



President's Report

As I sit and write tonight I can smell the smoke from the grassfires permeating my house. The fire engines have been whizzing past and the fires are still going. I only hope all our Epping North residents are safe!

I have listened tonight to many people share their stories of what happened, how they felt, the traffic jams they have endured and when they received the text to evacuate. Unfortunately it seemed the transport problems were highlighted again as people tried to leave the area.

The ACA has concentrated a lot in the past few months on the transport issues facing the Epping North community together with the 'Transport Working Group'. We have tabled a petition in Parliament for the Hume Freeway Interchange and Edgar's Rd. extension, and written two Pre-budget submissions to both the Federal and State Governments requesting money be spent on the Hume Freeway Interchange and Edgar's Rd. extension, as well as the proposed Railway line to Epping North.

We have also submitted a Pre-budget submission to the Federal Government highlighting the Youth Mental Health shortfall in funding for the City of Whittlesea.

We could not do this work without the support of the Whittlesea Council, the community, and our State and Federal members, and I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers who have supported the ACA at events, helped with submissions, toiled on working groups and those who have walked the pavements and letter box dropped or have taken signatures for petitions.

Our last event for 2012 was the Aurora Christmas Festival where we had a great day handing out popcorn and taking signatures for our transport petition. Before this we had the Car Boot Sale, which was almost cancelled due to bad weather. Some seasoned stallholders came prepared with tarps and shelters!

In late 2012 we also had two valuable committee members resign, Kathleen and Khush. Cara originally stepped in late last year to help out the ACA and has since agreed to stay on, therefore the committee would like to officially welcome Cara Horner as our new Secretary, and after a call out to the community we have a new volunteer joining us soon.

2013 is going to be a big year for the ACA, our first General meeting has just been held and then we start gearing up for a fun-filled Trivia Night on the 16th March and an informal Coffee and Chat on the 21st April. Our first Community Consultation group takes place soon and we are writing a letter to Places Victoria for a Community Garden and I am sure there will be more submissions ahead.

Come and meet us at one of our upcoming events!

Kindest Regards,

Toni-Marie Wuelfert

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Dates to put in your Diary

March 3, 2013

Clean Up Australia Day, 10:00 am, Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre

March 5, 2013

CFA Fire Ready Community Meeting, 7:30 pm, South Morang CFA

March 16, 2013

Aurora Community Association Trivia Night, 6.00pm, Epping Views Primary

March 17, 2013

Whittlesea Community Festival, 12:00pm, Whittlesea Public Gardens, Lalor.

March 23, 2013

Wollert Community Market, 9:00 am

Earth Hour 2013, 8:30 pm

March 24, 2013

Seed saving of summer vegies, 10:30 am, Creeds Farm Community Garden

April 7, 2013

Kids Art in the Park, 10:00 am

April 21, 2013

ACA Coffee and Chat- FREE, 3:00 pm, Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre

See ACA website Community Calendar further event details and for more to see and do: [http://](http://www.aurora.asn.au/)

Trivia night Fundraiser- **YES YOU CAN DO IT!** Saturday March 16th 2013

We had a great night at last years ACA trivia night and I've had some interesting discussions with members who didn't attend about why they didn't come along. Overwhelmingly their feedback was because they thought they weren't 'smart enough' and that they wouldn't be able to answer the questions.

This is definitely a myth that needs to be busted! Yes, of course there will be a few tricky questions thrown in there, but the majority of questions are easy enough that an average adult can make an informed answer just through their general knowledge. And if you really don't know the answer, then that's why you sit on a table with 8 or so other people so hopefully one of them do know the answer, or at least have some idea! You work as a TEAM!

Question categories include: Sport, Pop Culture, Music, TV, Celebrities, Politics, Food, & Geography just to name a few!

Here's a few 'taster' questions so you get an idea of the kinds of questions that will be asked:

**What do the letters MCG stand for?
What is the number of the Epping North Bus route?
What is the currency of Thailand?**

So, you can see these questions aren't that hard are they? And remember, if you don't know the answer, someone else will- its all about making friends, working as a team to answer the questions and having fun! And you can always buy the answer if you really don't know it!!

Details of the Trivia night, Saturday March 16th 2013:

Epping Views Primary School
20 Mansfield Street, Epping North

Arrive 6pm - for a prompt 6.30pm start- will run until approximately 9.30pm

\$10.00 per person - 8 to 10 per table- Either organise your own table of 8 to 10 or join up on a table with others who can't fill a table entirely but would like to attend (organised by ACA).

Children welcome! BYO kids activities

BYO food and drinks (picnic style ie. bring your own plates, cups and cutlery), tea and coffee provided, cold drinks on sale.

Excellent prizes from local businesses, raffles and fun BIG KID games & activities to break up the trivia rounds!

