

SUSTAINABILITY ON SHOW AT THE AURORA SPRING MARKET

The Aurora Spring Market, presented by VicUrban along with a number of local community groups on Sunday 24 October, was an enormous success.

More than 800 people attended throughout the day, drawn by 80 stall holders offering everything from gourmet foods to crafts; children's activities including face painting, pony rides and a jumping

castle; planting workshops; and a live band. Attendees also discovered how to live more sustainably and about some of the environmental and water-saving features at Aurora.



More than 800 people attended the Aurora Spring Market.

NEW INTERNET AND TELEPHONY PROVIDERS IN 2011

VicUrban and IP Systems have reached a commercial arrangement which will facilitate the introduction of new services providers.

The appointment of new suppliers has been the subject of a public tender process conducted by VicUrban; a desired outcome of which is to provide residents with increased market choice. We anticipate announcing the new service providers and an implementation timeline in early 2011. Unfortunately we are not yet in a position to provide an exact date as it is dependant on the successful conclusion of contract negotiations currently underway.

Please note that the existing Arise service arrangements will be maintained until residents select and are transferred to a new service provider. We will provide a further update early in the New Year.

To receive updates on Fibre to the Home via email, please send your email address to taegen.hannah@vicurban.vic.gov.au

CREEDS FARM HUB TAKES SHAPE

The Creeds Farm Hub is taking shape with the Living and Learning Centre now open and the commencement of construction of the convenience store, which is anticipated to open in the first half of 2011.

The Roman Catholic Trust (RCT) purchased 3.6 hectares at the Creeds Farm Hub for a primary school. VicUrban is working closely with the RCT to ensure the school is delivered as soon as possible. Plans for the new school buildings will incorporate VicUrban's restoration of two historic bluestone structures and energy efficient design elements in keeping with Aurora's sustainable design standards.

The Creeds Farm Hub will also feature a childcare centre. VicUrban has previously sought offers from the market to secure a childcare service and is soon to undertake another process now that development of the estate has created potential demand.



The Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre.

GET INVOLVED AT THE LIVING AND LEARNING CENTRE

The Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre is a community organisation that works at a 'hands on' level to provide activities and training. The centre is unique in that it was created through a collaboration of business, community agencies and government. The result of this five year project is a state-of-the-art building that also doubles as an eco-demonstration facility.

The centre is part of the Neighbourhood House sector – with community development principles underpinning its programs. While the establishment of Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre involved different parties, the organisation is independent and is governed by a board of management. Currently, the organisation employs a full-time Executive Officer, Rose Babic, and Program Coordinator, Ping Vincent.

Activities will reflect the needs of local residents, as identified through consultation, research and other data. The centre currently has a handful of activities on offer such as yoga and children's art classes. In 2011, a number of different classes and workshops are planned to gauge the community's interests. These will include computer classes, small business related activities, and a variety of health and recreational activities. The centre is also available for hire both casually and long-term.

Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre

Tues 9.30am–5.30pm

Wed 9.30am–3.30pm

Thurs 9.30am–3.30pm

Phone: 8320 3973 or visit www.cflc.org.au

AURORA COMMUNITY GARDEN - SEEKING INTERESTED RESIDENTS

Local residents met at the Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre recently to discuss the beginning of the Aurora Community Garden.

Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre have allowed some space for garden beds. Open to all in the community, the Community Garden aims not only to be a productive and attractive garden but also a place for people to share their gardening skills and meet new people.

People are needed to help with a gardening group that will assist

to guide the establishment of the garden. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to learn and be involved. We will be meeting again soon to discuss how the garden may operate and what is needed.

For more information or if you would like to be involved, please contact Ping Vincent on 8320 3973 or office@cfllc.org.au



AURORA'S GROWLING GRASS FROG POPULATION THRIVES



Aurora is home to the endangered Growling Grass Frog and VicUrban has been developing new frog habitat to foster and protect the local frog population within Aurora.

A series of frog ponds and ephemeral grasslands will be developed along Edgars Creek, running through the middle of Aurora and forming an important part of new frog habitat within the wider Epping North area.

Since the launch of Aurora's first frog ponds in September last year, VicUrban has been monitoring the number of Growling Grass Frogs and young tadpoles in the newly established habitat.

Some frogs have been carefully transported from a nearby farm dam into the new ponds, while more mature frogs have made their own way along special pathways between the two bodies of water.

The frogs are taking to their new habitat with enthusiasm and the ponds are now home to a significant breeding population. With the population dwindling throughout Melbourne, these and future projects to maintain and enhance the frog population at Aurora are invaluable.

GREEN LIFESTYLES

Many Aurora customers and residents feel proud about purchasing a home at one of Australia's biggest sustainable communities – Aurora.

VicUrban's new Green Lifestyles program aims to foster this pride and support residents in their efforts to lead a more sustainable lifestyle.

The new Green Lifestyles program follows the customer journey from introductions in the Sales Office, through to preparing to move, moving in and then living in our community.

A range of different events and information has been developed for each phase of this journey such as Aurora's Earth Hour Moonlight Cinema, Aurora's 6-Star Trivia Night and Welcome Sessions for new residents.

