

Aspendale Gardens News

Spring
2012

The official Newsletter of AGRA,
Aspendale Gardens Residents Association



Distributed quarterly to over 2300 homes in Aspendale Gardens, and growing strong... www.agrainc.org.au

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 29th August 2012 7.30pm

All Residents Welcome. AGENDA is on page 20.

We need a strong community turn out for the AGM. If you believe that it is important for AGRA to exist and to work for our community interests then you need to attend tonight and tell us so. We need confirmation that we are meeting the needs of the community or whether we are not meeting your needs. You need to attend tonight and tell us otherwise we won't know.

Your committee needs to know that what they do is valued by the community and the best way to do show your appreciation is to attend this annual AGM. Please attend and if you can put your hand up to join the committee, you can then contribute to discussions, decisions and policy development.

We need two or three new members so that we have a range of different opinions and fresh thinking injected into our policy development and to share the workload.

We will have our three South Ward Councillors at the meeting and hopefully our local MLC Inga Peulich will join us later in the evening and you will be able to mix and mingle with them during refreshments after the meeting. You can ask them questions.

In addition Melbourne Water will make a presentation on their Mordialloc Creek "Waterways type development" between the Wells Road Bridge right up to the Waterways development. We think this wetland development is one of the best things to happen to our area. The only problem will be the view across the new

meandering waterway to the industrial development that is part and parcel of this development. MW will be able to explain their plans to develop a tree screen. We are hopeful that a COK representative will also be in attendance to answer planning questions relating to screening. By having both organisations at the meeting we should get clear guidelines on how the project will develop with timelines for the screening plans. You will be able to ask questions.

Also a representative of Mordialloc Police will attend to update on crime statistics and to answer questions from those attending. Ritchie's Supermarkets as they do for every AGRA AGM will supply light refreshments for those attending. Our thanks to Ritchie's.

This is the one day (evening) of the year when your committee ask you to support them. You can do this by attending the AGM.

TAX TIME 2012

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Your AGRA Committee: Ken Carney - President, phone: 9587 5483 (kjarney@iprimus.com.au), Sam Constantopoulos - Vice President and Newsletter Editor - Ph: 9590 9901, John Zeccola - Treasurer, Serge Yan - Asst Treasurer, Tamsin Bearsley - Minute Secretary, David Cree, Reny Frighetto, Karina Ces, Henry Warren, Katrina Harrison.

Please note that Karina Ces is a Director of the Aspendale Gardens Edithvale Community Bank® Branch of the Bendigo Bank.

Please seriously consider
joining this amazing
Community Group.

We meet only once per month
at the Community Centre,
on the last Wed of the month.

Hope to see you there!

President's Annual Report

Like any organisation from time to time there are people who might disagree with AGRA's approach or policy on certain matters. As we have said in the past it is important that you tell us your concerns direct otherwise we won't know. Sometimes consideration of wider community needs will influence AGRA's final policy position however it is often possible to marry individual or local community needs into a project. For example we believe we have done that in our submission to the Vic Roads Northern MPF Extension Feasibility Study.

To reinforce what we have just said there are times when the committee has to decide on a course of action that might not satisfy some residents. What we do in those circumstances is to listen to those residents and make sure that we do not leave them out of the process. Where possible we ensure residents are equipped to submit their own case if it differs from AGRA's and where necessary we will help them to do that even though we may have a different opinion. We endeavour to include people's concerns into projects by incorporating their views into the strategies so that at the least their voice is heard and where practical is part of the outcome sought. Clearly not everyone in the community has the same views on some issues.

How do we develop our policies? We try to keep our finger on the pulse by talking to people through our monthly committee meetings (last Wednesday every month except December) which are open to the public and also through our quarterly and special Newsletters. We also from time to time conduct public 'open day' face to face meetings in the shopping centre also to find out what the community wants. These meetings are good because everyone can express themselves and discuss issues. We run surveys, the latest being our community needs survey asking residents to identify what is important or new. We have our letterbox at the shopping centre and our own website where residents can leave a message to seek help or to make a comment and of course the phone is always available.