Local performer Felishia Patania will be performing at 6pm. Check her out at <http://felishiamusic.webs.com/>

Bring along your brain, sense of humour & gold coins. No trivia night experience necessary!!

Tickets need to be pre-purchased for catering and organisation purposes

Please email events@aurora.asn.au to let us know you want a table or seats on a shared table.

To secure your booking you will need to pay the event organiser in cash or transfer the money into our bank account (preferred) and email us the receipt/ reference details before the event (banking information at: <http://www.aurora.asn.au/events/trivia-night/>).

Clean Up Aus Day 2013



Please join other community members for Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday 3 March 2013.

Meet at Creeds Farm Living & Learning Centre between 10 & 11 am and they'll get you sorted with all that you need to help clean up our Creeds Farm precinct and some nearby parks.

We'll have a morning tea, provided by the City of Whittlesea, at the Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre from 11 - 12.

See our CUAD site page at:

<http://www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au/Aurora> for more information and to register your participation!

Aurora General Store & Café

Fully catered café

Delicatessen / Mini supermarket services

ATM onsite

Grinders Coffee Focaccias Cakes Breakfast and Lunch

Trading Hours:

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



*'Lord Creator God,
On this ancient farm land,
We embark on something new.'*

History was made last Monday 4th February as we opened the doors of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Catholic Parish Primary School for the very first time. It was so exciting for us to see our students coming into the building and beginning our learning journey in this truly beautiful learning space. On Monday we gave thanks to God for new beginnings and an opportunity to reflect upon and name our hopes and dreams for 2013.

What a privileged position we are in to have this opportunity to form a new school community! It is always lovely at the start of a new school year to see the excited expressions of our students and even more so this year as we all began at our fabulous new school. The school was buzzing with excitement, our students arrived looking all bright and shiny. It is always a special privilege to be part of a child's first day at school and even more so for us all this year.

We couldn't ask for a better role model and guide than Mary MacKillop could we? She certainly knew what it was like to move into the unknown and did so with complete faith. Let Mary guide us here - she would be in awe of our fantastic facility! It is such a great space and I know we will love 'being' in it together.

We look forward to the official opening and blessing of our new school on March 3rd and invite you all to come and see our great new school sometime.

*'There where you are you will
find God'*

Mary MacKillop 1871

Geraldine Dalton
Principal

gdalton@smcmeyppingnth.catholic.edu.au
www.smcmeyppingnth.catholic.edu.au

Community Consultation Group

Places Victoria went through change towards the end of last year and our major contact Karen Vella had to leave. In the short time we knew her Karen was a great help for the ACA, she heard what we had to say and acted for us.

One of the areas we discussed with Karen was that we wanted to start a Community Consultation group of 6-8 people, who would meet regularly with Places Victoria and discuss upcoming events, building releases, parks etc. This group would then report back to the ACA and the Aurora community.

In the next few weeks the first meeting for the Community Consultation group will begin, with residents and members of the Aurora community and Places Victoria staff.

Once the group is established we will regularly keep you informed of what is happening around Aurora.

aurora
community association

Did you know we have a FORUM?

Why not follow the link and register and chat with your neighbours and fellow residents.

<http://www.aurora.asn.au/forum/>

Have your say!

You can share gardening tips, tradesmen names and phone numbers, recipes, handy tips about internet, child minding, schools, activities in and around the area.

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



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.

About the ACA

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 / Wollert area. Only together can we make the Aurora Community a great place to live.

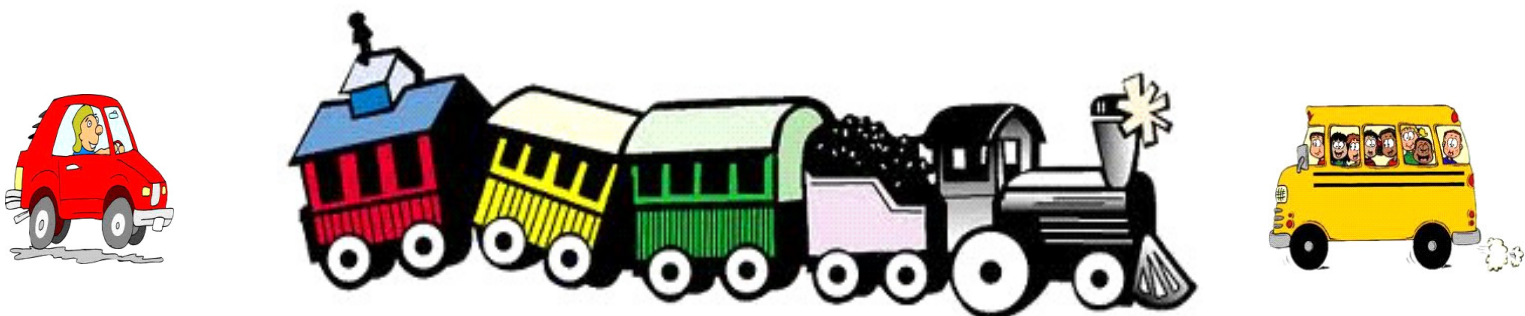
Please remember that the Aurora Community Association is not part of **Places Victoria**. We are an independent community-based organisation aimed at improving our area. As such, we are free to pursue our own aims and objectives.