As part of the program, VicUrban has partnered with two local businesses to provide some attractive offers to people who are moving to Aurora. If you are about to move to Aurora and you haven't received your vouchers to upgrade to an energy efficient fridge or move the environmentally friendly way, please contact the Aurora Discovery Pavilion.

The team at Aurora is currently developing new proposals for future community events. If you have an exciting idea or would like to know more about the Green Lifestyles program please contact Taegen Hannah at VicUrban telephone 8317 3578.



The Green Lifestyles Earth Hour Moonlight Cinema event at Aurora.

COMMUNITY TRAILS NETWORK MOVES A STEP CLOSER

An exciting network of Community Trails is currently being planned for Aurora including off-road bike and pedestrian paths, outdoor fitness equipment and exercise loops.

Signage and public artworks will also be included along the trail to tell stories about the local area and the history of Aurora. Along the trail you will be able to discover how indigenous communities understood and lived on the land, the indigenous plants and animals that inhabit Aurora, and stories about the early European farmers throughout the area. You can visit the first sections of the trail from late next year, after construction is complete.



An artist's impression of what a fitness station could look like along the proposed trail network.

NORTHERN TOWN CENTRE

Plans for the expanded Northern Town Centre are taking shape with a new master plan set to be lodged with Council early in the new year.

Construction of stage one is anticipated to start in 2012 with the first community facilities expected to open in 2013. When finished the Northern Town Centre is expected to feature a large supermarket, approximately 60 speciality stores and community facilities including a government primary school and community activity centre with an early childhood focus. Medium density housing is proposed to surround the Northern Town

Centre helping to create a vibrant and popular hub for the wider community.

Plans will be available to the public for viewing at the Aurora Discovery Pavilion shortly and VicUrban will be happy to answer questions you may have including purchasing and leasing opportunities within the Northern Town Centre retail hub.



NEW LAND RELEASE

Rosella Release

Fifty-nine new affordable house and land packages along Edgars Road are anticipated to be on the market in January. A variety of home designs and sizes to suit all lifestyles and budgets will be available. Visit the Discovery Pavilion and Display Village at 1 Crimson Crescent Epping North to find out more.

Aurora Display Village 2

VicUrban has selected 11 builders for its new Display Village 2. Four of the builders will open displays from January at the new Aurora Display Village 2 in Whitelight Avenue Epping North. Providing contemporary homes at affordable prices, the remaining builders are anticipated to open by April.

ENVIRONMENTAL TIPS

KEEP COOL THIS SUMMER

By closing doors, windows, blinds and curtains early in the day, especially in rooms that get the morning sun, you can stop a lot of heat coming in to your home.

On a hot day every element in your home gradually absorbs heat. Walls, roofs, floors and outdoor surfaces all slowly heat up and store the heat until it cools down outside. By opening windows at night you can help the cooling-down process by preventing heat building up over a series of hot days.

By setting your thermostat to no less than 26°C in summer you will save on your electricity bill. For every degree less than 26°C your cooling bill should increase 10 per cent.



Set your thermostat to no less than 26°C in summer.

AURORA RESIDENTS AWARDED FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Congratulations to Aurora residents and Aurora Community Association members; Cara Horner, Steven Sansome and family; and Victoria Dillon and family.

The families won first and second place respectively at the City of Whittlesea's 2010 Sustainable Living Awards in the Homes category. The families were recognised for adopting behaviours to minimise water and energy consumption, reusing and recycling and choosing environmentally friendly products for their home.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Australia Day Celebrations

Wednesday 26 January, 6-9.30pm

Grounds of the Council Offices, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

An evening of free family entertainment presented by the City of Whittlesea. Bring your picnic basket or check out the local food vendors. Kids entertainment includes a jumping castle, face painting and kids art workshops. New citizens will also be welcomed and local citizens honoured with the presentation of the annual Australia Day Awards. The night concludes with a spectacular fireworks finale.

For more information, contact the City of Whittlesea.



Bring a picnic to celebrate Australia Day.



IN PROFILE

Rose Babic

Executive Officer
Creeds Farm Living and
Learning Centre

1. Describe your role at the Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre?

I came onboard as the Executive Officer last July. My role has included developing the organisation, supervising construction and managing the day to day affairs of the centre.

2. What attracted you to that role?

The collaborative project is unique and I'm interested to discover the trends and developments of the urban growth of Melbourne.

3. If you could be anything in the world what would you be?

I'm pretty happy with who I am now.

4. If you could change anything in the world what would you change?

The disempowerment of women in some cultures is a start.

5. My last meal on earth would be...

A big bowl of home made pasta!

6. Favourite way to spend a Sunday...

Eating and walking my way through this fabulous city.

7. Most embarrassing moment...

Unfortunately I tend to embarrass myself fairly often!

8. Most treasured possession...

My three sisters.

9. If you could time travel when would you travel to?

The Byzantine era – for the artwork, regal feasts and architecture.

10. If you had a million dollars you'd...

Be on a yacht in the Mediterranean.

aurora
by VicUrban ▶▶

Contact details

Aurora
1 Crimson Crescent, Epping North 3076
Phone 131 852