The AGRA website keeps file copies of AGRA Newsletters and sometimes special project information is available also. AGRA's policies and reports are therefore clear to see by anyone who is interested and community input is welcomed.

The AGRA team works for and represents the needs of Aspendale Gardens residents. The AGRA committee comprises a group of local residents who are elected each year by local residents. Their objectives for standing for election to the committee can be many and varied but all members of the committee are working for the local community. Committee members give their time and effort to ensure that all of us enjoy living in Aspendale Gardens.

This is AGRA's 21st year of operation and we have achieved some remarkable outcomes over those years and many people would have thought by now that there could be nothing left for AGRA to work on. You will remember that we included a community needs survey document in our last newsletter and at the time of writing we are bringing together a report summarising what residents want AGRA to focus on over the next 5 to 10 years. As in the past the committee will study that report and determine its practicality and will then adopt the projects as objectives and will develop plans to achieve those objectives.

My personal thanks to all committee members (and their spouses) for working for our community and for their support to me. I and our community are fortunate to have such high achievers working for us. Thanks to Sam Constantopoulos Vice President and Newsletter Editor, John Zeccola Treasurer, Serge Yan Assistant Treasurer, Tamsin Bearsley Minute Secretary, Reny Frighetto Family Fun Day Project Leader, Karina Ces, Henry Warren, David

Cree and Katrina Harrison - Greening of Wells Road. In addition our thanks to David Schmidt who while not a committee member manages our web site for us and also our thanks to our Newsletter deliverers.

AGRA Community Needs & Desires Survey

We are still bringing together the final details of the study however we can outline a draft that we can expand at the AGM.

Interestingly we received responses from a number of areas outside Aspendale Gardens such as Waterways, Edithvale, even Mentone and further afield. We have separated those responses but included them in the final total to see what issues were of importance to them. We also received some replies without name or addresses. On the basis they are probably local residents we have added their replies separately to the Aspendale Gardens total.

Our Objective: Help AGRA identify what services the community are going to need and where AGRA should focus our efforts over the next 5 and 10 year periods.

The survey asked residents to tick current projects that you believe are important to the benefit of Aspendale Gardens and surrounding areas, and to add items you consider should be added to the list.

The original list of questions and the survey results are shown on the following page with responses recorded in the table. Additionally, we received about 80 comments and suggestions. These are being formatted at the present time and will be available at the AGRAAGM.

AGRA now have to assess what this data tells us about where our residents want AGRA to focus its efforts in the future.

Residents marked current AGRA projects that they believe are important to the benefit of Aspendale Gardens and surrounding areas for the next 5 to 10



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AGRA Community - Needs & Desires Survey	Aspendale Gardens Address	% of Total	Aspendale Gardens plus No Name Address	% of Total
Total Number of Respondents	89	100%	97	100%
Wetlands and the Environment				
Kingston Green Wedge: (2011 Review of the Wedge by COK)	25	28%	26	27%
Yammerbook Lake Nature Reserve - Stage 2:	25	28%	26	27%
Mordialloc Creek extension of the Waterways, Landscaping, Screening of future Industrial Development on the Eastern Side of the Creek between Bowen Rd and the Wells Rd Bridge	38	43%	42	43%
Melbourne Water Access Track within Edithvale North Wetland. This relates to the section of the track between the Nurten Parade entrance and the Longbeach Bicycle Trail	32	36%	34	35%
Greening of Wells Road – New Objective	42	47%	45	46%
Playgrounds and Reserves				
Sporting Ground in Aspendale Gardens: on the land acquired by COK on Secondary Drain behind the Primary School	48	54%	49	51%
City of Kingston Youth Spaces Strategy – Aspendale Gardens Rage Cage	29	33%	29	30%
Communications				
National Broadband Network (NBN)	41	46%	44	45%
Poor Quality of ADSL2+ services in Aspendale Gardens and surrounding areas	39	44%	40	41%
Post Office Agency in Aspendale Gardens.	61	69%	65	67%
Traffic Safety and Amenity				
AGRA & Community Objective – Commence Construction of the MPF when the Dingley By-Pass is nearing completion. To get traffic off Wells Rd & Southern Nepean Transport Corridor.	57	64%	61	63%
Aspendale Gardens Brannagan Drive & Kearney Drive & Langslow Drive Safety Measures (Rat Run). Brannagan Drive Speed Hump – as pedestrian crossing.	23	26%	25	26%
Winner Circle Safe Entry & Exit Need for Traffic Controls.	34	38%	38	39%
Boundary Rd and Governor Rd Roundabout. Controls needed.	52	58%	55	57%
Review of Widening Governor Road to four lanes.	36	40%	39	40%
Traffic Lights Burdekin Parade & Governor Road (Safe Access to Braeside Park)	19	21%	22	23%
Bicycle & Pedestrian Paths between Wells & Boundary Roads to give access to the Braeside Industrial Estate	35	39%	37	38%
Red Light Camera Wells Road and Royal Palms.	22	25%	25	26%
Newsletter				
Too long & detailed	10	11%	10	10%
OK as is	13	15%	13	13%
More detail required	2	2%	3	3%

