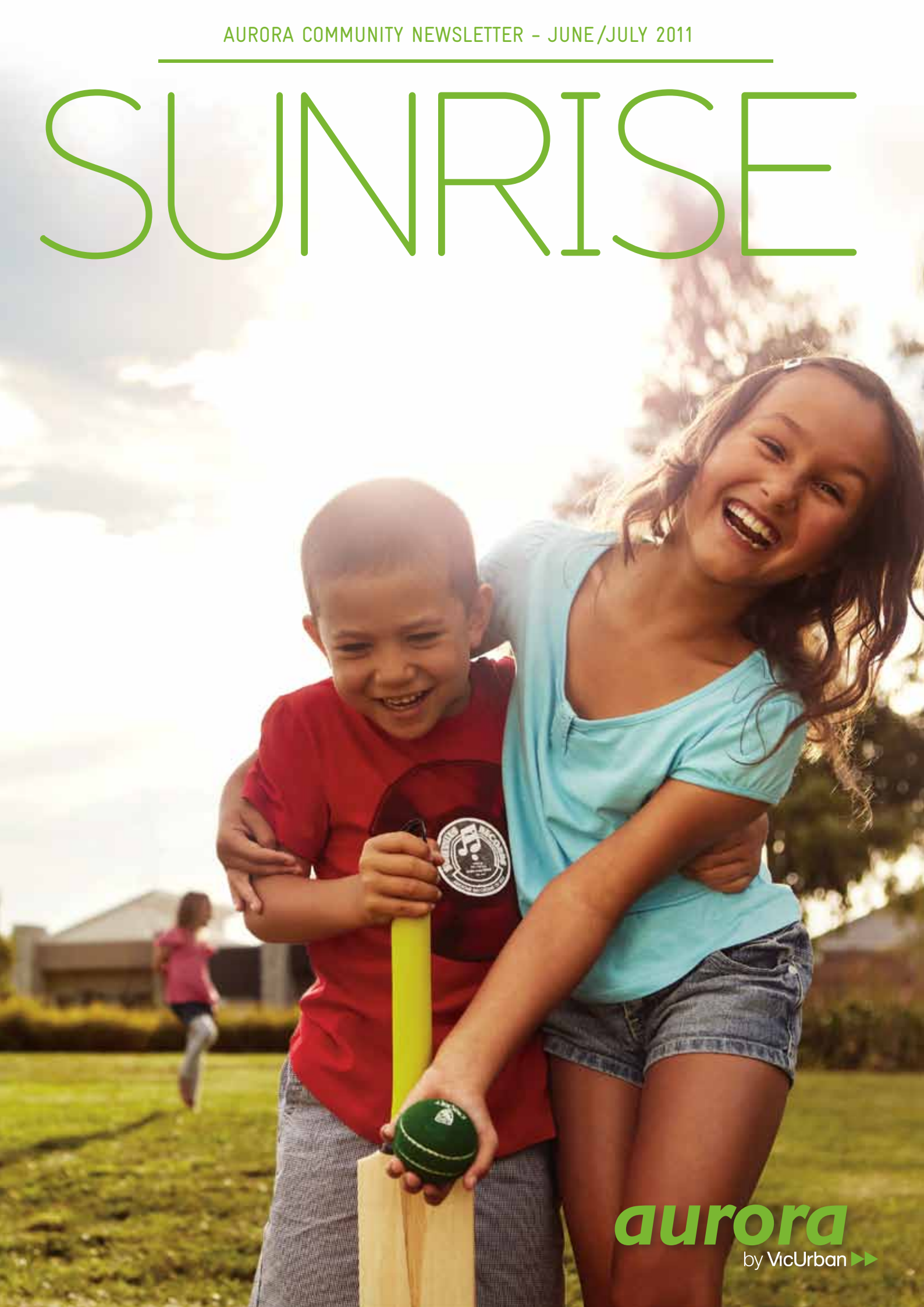


SUNRISE





^ Aurora General Store owners Bill and Norma Abdallah
< The new Aurora General Store

AURORA GENERAL STORE & CAFÉ, NOT JUST A PLACE TO BUY MILK

A jam-packed day full of activities and friendly characters launched the new convenience store **‘with a twist’** at Aurora – VicUrban’s flagship sustainable development.

