestyle and making a difference to the environment?

Brian Marshall, VicUrban's Development Director for Aurora, said that it's encouraging to see many new homes in Victoria being designed and built with the environment in mind but the greater impact depends on people. "It's a new era in how we need to live. Many of us were raised in a time when we weren't aware of how our lifestyle at home impacted on the environment."

For residents at Aurora, VicUrban has introduced a Green Lifestyles program to help guide the local community on how to make the most of their home lifestyle and help the environment.

"The program is designed to enlighten and inspire residents on making the most of their 6-star energy designed home. It's also a terrific social forum for neighbours to get to know each other," explained Mr Marshall.

The Green Lifestyles program includes interactive sessions about your 6-star energy designed homes, activities for the children about Aurora's local wildlife and habitat protection programs, and workshops on how to save money on water and energy bills.

☞ If you would like to participate in the Green Lifestyles program, please email Taegan.hannah@vicurban.vic.gov.au for more information.

Our community blooms and grows

AURORA RESIDENTIAL STATISTICS AS AT 30 JUNE 2009

377 occupied homes	1017 residents (approx.)
14 homes under construction	131 lots under construction

Construction of homes will soon commence on 152 lots in Stages 8-11.



New residents Welcome Day. New neighbours meet for the first time.

Neighbours for life – begin new life at Aurora

Alan and Jill and their neighbours of 34 years, Philip and Annette, are moving to Aurora – next door to each other!

The two couples from Epping recently bought their lots and said it was an easy decision to make the move.

"We'd been considering building a new home for a while but didn't want to move out of the Epping area and more importantly away from our friends Philip and Annette," explained Alan.

Alan's neighbour Phil said that when they had decided on the move they looked at various developments in the area but were immediately taken with the Aurora community. "You could tell this was something different and the focus on community and the environmental features had us all sold. We're all really excited about our new lives ahead."

What's even more fascinating about this story is Annette and Jill went to the same school. When they first met each other as new neighbours 34 years ago they talked about their families and background and realised they had a history that went further back.

"We didn't know each other well at school but since becoming neighbours and lifelong friends we've seen our kids grow up, we both helped out at the same kindy and our kids attended the same school. We both have a son and a daughter each!" Jill told us.