years. As was expected the desire for a Post Office in the Aspendale Gardens Shopping Centre shows massive community support of 67%.

The desire for the MPF to be commence construction at the same time as the Dingley By-Pass nears completion also has massive community support with a 63% response making it the second most important item on our list of community needs. The following items also have high scores in the region of 40% and above.

From the community responses we have been able to summarise the number of respondents that oppose completion of the MPF Extension. This appears to be about 4 from Aspendale Gardens and these all appear to live in Royal Palms estate. That is to be expected they will be closest to the freeway. We have broken out responses from Royal Palms which show that 43% support completion of the MPF with 43% against. Residents in nearby Sutherland and Palm Grove register 80% support for early completion with none against. There will of course be people who are against the freeway but have not said so in the surveys.

Wetlands and the Environment Kingston Green Wedge: (2011 Review of the Wedge by COK)

All pending at Council

Yammerbook Lake Nature Reserve - Stage 2:

Finalisation of stage 2 plans is underway. Council report they will pass the plans onto MW for approval and then arrange an agreement with MW to construct and maintain this infrastructure. Once MW have approved these plans Council will show the Yammerbook committee the approved designs and tenders will then be called for work to start. Council have confirmed that \$78,000 remains from the original budget of \$100,000. AGRA had sought assurances that if the budget proves insufficient to meet the plans that an additional sum would be reserved in the current budget. Council have decided at this stage that an additional sum is unlikely to be required.

The changes to the reserve while not incorporating the lake extension as originally planned will never



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Tamsin Bearsley

Local Candidate for South Ward,
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Fellow residents,

Council elections are just around the corner. I'm seeking your support as your local council candidate!

We need councillors who know Aspendale Gardens, and are willing to take up the issues on our behalf. That's where I come in.

Aspendale Gardens is my home. I live here with my husband and our two children who attend Aspendale Gardens Primary School.

I love this community. As secretary of AGRA, and member of Kingston's local Village Committee, I am passionate about solving our local issues.

This is a great place to live but there is still plenty of work to be done. I will be a strong advocate for:


- Access to broadband internet services
- Post Office in Aspendale Gardens
- Fixing local traffic problems (eg. Wells Rd)
- Developing and landscaping Mordialloc Creek extension of the Waterways
- Improving and greening our local playgrounds and reserves such as Yammerbook Reserve
- Upgrading our local bike paths
- Supporting our local community centres and sporting clubs
- Residents' and ratepayers' issues