ACA Transport Working Group

The re-forming of the ACA Transport Working Group was especially inspired by a presentation on Transport Advocacy at the September 2012 ACA General Meeting. The presentation was from Griff Davis, Director of Advocacy & Communications, City of Whittlesea. Up to eight people have each attended four meetings so far which have been held at the council offices. Mary Agostino has also attended and, on more than one occasion, another council officer. Cara Horner is the Working Group's coordinator. One of the Group's major aims is to come up with an Action Plan that spells out objectives, strategies and targets in order to help the Group be more achievement-oriented and effective. Group objectives relate to marketing, communications, strategic partners, community involvement, advocacy and lobbying.

So far the Group has obtained hundreds of signatures for a petition on connecting O'Herns Road with the Hume Freeway. The petition was tabled in Parliament last December. (The Minister for Transport has replied very inappropriately that there will be a need for the O'Herns Road interchange sometime beyond 2046.) This petition has been followed up with a submission on the same subject going to the Federal and State government authorities along with another submission campaigning for a railway line extension to Epping North. The council has been a major help in drafting these submissions. Copies of these submissions and MP letters of support may be found at ACA website <http://www.aurora.asn.au/working-groups/public-transport-working-group/>. The Working Group can be assisted by Epping North residents showing support for the transport campaigning and providing individual examples of why better transport infrastructure is needed.

Tony Francis (ACA transport working group member)



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EPPING NORTH FOOD SWAP Sunday 24th February

These will be held regularly on the last Sunday of each month Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre Corner Redding Rise and Snugburg Way 10.30am – 12noon. A food swap aims to give people the opportunity to come together and swap their excess, home grown produce e.g you may have lots of greens and no carrots. It is a no/low cost way of obtaining a variety of fresh, locally grown and often chemical free food and meeting like minded

people. Food swaps often occur during a short time frame, say a couple of hours, in an easily accessible place within the local community enabling people to connect with each other. Garden tips, seeds and recipes are often exchanged and friends made. No money changes hands. It is all about redistributing excess and keeping the fresh food supply chain as local and as low cost as possible.

Garden gets City of Whittlesea Community Development Grant As many volunteers would know by now, we have been successful in obtaining funding from the City of Whittlesea to improve the garden and run some gardening workshops. These workshops will show case the types of practices we are using at the garden. We have run two workshops on kid friendly gardening and gardening in difficult soils. The next two will be focusing on seed saving and establishing bare rooted trees. Check our latest garden photos on <https://pinterest.com/creedsfarmers/>

Grant for garden shed at the Community Garden.

Thanks to garden group members, we have been successful in obtaining a Leader News Local Grant. This grant will help us build a shed to keep our tools in.

- Seed saving of summer vegetables: Sunday 24th March 2013
- Establishing fruit trees: Sunday 30th June 2013

If you want more information on any of the above, please contact creedsfarmers@gmail.com or Brad on 0439347488



Being an ACA member

The Aurora Community Association (ACA) is an independent, grass roots, community-based organisation aimed at improving the Epping North area. We are always seeking new members, with membership open to anyone of any ethnicity in the Epping North / Wollert area, including but not limited to Lyndarum, Hayston Valley, Summerhill, Horizon, Eden Gardens and of course Aurora estates.

The greater the membership of the ACA, the stronger the Association and the more likely that authorities will listen to our concerns. Therefore it is very important to join as a member of the Association, not just admire us from afar! Only together can we make the Epping North community a great place to live.

Membership costs \$20 in the first year (\$10 Joining Fee + \$10 Annual membership) & \$10 annually thereafter. As a special offer any new members between now and the end of the financial year only pay \$5 for their annual membership (total cost \$15 in the first year, a saving of \$5).

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. As a member you are able to participate in ACA working groups, be nominated to be on the ACA committee and have voting rights at meetings including the AGM.

If you wish to become a member

Complete the membership form and have it signed by two current ACA members (easiest at an upcoming meeting- download the membership form from <http://www.aurora.asn.au/join-today/> and take completed form to a meeting or just get one at the meeting) and then pay for your membership:

1. In person (cash or cheque) at an upcoming ACA meeting/ event- see events calendar for details on the ACA website: <http://www.aurora.asn.au/community-calendar/>
2. Transfer money to the ACA bank account- BSB 814 282, Account 310 737 28, Name: Aurora Community Association. Ensure to include your name in the funds transfer and that you let us know you have paid this way, so we can write you a receipt.
3. Cheque made payable to Aurora Community Association. Receipts will be given in person or posted upon clearance of funds. Either present cheque at an ACA event or send cheques to Aurora Community Association, C/O 2 Snugburgh Way, Epping North, Victoria 3076.