Aurora General Store, offering a fully-catered café, delicatessen and mini supermarket services, opened its doors to the public on 4 June, 2011.

“Residents at Aurora won’t have to drive far to get their everyday goods. This store/ café will not only cater to the community, but will become an excellent point of contact for residents to meet and socialise with their families, children and neighbours” said Rob Vines, General Manager Urban Communities, VicUrban.

Owners, Bill and Norma Abdallah and their four children, who recently moved to Aurora, were thrilled to be able to open their business with a bang in their own community.

“Paddle-pop the Lion and friends were there to join the launch festivities. Face-painting and other activities definitely kept the children happy,” said Bill Abdallah.

Bill and Norma have worked in the store/café industry for a number of years, previously opening cafés in Derrimut and Caroline Springs, so they are well experienced in providing multi-services in one location.

“The Aurora General Store provides all the normal services plus greeting cards and newspapers. The café has an onsite chef and an extensive breakfast and lunch menu. When the kitchen closes there are baristas making coffee and pre-made foccacias and bread (delivered daily) on sale till closing time.

“The store also has a mini deli section providing cold meats and cheeses” said Bill.

Bill and Norma Abdallah are happy to not only be living near their business, but to also be living in Aurora as a community.

“Aurora is such a great place for families. It is a new area and it’s growing. We moved here because we saw an opportunity for setting up our business, but we could also see a bright future for our children. We just love the green atmosphere and parks in the area,” said Bill.

Aurora General Store opening hours:
Monday to Friday 6.30am-9.30pm
Café opening hours from 6.30am-3pm

Weekend Opening Hours:
Saturday 7am-9.30pm
Sunday 7.30am-9.30pm

MOONLIGHT CINEMA FOR EARTH HOUR 2011 – A SUCCESS!

On Saturday 26 March, more than 250 people ventured out to attend the outdoor screening of *Toy Story 3* at Aurora Park.

The full turnout was a certain sign of the growing community spirit at Aurora. This well-attended event was a great celebration, and good example of what VicUrban has achieved, and the purchase decision of many residents to become part of a 'green community'.

Everyone chanted the Earth Hour countdown and cheered as an over-sized light switch was flicked off by local children from around Aurora.

As part of the Green Lifestyles Program, the event fostered pride for local residents and also attracted many people from outside the estate – to promote Aurora as an exciting and sustainable project.



AURORA'S GROWLING GRASS FROG

In the previous *Sunrise* we featured the Growling Grass Frogs in their grassland home along Edgars Creek. In this issue we touch on the new frog breeding program.

By the start of the latest breeding season in September last year, the frogs had taken to their grassy habitat well, and in November a relocation project had begun.

During this time the frogs were moved in stages to allow time for their capture, and to enable the completion of a breeding season within their current home.

Captured by nets during the day, the tadpoles were first to move in November – December. They were followed by the young and mature frogs in December – May. The older frogs were captured during the night when they are most active.

In early January, after the tadpoles were first released, VicUrban monitored the young frogs

at the newly created ponds for approximately six weeks. The ongoing monitoring of the frogs in the new ponds suggested that the move was a successful one.

For the frogs to keep flourishing in their new habitat, it depends on looking after the habitat properly, as well as creating new ones for more frogs to live happily.

VicUrban would like to remind Aurora residents to remain active in protecting the Edgars Creek corridor, and particularly not to introduce any fish to the water – one of the biggest threats to the frogs.

To date, 2000 tadpoles and more than 500 Growling Grass Frogs have been successfully relocated to their new habitat.