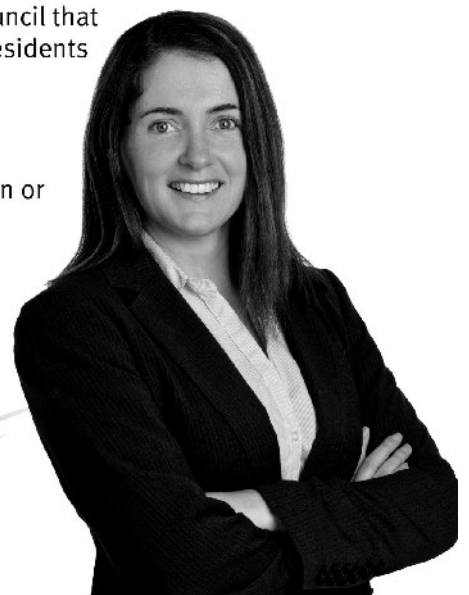
We need a responsive, transparent and efficient council that uses our rates wisely... a council that respects its residents as local experts.

What are your issues? I'd love to know.

Take a moment to fill out the online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/tamsin4kingston> or email at tamsin4kingston@gmail.com.

Kind regards,


Tamsin Bearsley
m: 0430 170 210



Authorised by A. Bearsley, 10 Batten Place, Aspendale Gardens, VIC 3195.

the less make this an even more attractive nature reserve than it is at present which says something.

Mordialloc Creek extension of the Waterways, Landscaping, Screening of future Industrial Development on the Eastern Side of the Creek between Bowen Road and the Wells Rd Bridge.

Council are currently considering Melbourne Water's Planning Application KP-134/2009. This should be approved soon. Once approved construction can get underway as soon as certain breeding seasons and weather permits.

David Reginato Team Leader Developer Planning South for Melbourne Water will make a presentation at the August AGRA AGM possibly with one or two other staff to update residents on this major project. The plan is to remove large quantities of earth from Mordialloc Creek. The earth will be positioned on the industrial land on the north eastern bank of creek. The objective is to raise the industrial land by about 1.5 metres thereby making sure it is above flood level to the same level as Winners Circle and Sutherland Drive properties to the west.

Screening of the industrial development has been a major AGRA objective over many years and this is your opportunity to learn about and understand the reasons for the development. If you have any interest or concerns for example: working hours, dust control, noise etc. this is an opportunity to get up to date and ask your questions.

We are also hopeful that Council will send a town planner to the meeting which will ensure that we get both sides of the planning picture particularly in relation to screening. We see this as a major Aspendale Gardens development worth many millions of dollars and suggest you should be there. The key objectives for the project are to re-establish waterbird habitat along the creek, improve drainage of this former swampland area and filter stormwater from the Dandenong Valley catchment. It will also look more attractive. MW has built more than 40 wetlands across Melbourne and this Mordialloc Creek Wetland will be one of the largest with a budget of \$7million. It's got be worth hearing MW talk about this exciting project.

Melbourne Water Access Track within Edithvale North Wetland. This relates to the section of the track between the Nurten Parade entrance and the Longbeach Bicycle Trail. The objective for many years has been for the track to be improved particularly for bicycles and wheeled vehicles for disabled people.

Unfortunately we have been advised that the track is unfunded in the 2012/13 budget. Council say that the track is owned by Melbourne Water and meets their requirements and they have no plans to develop it. The track has been identified as a low priority in the 2009/13 Cycling and Walking Plan and no funding is currently available. Interestingly this project showed a 35% measure of importance to Aspendale Gardens residents in the Community Needs Survey. That is a high number. AGRA will review with Council for next year.

Greening of Wells Rd - New Objective

AGRA for a number of years has had this concept on our books. We advertised in our Newsletter for a resident with some knowledge in this area to join us



