

Hello Epping North residents,

Welcome to the winter edition of the Aurora Community Association (ACA) newsletter.

ACA members and Epping North residents have been involved in organising and participating in numerous activities over the past 6 months:

- A very enjoyable and successful trivia night fundraiser for the ACA;
- Two general meetings, with guest speakers including Victoria from BZE;
- Two very successful free Coffee and Chat events held at Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre (CFLLC) with Kris Pavlidis and Kathy Pompetti from City of Whittlesea speaking and also Danielle Green MP attending;
- The creation of the Epping Pet Owners Club;
- Support of a group of residents/ ACA members in their quest to negotiate a fair outcome for provision of FTTH services through taking legal proceedings against Places Victoria in VCAT (ongoing);
- ACA member working groups advocating on behalf of the community by:
 - * Meeting with Craig Ondarchie (State Liberal MP) in regards to the provision of suitable public transport and road infrastructure to our area;
 - * Continuing to write letters to newspapers in regards to the state of our roads and public transport;
 - * Continuing liaison with Places Victoria in relation to the FTTH issues and transition to new FTTH service providers in the lead up to Arise ceasing provision of FTTH services to the Aurora estate;
 - * Organising a petition for owners of Dux SunPro solar hot water units that are/ have been faulty to sign to try to get a fair outcome for affected residents (ongoing);
 - * Investigating whether a *Power Group Purchase* could save residents money on electricity/ gas bills (ongoing); and
 - * Starting the process to set up a local Neighbourhood Watch group, including an article in the Northern Weekly.

It is very exciting to see so many great initiatives being driven by our community members- the ACA is a great way for people with similar interests and ideas to come together and work towards common goals. Thank you to all of those people involved in organising and participating in the above projects- they have all been great community driven initiatives!

It's the start of the new financial year and for the ACA that means our **Annual General Meeting (AGM) is coming up on Wednesday 25th July 2012**. Each year at our AGM, members must nominate and vote in an Executive Committee to oversee the running of the ACA for the upcoming year (or even two). Without a functioning committee the ACA will cease to function. If you value the grass roots, community driven work our Association does then please consider sitting on our committee for a year. If you are interested (even vaguely!), email enquiry@aurora.asn.au to arrange a discussion.

I would also like to sincerely thank the current executive committee members for their dedication, commitment and tireless work in their roles for the past year: Goran Zdravkovski (Treasurer), Lisa Hall (Secretary), Steven Sansome (Public Officer), Kathleen Ager (Ordinary Member) and Carly Martyn (Ordinary Member). Vice President and one other ordinary member position were not filled last financial year.

Table of Contents

1. A note from the President
2. Trivia night
3. Power Group Purchasing, Epping Pet Owners Group
4. Community Garden and Craft Circle
5. Neighbourhood watch, Summerhill Estate, Wallaby Childcare coming soon.
6. AGM notice

Dates to put in your diary

July

-Wed 25th July-

ACA Annual General Meeting, CFLLC, 7.30pm

-Thurs 26th- CFLLC story time for Pre-schoolers, 11am

-Sun 29th – CFLLC Community Garden, 10.30am

August

-Thurs 16th - Whittlesea City Neighbourhood Watch, 7:30 pm
Lalor Library Conference Room, 2A May Road Lalor

Our full back catalogue of newsletters can be found on our website at <http://www.aurora.asn.au/downloads/aca-newsletters/>

If you would like newsletters emailed to you please send your request to newsletter@aurora.asn.au

Remember if you get the newsletter by snail mail to recycle where possible



Continued from page 1

There are other ways you can be involved apart from being on the executive committee. We need:

- Letter box droppers periodically for delivering this newsletter and other flyers advertising upcoming events;
- People to add content to the newsletter and ACA website;
- People who can help organise and run events (in a group) for either fundraising or pure socialising such as a trivia night, car boot sale or social events like BBQs; wine and cheese nights etc.
- A motivated person to coordinate and manage fundraising efforts, including advertisements on the ACA website (ideally as part of ordinary committee member role); and
- Local Campaign Work for local issues eg. public transport, roads, infrastructure

Please get in touch via enquiry@aurora.asn.au if you are keen to be involved.

We have a wonderfully vibrant and friendly multicultural community here in Epping North. Every week I am impressed with something one of our members or working groups is doing, often for the benefit of the whole Epping North community. I am so proud to be a part of our community and am honoured to have had the opportunity to be Vice President and President of the ACA in the last few years. Congratulations to all involved on what we have achieved so far as community and I look forward to continuing to be involved with the ACA for many years to come.

I hope to see you at our AGM on the 25th July.

