

Aurora Community Association General Meeting Minutes

Date: Wed 15th May 2013

Venue: Epping Views Primary School, 20 Mansfield Street Epping North

Time: 7.30pm-9.10pm

Attendees: Ash, Geraldine, Melinda, Thomas, Tony, Simon, Lucille, Stuart, Cara, Nikki, Amanda, Bianca, Bharani, Karen, Kerry, Lindsay, Ankim, Ruth, Sri, Toni-Marie.

Apologies: Kathleen, Nam, Avantha, Mary, Sarathy.

1. Welcome (Toni-Marie)

- Toni-Marie said Welcome to Country and welcomed attendees as well as special guest speakers Kathy Pompetti, Tanya Nacarov and Emma Shelton from the City of Whittlesea and Marita Bassett from Scouts Australia.

2. Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting (Toni-Marie)

- Thomas accepted previous meeting minutes, Tony seconded them.

3. Briefing from the President (Toni-Marie)

- Very busy in the past few months. Grassfire really increased the load on the ACA, with a number of community meetings held at local venues to let people debrief with Red Cross, Council, CFA and ACA in attendance. Also had representatives from the office of the fire commissioner at our last coffee and chat in April to speak with people.
- Roads came out as a big issue after the fires and the transport working group has been working hard on the community's behalf making budget submissions, meeting with politicians, council etc. They will give a more detailed briefing later.
- Wollert Market has offered the ACA a free market stall once a month so we can connect with the community- if you are interested in manning the stall please let us know.
- On a positive note, as will be spoken about by Kathy Pompetti later on, the Lyndarum kindergarten will open its 3 rooms next year and Aurora's own Community Activity Centre (CAC) now has its proposed plans available for people to look at (will be near the corner of Harvest Home Rd and Edgars Rd).
- FTTH VCAT proceedings – still proceeding! They have their next hearing next week, we will keep you updated on progress. We've had a number of meetings with politicians including Craig Ondarchie MP, Matthew Guy MP (Planning Minister) and Andrew Giles (new Federal Labour candidate for Scullin replacing Harry Jenkins). We have a meeting scheduled with Bronwyn Halfpenny MP tomorrow.
- Regarding the new McDonalds /Service Station on the corner of Harvest Home Rd and Epping Rd, the development did not include an upgrade to the HHR/ Epping Road intersection as part of its permit. It is a requirement for Places Victoria (who are the developer of the Aurora Estate) to build traffic lights/ turning lanes at this intersection and plans are still going through council. As the development is generally in accordance with the Epping North East Development Plan, it was exempt from the usual advertising requirements in the community.
- We are just about to send off a letter to Places Victoria in partnership with the Creeds Farm Community Garden Group to ask for a community garden space to be planned for and set aside for the community in a future land release.
- We had one community consultation group with Places Victoria and another is expected soon.
- We are having drop in sessions at Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre on the first and third Friday of the month (9-10.30am) in May and June. Come down for a chat and a coffee if you are around!

4. Membership/ New Rules/ AGM (Cara)

New Rules

- There have been some major legislative changes which have affected Incorporated Associations. One of the major effects of these changes are that Incorporated Associations have to update their rules by the end of November this year. If they are not updated by the end of November the Association is then assumed to have accepted the 'new' model rules by Consumer Affairs Victoria (Department of Justice) and they automatically start to apply to the Association.
- The ACA committee have been busy reviewing the 'new' model rules which we are encouraged to adopt. These are a vast improvement on the 'old' model rules which the ACA ended up modifying (modernising) when we incorporated.
- The committee will make a final version of the rules they think we should adopt and at the start of the AGM members will be voting on whether to accept these new rules in a special resolution. All members will be sent details of the new rules prior to the meeting.
- Only 2012-13 FY paid up members will be able to vote on the new rules. These new rules will then apply to the running of our AGM.
- Tony added that we are also planning to change our statement of purposes to make it more inclusive and not just focussed on Aurora Community (ie change Aurora references to Epping North and Wollert)



- Toni-Maire mentioned that we will be sticking with the name Aurora Community Association for now but we may change it in future in reflection of the broader community focus (it's a big job to change our name)

AGM is coming up – Wednesday 24th July 7.30pm here at Epping Views PS.

- The ACA was incorporated in September 2009 as a means for residents to become involved in the community.
- Each year at our Annual General Meeting, members must nominate and vote in an **Executive Committee** from our members to oversee the running of the ACA.
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - 3 x General Committee Members (in future this number can be changed by vote at an AGM)
- **Without a functioning committee the ACA will cease to function.**
- You need to be a current member (sign up at least 10 days prior to the AGM) to be on the committee and you should indicate your interest to be nominated for a position prior to the AGM.
- **Would you like to be on the ACA committee?** If so, email enquiry@aurora.asn.au to arrange a discussion or chat with us tonight

Membership

- We are **always open to new members**, with membership open to anyone in the Epping North or Wollert area. Only together can we make our community a great place to live. First year membership is \$20 or \$15 depending upon what time of year you sign up (\$10 a year admin fee and a \$10 membership fee (\$5 Jan- June)).
- All ACA memberships, regardless of when you signed up to be a member, are renewed at the start of the new financial year (usually at AGM). Membership is currently \$10 per year.
- To be able to vote at the AGM you need to be a current member (ie paid up before the AGM).
- **Membership fees support the ACA in their ongoing community engagement activities.** The ACA has a number of annual costs that need to be met to keep the Association functioning, such as public liability insurance, incorporation fees, website costs and event costs. Annual membership fees cover some of these costs, thereby reducing the amount of fundraising that needs to occur, thus keeping the Association alive.