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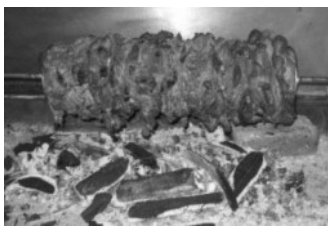
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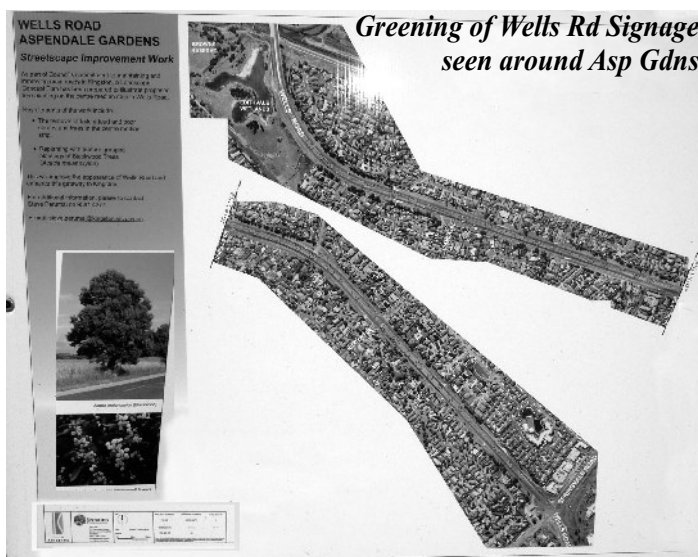
and run with this project. Katrina Harrison came forward last year and prepared a very sound case promoting the benefits of improving the visual impact on visitors using Wells Road to enter Kingston through what is one of the major gateways to Kingston City. This to be achieved by upgrading the plants along Wells Road. If accepted the amenity for our residents would be improved making Aspendale Gardens an even more attractive place to live. The presentation was professionally put together by Katrina and presented by AGRA direct to Mayor John Ronke and Rachel Hornsby GM Environmental Sustainability.

The project and the timing must have been right and Council have written to AGRA advising that while the proposal remains unfunded in the 2012/13 budget that with recent changes in maintenance responsibilities along Wells Road Council advise that their own plans for Wells Road Centre median strip align with our proposal and that an assessment has taken place with a plan to carry out replanting with a view to improving the quality of vegetation and creating a pleasing landscape. The proposals include the removal of poor trees in the centre strip and replanting with 150 Blackwood Trees. A copy of the landscape plan is with AGRA and no doubt you have seen work already underway.

Council report that they envisage that additional works on the outer nature strips will be planned including understory planting. Council are preparing a plan and a scope for works over the next 12 months incorporating storm water infrastructure and to identify opportunities for improvements and to investigate possible funding options. On behalf of our residents and commuters we would like to thank Council staff for their prompt response on this project which combined with other works taking place in our suburb will see continuous improvement to our amenity taking place.

Playgrounds and Reserves Sporting Ground in Aspendale Gardens on the land acquired by COK on Secondary Drain behind Primary School

Council arranged a community meeting with interested local residents on the 17th July. Unfortunately notice was short which contributed to a low turnout at the Community Centre. Notification was sent by Council to nearby




*Greening of Wells Rd Signage
seen around Asp Gdns*

residents on both sides of the Secondary Drain and residents attended from both sides of the drain.

In attendance from Council were Rachel Hornsby, Nigel Brown, and Mark Juler a very impressive and powerful Council team. Nigel gave a run down on the need and benefits of the Ground including that there is a shortage of cricket grounds in Kingston. There are no plans for club rooms or a home base. COK are investigating possible future

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infrastructure on the school site should the need arise. Also in negotiation with the school about possible use of facilities. The ground will drain into the secondary drain. No fence line? Turf will be established before community use. Special grasses.

Some questions covered:

Risk of 4 wheel drivers and motorbikes damaging the ground. Will have to be monitored by the community and council By-Laws. Ticket will be given and Residents should have no hesitation DOBBING IN offenders with photos if possible.

Question - Risk of vandalism to residential property by visitors to the ground. This was a real fear for some residents. Nigel pointed out that the users will be local children and cricket clubs. Cricket clubs are aware of community concerns and know that they risk losing use of a ground if they have bad behaviour.

In both of the above cases residents should phone the council 1800 number and/or 000 to report any vehicles in the Drain or on the sportsground.