^ Capturing Frogs with nets

AURORA'S NEW DISPLAY VILLAGE LAUNCHED



A successful family day receiving a whopping 2000 visitors recently launched Aurora's new Display Village (DV2) at Aurora .

The free fun on the day included colourful and entertaining shows by Angelina Ballerina, a jumping castle, pony rides, face-painting, a free BBQ lunch, trackless train, a roving balloonist, planting workshops and animal petting farm.

The new display village demonstrates how Aurora's design is the latest in sustainable living to suit a diverse range of lifestyles for a better life.

People can choose from 6, 7 and 8-star designed energy-efficient homes that use less energy to cool or heat all year round.

The other sustainable features at Aurora include: recycled water at homes for laundry, watering gardens and washing cars; water sensitive urban design to treat water before it enters our drains and ultimately our creeks and rivers and biodiversity improvements around Edgars Creek, 20 km of planned walking and cycling trails, and 135 hectares of open parkland.

YOGA CLASSES AT CREEDS

Finally you don't have to travel far to enjoy the benefits of yoga.

Creeds Farm Living & Learning Centre (CFLLC) is hosting Hatha Yoga on Tuesday evenings 7:15-8:15pm on the corner of Snugburgh Way and Redding Rise.

For beginners, Hatha Yoga is a good style of yoga to introduce the asanas (postures) and pranayama (breath work) that induce balance and calm.

This ancient practice is an ideal form of exercise for the evening, as it releases the tensions of the day. Long-term benefits include reduced stress and anxiety levels, and increased feelings of calm and well-being

Yoga instructor Nathan Elijah is an experienced yoga teacher and an injury prevention and rehabilitation consultant. Saturday afternoon classes may develop if enough interest is shown. Classes are \$10/\$8 and you can book ahead, or come along on the night. Bring your own yoga mat or towel.



For further information please contact the centre on 8320 3973

AN ORGANIC GARDEN TO SHARE

Aurora residents have recently been working with Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre (CFLLC) staff to create a special group dedicated to looking after the CFLLC Community Garden.

The CFLLC Community Garden Group consists of: Angela Barbaro as co-ordinator, Dave Sharley as the treasurer and other members include Brad Costin, Lianne Gee and Cara Horner.

The vision for the CFLLC Community Garden is: An organic garden for the local community to meet and share ideas managed and driven by the community. All are welcome to harvest crops and enjoy the space.

The Community Garden Group has been fortunate to secure enough funding from VicUrban and the City of Whittlesea. This money will be used to raise and split the large garden bed, next to the CFLLC building, into four smaller beds for better access and management. Once these are set up, then the vegetable gardening can begin!

The Community Garden Group will be holding two working bee weekends to complete the

raising of the beds on 2nd - 3rd & 9th - 10th July, 2011. All are welcome as help is needed with measuring/plotting out the beds, digging post holes, concreting posts into the ground, constructing the walls of the beds, feeding and watering the volunteers, and of course filling the beds with soil, manure and compost!

Please register at cflc.garden@gmail.com, or on 8320 3973.



HOME & LAND PACKAGES AT AURORA



With the launch of DV2, Aurora home & land packages in the Bluestone Precinct and the Gardens Precinct are now available.

Close to Edgars Creek Reserve, with many lots only a short walk to the planned town centre, these home & land packages offer a wide range of choices for all budgets and lifestyles.

Visit our new display homes and talk to the builder consultants about current specials and packages. Drop into our new sales office (opening in June) to start the move to your new home at Aurora.

Home & Land Packages start from \$352,000*

* Prices are correct at time of printing. Prices and packages vary depending on builder, lot selected and package choice.

A NEW SCHOOL PLANNED FOR AURORA

The year 2013 will see the launch of a new Prep to Year 6 Catholic Primary School at Aurora.

Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop Catholic Parish Primary School is the initiative of the Catholic community of the Parish of Epping, Epping North, South Morang-Mernda in Whittlesea and will be the fourth primary school established by the Parish with support of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne and the Catholic Education Office.