Warm Regards

Cara Horner
Outgoing President

Trivia night a great night out

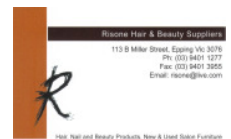
Healthy competition, good humour, spare change to buy the answers to tricky questions and a bit of luck all contributed to a fun night that was had by all participants of our inaugural ACA Trivia Night held on Saturday night (24th March 2012).

The ACA raised just under \$700- a little under what we need to pay for our public liability insurance. This is a fantastic result given we had 5 tables competing on the night!

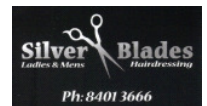
The ACA would like to sincerely thank the people who attended the night, those who couldn't attend but who generously donated some money to the cause, our sponsors/ supporters (see logos below), the organising committee (especially ACA Secretary Lisa Hall who organised much of it) and of course our MC/ Quiz Master, Gary, who most generously donated his time to the evening.

We really did have a great night and we hope that next year we will see more people attending the trivia night- its a great way to meet your neighbours and make some new friends in the neighbourhood (or just catch up with your own friends). And most importantly- its all for a good cause.

Attached below is a photo of our winning table (all local residents)- clearly happy with their win!



Danielle Green, MP



City of Whittlesea



POWER IN NUMBERS

You have all heard that there is power in numbers, but perhaps never so literally. As the price of gas and electricity are set to increase with the price on carbon, getting together as residents of a community such as Aurora or beyond, might allow us to bargain to offset this added expense.

A group of Aurora residents are currently examining options to bargain by buying energy in bulk. Powergroup purchasing, a body which negotiates better terms for community organisations, has been approached, but other options are also being examined. The plan is not only to get power at a better price, but to ensure flexibility for members to adopt or maintain green options.

However, the greater the number of people the group represents, the better the bargaining power. Once an offer comes through, there is no obligation to accept, but it is important to be able to show that the group has community backing.

If you are interested in strengthening the Aurora Community's bargaining position for cheaper power, please contact us at <http://www.doodle.com/b9x6aqa5p5hkpvcz>. Thank you for helping us to help you.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR GENERAL STORE

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

Advertising your business on our website

There are two ways which you can presently advertise your business on the Aurora Community Association website:

1. FREE Local Business Directory

Listing your business in the Aurora Community Association website Local Business Directory is **FREE** for businesses and retailers *physically* based within the Aurora Community Association boundary as defined in our [area map](#) (NB they can service outside the boundary as well as inside).

Businesses or retailers physically located *outside* of this boundary, whom offer services to residents within the boundary, can list their business in the ACA website Local Business Directory for \$10 a month, payable annually.

2. Premium Advertisement (Paid)

Premium advertisements in 2012 cost \$10 per month, *billed quarterly* for the upcoming 3 months. They include:

-Business logo featured on home page (automatically scrolls through all advertisers) and link to full page advertisement
-Full page advertisement linked from business directory and logo on home page which includes:

- Business logo
- Product and Service Description, including PDF attachments such as menus or price lists
- Contact details (address, telephone, fax, email addresses, social media links)
- Website link

This is a great way to connect with local residents and support your community association at the same time!

<http://www.aurora.asn.au/advertise-your-business/>

Epping Pet Owners Club

Hello Epping Pet Owners!

Some of our local residents (Dan & Kerry Rudolph) are setting up the Epping Pet Owners Club, with the purpose of enabling pet owners to meet like-minded people, share photos and stories, and have a place to go for advice regarding their pets. For example, a number of people are hoping to be able to organise dog socialising times at the off lead park.

A closed facebook group has been set up (changed from the original facebook page for privacy). Facebook Groups require an invite to join, so please search for a friend "Dan Zilla" (my profile for EPOC admin) and I will invite you to the group!

Thanks!

Epping Pet Owners Club



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. There has been necklace beading, clothes dying, sewing a dog coat, candle making, bangle decorating, 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 **Places Victoria** whatsoever. We are an independent community-based organisation aimed at improving our area. As such, we are free to pursue our own aims.

Community Garden



The Creeds Farm Community Garden commenced in 2011 with a small group of Epping North residents working with Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre. We have purchased and installed three raised garden beds. The garden is a work in progress and is directed and maintained entirely by volunteers. Anyone can be a volunteer in the garden, it is free to join and you just need to fill in a membership form and take part in an induction. The garden is a communal garden, with volunteers coming together to share in the harvest.

We meet on the last Sunday of the month 10.30am-12pm for our working bee at Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre.

Email cflc.garden@gmail.com if you would like more information.
(by Brad Costin, Garden Coordinator)



Do you want to know more about the area you live in?

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 and connect with our friendly, welcoming community.