Watering is through allocation from Melbourne Water. COK can use as they feel best. Using warm season grasses to start with. Water is off mains. In future may be storm water that has been harvested.

Questions on parking. No plans for parking close to the ground. A resident from Tooronga Drive in Edithvale asked if there were any plans for parking if users parked in that road. No plans at this stage. Will monitor if a problem develops. Local residents asked about parking in the streets around the school particularly when the school is busy with programs such as Karate. Cricket games don't usually bring large numbers of supporters and unlikely with the timings that there will be a major problem However monitor.

Dust issues when work is underway. Work within EPA guidelines. Contractors are required to comply Council manage the contractors.

Need for rubbish bins. Will look at. In general terms users are required to take their rubbish home.

Any risk to wildlife for example birds with dogs running through the areas. COK will check. In fact will assess dog of leash general areas.

Sports clubs have not yet had allocations. This will take place in the normal planning procedures for clubs. Expect B or C Grades to use. Hours of use are "standard times" which I assume will mean something to the initiated!

Will the drains from the school be affected? Levels of the pitch to be adjusted which will result in drainage improvement. The pitch will also be cambered from the centre out.

Question; looking ahead will there be trees for shade. COK will look at.

Hopefully the question and answer session allayed most fears however residents and Council will monitor. Below is the latest communication from Council to local interested parties. We hope this report brings everyone in the area up to date.

SPORTSGROUND CONSTRUCTION

Dear Resident: After working closely with Melbourne Water, Council is pleased to advise you of the proposed sports ground construction on the Council land at the rear of the Aspendale Gardens Primary School. (Melway reference 93 B 5). Please find attached a Concept Plan outlining the scope of the project for your reference.

What does the work involve?

Key elements of the sportsground include:

Single 140m x 110m oval

Synthetic cricket wicket

Warm season grass

Drainage (to secondary drain)

Future proposed works include

Improved paths and park furniture

New shade tree planting

Why is a sportsground needed? Council purchased this land over 10 years ago with the intention of providing a future sportsground. There is a need to provide a basic sportsground at this site with a large degree of flexibility to service municipal demand for cricket facilities, particularly in the south of the municipality.

The ground will be used as an overflow venue for multiple cricket clubs in response to annual demand for facilities. There will be limited supporting infrastructure and will be used for local junior and senior competition.

When will the work start? It is anticipated that works will commence on Monday 13 August and

that initial construction will take six-eight weeks. Following the initial construction there will be a period of turf establishment that could take up to 12 weeks. All milestones and timelines are guides and are subject to variation due to weather and general ground conditions.

Will there be any disruption to the parkland? There will be some disruption to the parkland. The construction area will be secured for the safety of the public. Works vehicle access to the site when required will be through Kerr Crescent Reserve. This may necessitate some limited vegetation removal, which will be offset with additional planting following construction. There will be a need to re-align the pedestrian path around the oval. A temporary path will be provided during construction. Thank you for your patience during construction.

How can I comment on this plan and who can I contact for additional information? For further information on the construction elements of this project, please contact Mark Juler, Council's Manager parks, Recreation and Depot Services, on 9580-0711. Send e-mails to mark.juler@kingston.vic.gov.au

For further information on the future usage of this sportsground, please contact Nigel Brown, Council's Team Leader Sport and Recreation, on 9581-4595. E-mails can be sent to nigel.brown@kingston.vic.gov.au

Alternatively letters can be sent to: P. O. Box 1000, Mentone, VIC. 3194

NEARLY THERE!!!!!!!!!!

Rage Cage

Still waiting on Councils report.

Communications

For your information AGRA has started using electronic surveys and the National Broadband Network (NBN) Project is on hold until we resolve the ADSL2+ issues.

Poor Quality of ADSL2+ services in Aspendale Gardens and surrounds

David Thorley CEO had written to us and we pick some of the points he made in his letter. Telstra's technical staff has investigated the examples we supplied from the resident survey. They found that there is no congestion in the network and that

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customers are experiencing connect speeds consistent with their distances from the exchange and plan settings. It was found that some customers in the survey were receiving slow speeds primarily because of their plan settings. He says that some customers may not be aware of the conditions of their current plan.