The school will be located on the site of the historic Creeds Farm, at the corner of Redding Rise and Creeds Farm Lane, with the remnant parts of the homestead and out buildings renovated to form part of the new school.

The Parish will soon begin looking for a School Principal, with a decision anticipated by the beginning of 2012.

An award winning firm Henderson Lodge Architects and Interior Designers, specialising in innovative school design, has been appointed to design the plans. The architects will seek to create a flexible facility complementing the style of the community, with a strong focus on innovation, technology, and environmentally sustainable design features.

The design will be based around principles of contemporary learning, fostering a personalised approach to learning and teaching that has been endorsed by education authorities, teachers, students and parents.

The school will be established on a 2.8 hectare site with the first stage of permanent buildings including: core facilities, administration and general learning areas. Construction is set to begin in 2012 with the school to be completed in that year in preparation for a January 2013 opening.

Prospective families wishing to enrol their children from Prep to Year 6 in 2013 please contact the Parish. If you have already responded to the mailout survey there is no need to make further contact.

An information session will be held later in the year to further update families interested in enrolling in Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop Catholic Parish Primary School.

Contact details for Parish Office:
Address: 13 Davisson Street, Epping 3076
Phone: 9401 6300
Email: stpeters-eppping@bigpond.com



UPCOMING EVENTS:

FREE SUSTAINABLE
HOME ASSESSMENTS

VicUrban and Sustainability Victoria will soon be delivering sustainable home assessments in Aurora homes that can help reduce energy usage and save money.

We are looking for Aurora households to take part in this exciting new program. Households will receive a free home assessment worth approx \$250. The one hour session will be delivered by program partner Eco Mad, and will be based around the needs and the aims of residents.

Eco Mad's qualified assessors will look at your home, your electricity and gas usage and provide you with an easy to understand report that will:

- Calculate how much you can save on your gas and electricity bills
- Identify where your power is being used
- Identify energy and water savings
- Create a prioritised action plan to best suit your needs

You could save hundreds of dollars on bills in your home. Book your FREE Sustainable Home Assessment available now. Places are limited so get in quick by contacting:

Taegen Hannah on taegen.hannah@vicurban.vic.gov.au, or by calling 8317 3568.

IN PROFILE – WHO IS CARA HORNER?



1. Describe your role at the Aurora Community Association?

This is my second year as the Vice President of the Aurora Community Association (ACA). I was also part of the group of Aurora residents who helped set the association up.

2. What attracted you to that role?

I wanted to live in and be part of a community which was connected, cohesive, resilient, friendly, social and able to work together to overcome issues.

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

A Mountain Ash tree planted in a remote national park in Victoria.

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

The way people think about the

earth and its resources. We only have one planet earth and the resources that we have access to are finite.

5. My last meal on earth would be?

Delicious, full of fresh in season ingredients bought at a local farmers market, and would definitely include something chocolate at the end!

6. Favourite way to spend a Sunday?

With my partner Steven and nine month old daughter Amber. Swimming lessons in the morning for Amber, or shopping at the Bundoora farmers market or Ceres environment park before relaxing in the afternoon.

7. Most embarrassing moment?

On an excursion to a logging coupe in East Victoria, I ducked out of the sight behind one of the

few remaining 'habitat' trees for a pee, only to be sprung by an embarrassed logger!

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

Part of me would like to travel forward 100 years to see what had eventuated with the climate change predictions. But that thought scares me! So instead I'd like to go back in time to before the industrial revolution, when life was simpler.

9. If you had a million dollars you would?

I would realise that it wouldn't go very far! So after buying a few things to make life more comfortable/enjoyable, I would bank the money, spend chunks of it travelling and supporting the poor and needy.

Aurora Sales Office

Corner Harvest Home Road and Whitelight Avenue, Epping North
Melways Ref: 181 H4. Open 7 days, 11am – 5pm

Display Village

Open 7 days, 12pm – 5pm

For all enquiries, call 131 852 or visit vicurban.com/aurora