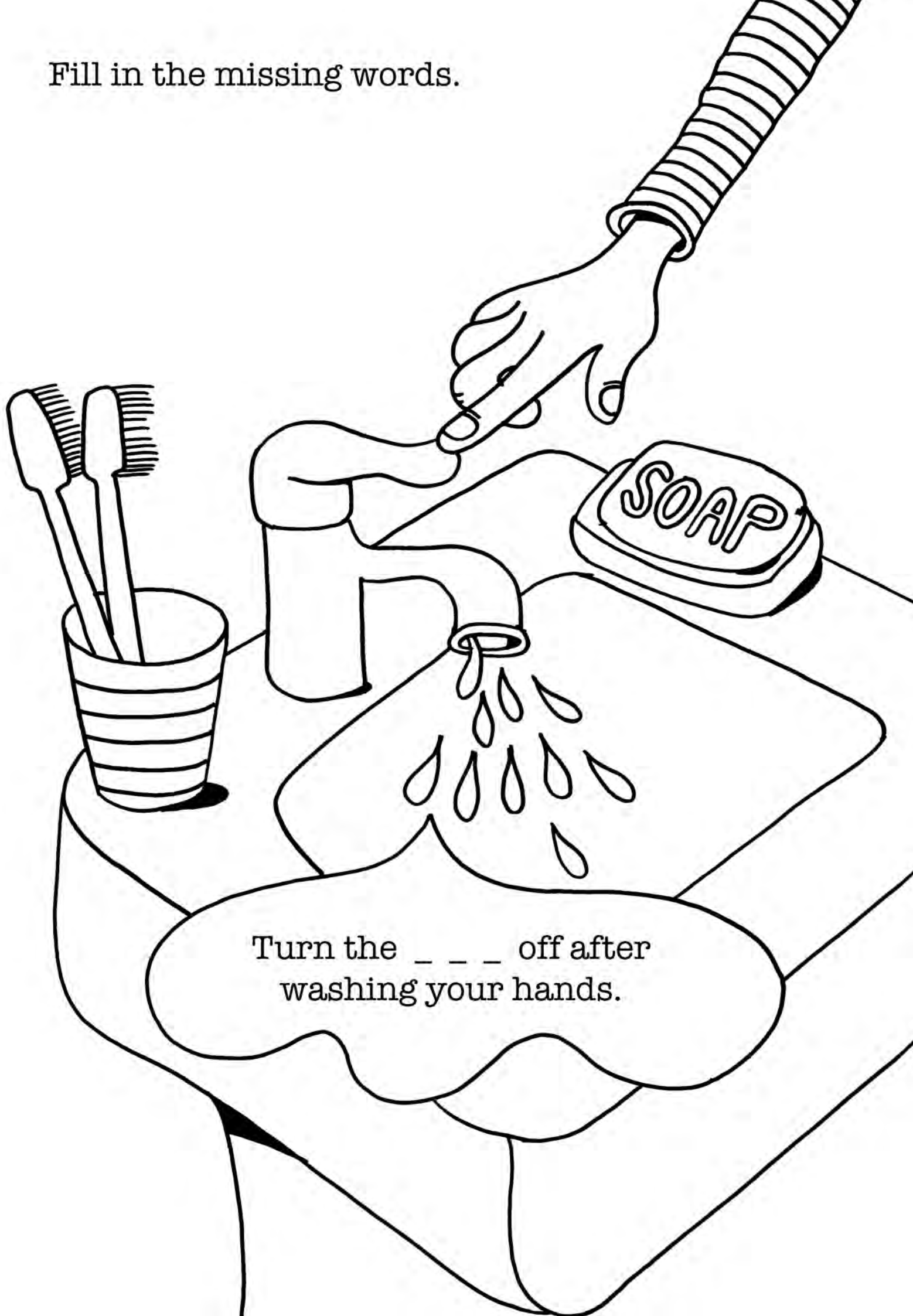
When you meet Alan, Jill, Annette and Philip, it's hard not to smile in their company. They have a great spirit. We asked the couples what has been the secret of their friendship for all these years and Annette explained it's about being there when it matters. "We're neighbours and friends but we don't live in each other's pockets. What we know is that we trust each other for the things that matter and that's a blessing to have in both a friendship and a neighbour."

The couples' homes will commence building later in the year and anticipate they can move into Aurora by mid next year.



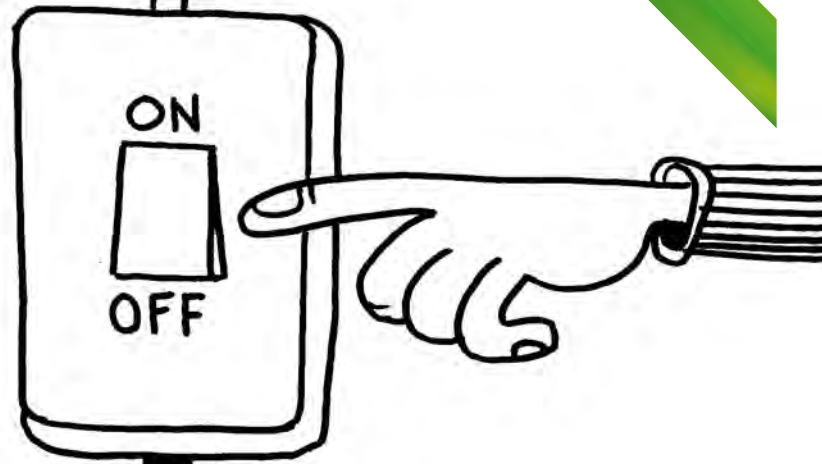
(L - R) Husband and wife Phillip and Annette join their neighbours and good friends of 34 years Jill and Alan for a walk at Aurora.

Fill in the missing words.



Turn the _ _ _ off after
washing your hands.

Kid's corner!



Turn the switch _ _ _ after
using the light.



Aurora – leading the greener way for new homes across Australia

Recently in Hobart, all State Governments met with the Prime Minister for the annual Council of Australian Governments meeting.

One of the big announcements to come out of that meeting was the agreement by all State's to work towards making it mandatory for all new homes built after 2010 to be 6-star energy efficient.

VicUrban is very supportive of the nation's move to 6-star energy rated homes but will continue to focus on the bigger picture of greener more liveable communities that go beyond the front door. This includes all the elements that have made Aurora the largest sustainable community of its kind in Australia.