Marcus Swinburne Customer Service Manager Telstra Country Wide attended the July AGRA monthly committee meeting. Four ADSL2+ users attended the meeting. Marcus repeated the key elements of David Thorley's letter. He explained that a Top Hat program is being introduced. It's a box on top of a box improving performance. He said that a scheduled upgrade is planned for the retirement village.

We explained that we are not satisfied with the situation and Marcus has agreed to keep working on the project. AGRA Committee member Tamsin Bearsley has prepared the following report which has action requirements. It's important that if we're going to get things working better residents act on this report and feedback. Oddly some residents have recently seen an improvement in speeds.

Faster internet services in Aspendale Gardens - Update from Tamsin Bearsley

It appears that we have had some success with improving local ADSL2+ speeds.

A number of residents have reported that their internet speed has significantly improved (doubled) after we contacted the Telstra CEO about slow ADSL2+ services. As if by magic!

The story so far...

As reported in the last newsletter, we wrote to Telstra CEO David Thodey about slow internet speeds in Aspendale Gardens. He put us in touch with Marcus Swinburne from Telstra, who came to the recent AGRA meeting and met with interested residents.

From our research, we have found out that there are three separate issues:

- 1) No ADSL ports available for north-west Aspendale Gardens (only wireless available)
- 2) Not all internet service providers can provide ADSL2+ services through the sub-exchange
- 3) Slow ADSL2+ caused by incorrectly configured line speeds (by the service provider)

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Let's look at these issues in turn.

1. No ADSL ports available for north-west Aspendale Gardens (only wireless available)

Residents of western Aspendale Gardens have reported that there are 'no ADSL ports available' when they request an ADSL connection. Telstra have confirmed that a piece of infrastructure in their area, RIM D118, is full to capacity. Locals report this has been the situation for 5 years! This is clearly unacceptable, and we are pursuing Telstra to add extra capacity.

Recommendation: If this affects you:

Step 1) Call your preferred internet service provider

Step 2) Ask if there is an ADSL2 port available

Step 3) if not, ask them to submit a Telstra infrastructure request to upgrade 'RIM DA118'. The more pressure, the better.

2. Not all internet service providers can provide ADSL2+ services through the sub-exchange

Central and eastern Aspendale Gardens residents typically connect to the Mordialloc South sub-exchange on Wells Road. We are not aware of any service provider, other than Telstra wholesale, that

hosts their own equipment in the sub-exchange. As a result, some service providers may not be able to provide ADSL2+ services, if they are not a reseller. Recommendation:

If your internet service provider is unable to provide ADSL2+ services due to 'incompatibility of hardware', you may need to switch to an alternative provider that has an ADSL2+ reseller arrangement with Telstra wholesale.

3. Slow ADSL2+ caused by incorrectly configured line speeds

Even though you may be paying for an ADSL2+ service, it's very possible that your line has not been configured to take advantage of these speeds. This appears to be affecting a number of residents.

Recommendation:

Step 1: Call your internet service provider

Step 2: Ask for ADSL Tech Support

Step 3: Ask them to confirm you have ADSL2+ coding on the line up to 24 megabits per second

Your feedback

Have your ADSL speeds miraculously improved? Are you still having issues? Let us know at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/agra-internet-survey-2>



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Post Office Agency in Aspendale Gardens

Our "community needs survey" has confirmed that a local Post Office agency is the prime project for AGRA to work on. 67% of those who replied to our survey list where you were asked the question what do you believe are the important projects to benefit of Aspendale Gardens and surrounding areas in the next 5 to 10 years. AGRA will now prepare a survey to determine what services a Post agency could provide in Aspendale Gardens. A lot has changed since we started this project. The survey will ask questions about each service and whether you would use it and how many times etc.