To become a member go to <http://www.aurora.asn.au/join-today/> to find out more and download the membership form.

Check out our informative, regularly updated website for news and local information at <http://www.aurora.asn.au>.

Find us on Facebook /auroracommunity and Twitter @auroraeping

To be included in our e-newsletter and email distribution list please click on the newsletter sign up link on the front page of our website and complete your details or email your details to enquiry@aurora.asn.au.

ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS — email: enquiry@aurora.asn.au or go to <http://www.aurora.asn.au>



Neighbourhood Watch Epping North NEEDS YOU

Currently we have a coordinator and an assistant coordinator who are keen on building a group of residents to participate in the operation of a NW Epping North (Aurora Estate). Involvement would be to meet every month or 2 months and discuss what criminal activities are taking place and what we can do to provide awareness and preventative initiatives to the community. With newsletters distributed via Whittlesea City Neighbourhood Watch and our very own ACA newsletter, its a matter of submitting information to both of these groups to keep the residents up to date. There are also links that residents can use to find out further information.

It's also about feeling safe within our community when we are walking our pooch or walking home from anywhere, day or night. I know in other suburbs day or night residents are paranoid walking around. If we can get a working group organised NOW, at least as the community grows over the next 20 years, we can have hope that our neighbourhood will be safe. Without any support, we are all on our own. So consider whether or not it is important to you to have a NW group and whether you can spare roughly 1-3 hours within a 2 month period which would include attending a meeting, letterbox drops & potential fund raisers.

If so, then please contact enquiry@aurora.asn.au and your details will be passed on to Lisa M. (by Lisa Mifsud)

Summerhill Park

The children of Epping North have been jumping with joy with the recent completion of Summerhill's main parkland spaces.

Summerhill Park (On Northside Drive, near Harvest Home Road) features covered picnic areas, wide open spaces and a beautiful new playground complete with swings, slides and a tractor.

Now officially open to the residents and the community, the occasion was celebrated with an informal family barbeque on Saturday 25 February.

The local CFA Wollert were also in attendance, tending the barbeque and showcasing the latest GPS navigation units, that had recently been purchased with the generous support of Summerhill and Evolve Development.

It was great to see many residents of Epping North and their friends and family drop by in to mark this occasion.



Wallaby Childcare under construction

Wallaby Childcare centre in the Aurora Estate, Epping North, (Corner of Redding Rise and Shimmer St in Creeds Farm Precinct) has started construction!

Operations Manager for Wallaby Childcare, Sarah Tullberg, provided the ACA with the following information on the centre:

The centre will cater for 150 children per day.

Room sizes:

12	0-12 months
16	1-2 years
16	18 months – 2.5 years
16	2-3 years
30	3 year olds
30	4 year old kindergarten and long day care
30	School Age before and after school care and possibly session kindergarten if there is a demand.

There will be 4 play yards –

- One for school age
- One for 3-5 years
- One for 2-3 years
- One for under 2 years

There will be a focus on natural yards and resources with sustainability in mind including a 5000 litre underground water tank

The centre is due to open at the beginning of January 2013 and will be taking expressions of interest for families and staff- via Internet – www.wallabychildcare.com.au
Phone – 1300 150 995



Aurora Community Association Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 25th July 7.30pm

Venue: Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre
Corner Redding Rise and Snugburgh Way Epping North
Time: 7.30 – 9.00pm
Light refreshments provided

RSVP: for catering purposes by 5pm Monday 23rd July 2012 to:
<http://www.doodle.com/9wsnk88i284uqtp>

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Each year at our Annual General Meeting, members must nominate and vote in an **Executive Committee** to oversee the running of the ACA.

Without a functioning committee the ACA will cease to function.

Would you like to be on the ACA committee? If so, email enquiry@aurora.asn.au to arrange a discussion.

This year, we will have **special guest speakers** from educational facilities soon to be opened in the Creeds Farm precinct of Epping North-

- Father Maurie Cooney from Mary of the Cross MacKillop **Catholic Primary School** &
- Raylene Mac Manus from **Wallaby Childcare**

They will both tell us a little about their facilities and how construction is progressing.

We also hope to also be able to introduce you to the new centre manager for Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre on the night (TBC).

There are also **other opportunities** for members to become involved in the ACA apart from being on the executive committee. We are always looking for volunteers to help with roles such as newsletter drops, website updates, local campaign work, fund raising and organisation of social events.

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.

The AGM is the perfect opportunity to **sign up as an ACA member**. Membership costs \$20 in the first year (\$10 Joining Fee + \$10 Annual membership) & \$10 annually thereafter.

Current members should renew their membership at the AGM. All ACA memberships are renewed annually in July regardless of the time of year membership of the Association initially occurred.

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