Aurora Community Association

A working group of Aurora residents has begun to form an independent and incorporated association to strengthen and build the community spirit for today and for the future.

The working group has developed a Statement of Purpose with the view of incorporating the association in the near future as the "Aurora Community Association".

The association aims:

- 1 To commit to the sustainability and enhancement of the environment.
- 2 To enhance community cohesion and celebrate the life of the community.
- 3 To be a forum for decision making and to give or advocate fair and balanced representation on any issues or services pertaining to the Aurora community.
- 4 Taking a proactive role in developing and maintaining community infrastructure and services to all.
- 5 To be a conduit for sharing and communication of information and knowledge.
- 6 To promote action on matters of major concern to Aurora community such as the immediate construction of a railway line to Epping North until it is completed and operational.

The association will have a small membership fee in order to support functions and aims of the association. This will not be required until after the group has been officially incorporated but details of this will be provided at a later date.

➔ If you are interested in receiving information about future events and progress of the Aurora Community Association, please email your name with your email address to Larissa at larissahallam@gmail.com so you can be added to the email distribution list.



New homes at Aurora – for Growling Grass Frogs

The Growling Grass Frog is a nationally significant and threatened frog species that is listed as vulnerable under the federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. Populations of the frogs can be found in locations across Whittlesea including a very important colony at Aurora.



Above:
Female Growling Grass Frog.
Photo courtesy of D. Gilmore.

Right:
Zoologist Daniel Gilmore checks for
Growling Grass Frogs at Aurora.



The Growling Grass frogs at Aurora have populated an old farm dam, most likely due to drought conditions and declining water levels at nearby Edgars Creek during recent years which has isolated the frogs from other colonies and breeding grounds.

To help protect the species and its breeding, VicUrban has been working with one of Australia's leading consultancies in cultural and natural heritage management, Biosis Research, to help develop and manage new habitat for the Growling Grass Frog along Edgars Creek.

The \$1.5m conservation project will create 16 habitat ponds along Edgar's Creek, specifically designed for the habitat requirements of the Growling Grass Frog. Two of these will be developed by September in time for the next breeding season.

WHAT'S ON IN WHITTLESEA

AUGUST

National Tree Day – Community Planting Day ★

Sunday 2 August
10am–3pm

Meet at Soccer Stadium Main Carpark,
Harvest Home Road, Epping
(Melway 182 A4)

➔ For more information contact
Parks and Gardens on 9401 0524.

Create an Energy Efficient Home ★

Thursday 13 August
6.45pm–9pm

Get together with other like-minded
people in the community for a fun and
informative evening full of practical energy
saving hints for your home.

City of Whittlesea Council Offices
Fountain View Room
25 Ferres Boulevard
South Morang
(Melway 183 A10)

➔ Bookings essential:
Contact the Sustainable Homes Program
Coordinator on 8470 8373 or email
Emily@sustainablehomes.vic.gov.au or
visit www.sustainablehomes.vic.gov.au



**City of
Whittlesea**

SUSTAINABLE STAR CARD ★

Collect 4 or more 'Sustainable Stars' at events marked
with ★ to receive a free Metlink Travel ticket to the
value of approximately \$50 (conditions apply). To apply
for your Sustainable Star Card call 9217 2042 or email
sustainability@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

SEPTEMBER

Create a Sustainable Garden ★

Thursday 10 September
6.45pm–9pm

Get expert gardening tips on how to
create a healthy, sustainable garden.

City of Whittlesea Council Offices
Fountain View Room
25 Ferres Boulevard
South Morang
(Melway 183 A10)

➔ Bookings essential:
Contact the Sustainable Homes Program
Coordinator on 8470 8373 or email
Emily@sustainablehomes.vic.gov.au or
visit www.sustainablehomes.vic.gov.au

OCTOBER

Sustainable Homes Tour ★

Sunday 18 October
10am–2pm

This is your chance to see local
Sustainability champions in action! Visit
their homes and see first hand how they
have achieved significant results.

➔ Bookings essential:
Contact the Sustainable Homes Program
Coordinator on 8470 8373 or email
Emily@sustainablehomes.vic.gov.au or
visit www.sustainablehomes.vic.gov.au



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