Renewals occur in July each year regardless of when you initially joined as a member. Memberships can be renewed at any meeting. 2011-12 financial members who haven't renewed their memberships by the end of March this year (was due in July last year) will be removed from the members register.

Thank you for your continued support for all the important community work we do.

Cara Horner,
Secretary

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Danielle Green MP, Member for Yan Yean **Community Kalori –Feb/Mar 2013**

03 9432 9782 / danielle.green@parliament.vic.gov.au

W: www.daniellegreen.org.au

FB: facebook.com/daniellegreenmp Tw: twitter.com/DanielleGreenMP



Nearby Donnybrook Road Fire

The recent fires which badly affected Donnybrook, Epping, Epping North, Woodstock and Wollert highlights how vital it is that families have an active fire plan.

Thankfully due to the amazing work of our emergency services, including CFA volunteers from our own Doreen and Mernda brigades, no houses were lost, despite early initial reports of one. It did however bust the myth that our newly built suburbs are somehow exempt from grass or bush fires.

The fires also highlighted communication problems with conflicting community information given out, the inadequacy of the road network and the majority of local households with no fire plan. I will work with CFA, Victoria Police, council and other agencies to ensure that these problems are addressed in future. In addition the Baillieu Government and Vic Roads, must cease ignoring our community and upgrade our roads, as we now know it is not simply an issue of travel times; this lack of investment could cost lives. It is vital that Plenty Road is duplicated to Hazel Glen Drive and both Bridge Inn Road and Yan Yean Road upgraded.

The fire season is not over yet and the community must remain vigilant. This includes ensuring you have a fire plan and follow ongoing weather conditions.

On days of extreme fire danger, take the opportunity to visit friends in the city or go to an air conditioned shopping centre or cinema. The safest way to avoid being caught up in a fire incident, is leaving early on days of severe bushfire danger. For more information about any of this please phone the CFA Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667 or CFA District Headquarters on (03) 8746 1400. Alternatively go to www.cfa.vic.gov.au.

Homes near Lehmans Park under threat, Aurora Estate
(Photo: Roger Liang)



Helicopter waterbombing Lehmans Park, Aurora Estate
(Photo: Roger Liang)



Editors note:

The CFA will be holding a 'Fire Ready' community meeting on 5th March in South Morang.

The ACA is trying to organise a 'fire ready meeting' to be held here in Epping North sometime soon, however if we are unable to organise the meeting quickly enough, you may wish to attend this meeting that was already scheduled before the fire came through on 18th Feb 2013.

Details: *Tuesday, March 5 at 7.30pm at the CFA, South Morang station at 875 Plenty Road. Any enquiries please ring 8746 1400.*

Attend a CFA community meeting to learn about the bushfire risk in your area and how you and your community can turn this awareness into action.

Reference: <https://www.communityprograms.cfa.vic.gov.au/cfa/landing/default.htm>

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Works start on Aurora Town Centre

Planning for the first stage of the Aurora Town Centre is well underway and preliminary earth and road works started in February, which are planned to be complete mid 2013.

Places Victoria General Manager Greenfields, Sebastian Catalfamo said, on completion the Aurora town centre is planned to comprise three supermarkets, a discount department store, specialty shops, cafes and restaurants, offices, a medical centre and pharmacy, fuel outlet, car parking and approximately 400 townhouses.

“The Aurora town centre architects and designers are drawing on the experience of other Places Victoria town centres including Point Cook and Harbour Town in Docklands, to deliver a vibrant place throughout the day and evening. The new town centre will be the place for residents to shop, dine-out and access all the conveniences you need,” Mr Catalfamo said.

The town centre will be located around the Harvest Home Road and Edgars Road intersection. The first stage will be on the south side of Harvest Home Road, within walking distance of stages 19 and 20.

Aurora’s first community activity centre is planned to be located within the Aurora town centre and will include three kindergartens and other services.

The \$8.5m centre will be funded by a developer contribution from Places Victoria of close to \$7m. The facility will be owned and operated by Whittlesea Council.



An artist's impression of the Aurora town centre.

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 @auroraeepping

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.

Trivia Night

March 16th 2013

6:30- 9:30pm

Tables seat 8-10 people

\$10 per person

Venue: Epping Views Primary school

Enjoy a fun night of trivia, games and community spirit
Also featuring a performance by Felishia

Genres of trivia include: pop culture, music
T.V, Celebrities, politics & Geography

Support your local community by raising funds for the
Aurora Community Association

Book at events@aurora.asn.au

www.aurora.asn.au/events/trivianight

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