5. Community Support Services in City of Whittlesea

- a) Kathy Pompetti- Community Development Officer- Epping North- City of Whittlesea
 - Wollert Market is on 4th Saturday of the month make sure you go down and check it out!
 - [Home and Community care](#)- services provided to help people to continue living independently and safely in their own home.
 - Family and community services centre will open in Lyndarum in Aug-Sep 2013 1.5 staff FTE at beginning. Kinder opening 2014. Also perhaps counsellors and other support services will be available in smaller consulting rooms.
 - Proposed plans for Aurora's own Community Activity Centre (CAC) were shown – near the corner of Harvest Home Rd and Edgars Rd. Includes 3 kinder rooms, halls, kitchen.
 - Family and Youth Training calendar is available in hard copy or [online](#)
 - There are a number of play groups in the Epping North area- two at Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre (Monday and Thursday mornings) and at Epping Views Primary School
 - Community Development Grants are open but closing Monday 20th May
 - There are a number of community service agencies working in Whittlesea City, they can be found on the [Community Referral Poster](#)
 - Council has a list of sporting clubs in the municipality
 - There is a [Multicultural Film Festival](#) in May- June run by City of Whittlesea which includes Filipino, Chinese mandarin and Indian films and activities on different days. Costs \$5.50 per person and is being held at Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre (out back of Council offices) Melway 183 A10
 - Volunteer week is on right now
 - Kathy can be contacted on 9404 8846 or email kathy.pompetti@whittlesea.vic.gov.au Work days: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
- b) Tanya Nacarov and Emma Shelton- City of Whittlesea Youth Services
 - Work in local area- Epping/ Epping north
 - Youth Services Team, Baseline for young people, offers a range of services to help local young people actively participate in their community.
 - Young people from all backgrounds and abilities are invited to take part and get involved in everything they do.
 - Baseline designed for 12-18 year olds
 - Baseline provides support to young people, youth groups, parents, and other agencies that work with young people.
 - Focuses on team building, self esteem, confidence etc
 - Have been running activities out of Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre including cooking, art, music, dance, sports, movie nights, dinners etc. The attendance at these sessions have been poor so please let people know about the services

- There is a Youth Services Shop/ drop in centre at Plenty Valley Shopping Centre called EDGE-Shop MM1, 415 McDonalds Rd & Civic Dr Mill Park. 9404 8800
 - Young people can get involved through:
 - contacting [Youth Development Officers at EDGE](#)
 - [Youth Krews](#)
 - participating in a [youth group](#)
 - attending youth [events and programs](#)
 - joining their [Facebook group or mailing list](#)
 - Tanya and Emma showed us a very clever DVD on youth services in the City of Whittlesea made by youth involved in Baseline
 - Emma and Tanya then did a couple of fun activities with attendees to give people an idea about what kinds of things they do with youth members.
 - They finally showed us a short video on The Pavilion School which has a campus at EDGE in Mill Park and also in Preston.
 - It is an alternative to regular school for youth not going to school.
 - The Pavilion School aims to re-engage young people who are currently disengaged from any form of education, by providing students with a relevant and individually tailored education program.
 - Classes are 2 hrs long, 6-8 kids a class with 2 teachers a session plus counsellors available.
 - Students attend for 2 days a week and there are also another 2 days of electives they can also enrol in. Regular electives include; art, dance, film, gym, boxing, photography, girls self-defence, horticulture, information and communication technology, drug and alcohol education, mental health awareness and anger management.
 - You can find out more at <http://thepavilionschool.com.au/>
 - The Youth Services Team can be contacted on 9404 8800 or email baseline@whittlesea.vic.gov.au
- c) Marita Bassett- Group Leader, 1st Epping Scout Group
- Group is based in Epping, near to the memorial hall- Cnr Memorial Avenue & Duffy Street Epping
 - They have 42 youth members and 10 leaders with the following programs running:
 - [Joey Mob \(6-7 years\)](#)
 - [Cub Pack \(8-10 years\)](#)
 - [Scout Troop \(10-14 years\)](#)
 - [Venturer Unit \(14-17 years\)](#)
 - Focus on teaching life skills, learning by doing
 - There has recently been a Doreen group start up. Epping North is also a possibility if there is interest from the community.
 - You can go along and try out Scouts for free- first 3 nights obligation free/ no cost
 - \$290 annual fee, possibility of fee reductions for struggling families.
 - Marita can be contacted on 0409 997 714 or through the Scouts Victoria Website: <http://www.vicscouts.com.au/epping-1st.html>

6. Transport working group update- Tony Francis, ACA Executive committee member

- Tony's been working on satirical posters highlighting our need for a train line along our public transport corridor in a light hearted way
- Tony has been living in the estate for 5.5 years and has been campaigning for better public transport for most of that time. We have seen a slight improvement in bus services (increased frequency a few years back) but nothing else.
- There was nothing in State or Federal budgets for Epping North- roads or public transport
- Stuart asked a question about what they are calling the public transport corridor these days? (Future Transport Corridor?) He said that the Victorian Government transport planning is insulting.
- The group is currently working on an action plan and has been actively lobbying state and federal governments for road and transport improvements.
- If you wish to get involved in the TWG then please get in touch and we can let you know when we are next meeting.

7. Any Other Business

There was no other business raised.

8. Closure and date of next meeting

- Meeting closed 9.10pm
- Upcoming meetings:
 - FREE Coffee and Chat Saturday 22nd June 10.30am
 - Annual General Meeting Wednesday 24th July 7.30pm
 - ACA Drop in sessions at CFLLC- 1st and 3rd Friday in May and June