Once we have that information we will have a good picture of likely usage, we will then forward that to Australia Post as part of our next attempt to get a Post service in Aspendale Gardens. We will print the survey in our next Newsletter with the option of using the web survey system as well or just completing it and putting it in the AGRA Box at the shopping centre..

Hooliganism

A Member from Mordialloc Police will attend the Annual General Meeting meeting and will give an update on local crime statistics and will take questions from the floor.

Traffic Safety and Amenity

**AGRA & Regional Community
Objective Commence Construction of
the MPF when the Dingley By-Pass is
nearing completion. (To get traffic off
Wells Road & off the Southern Nepean
Transport Corridor).**

After the Post Office project, completion of the MPF northern extension is the second most important project for our residents.

Based on many years of resident input AGRA supports completion of the MPF Extension. In order to make sure that every resident in Aspendale Gardens was up to date with AGRA's position we delivered a special Newsletter to every household (2,200) on the 6th, 7th and 8th of July including copies to the Retirement Village. We emphasized in the Newsletter that all residents whatever their views should make a submission to the Vic Roads Feasibility Study. We also placed a large notice on the AGRA letterbox display board in the shopping centre during and after our 'meet the community week end.' That notice strongly recommended to residents or visitors they should submit their needs and concerns on the MPF through the Vic Roads web address.

AGRA's MPF position was created by the community and has been supported at all times by the community. That does not mean it is set in concrete however we are able to tell you that at the

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time of writing we are just completing the results of the recent AGRA community needs survey which has had an excellent response from a statistical point of view and confirms that residents support or are not opposed to the AGRA position and as you will see from the survey that few residents have expressed a position against construction of the MPF. The responses were from all sections of Aspendale Gardens.

Royal Palms estate and Richfield were the last housing development in Aspendale Gardens. It is unlikely that current residents would know that the land they live on was originally zoned indeterminate use and could have been developed as parkland and sports reserves more in suiting to the residential properties of Aspendale Gardens. Unfortunately Springvale Council moved to change the zoning from indeterminate use to Garden Industrial. AGRA fought this development and were ultimately successful in achieving a change of zoning to residential. AGRA also put forward a case with drawings that would ensure that the developer would have to use his parks contribution fully in the development by designing parkland the full length of the block of land on the eastern side right down to Springvale Road to make what became known as Royal Palms an attractive residential area with additional space between residents and the future freeway. The parkland was to include sports fields with dense foliage on the boundary etc. where the retirement village now sits. Unfortunately the \$ won out and the developer with council decided on maximum housing numbers in the area. Therefore future residents of Royal Palms all knew that one day the MPF Extension would

become a reality. The freeway reserve is for all people of Melbourne and is part of long term planning which many people accuse government of not doing. Our job now is to ensure that the freeway is designed to standards that minimise its impact on local residents and that is what AGRA has been promoting for years. See the AGRA submission to Vic Roads on our web site.

It is a pity no one is publicising all the benefits of the MPF Extension so that all residents and ratepayers throughout Kingston and beyond can make a really informed decision as to whether they want the freeway constructed as soon as possible or not.

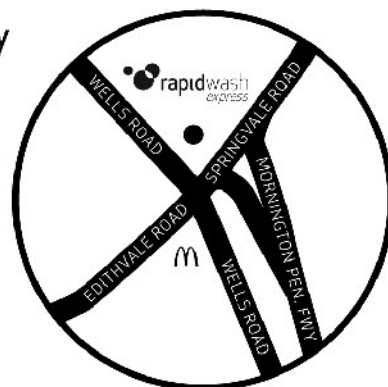
Let's face it Vic Roads will finally make their recommendations to government once they have assessed all the options and government will then decide what happens. Hopefully our council will have considered the needs of all residents and ratepayers and for current and future businesses in all wards as well as for all regional users and will have reinforced their own support for completion of the MPF to government.

Our submission to Vic Roads also included ways to enable this regional Freeway to meet most of individual residents and interest groups needs such as those of Aspendale Gardens, Waterways, the Retirement Village and the Green Wedge Coalition. For example the freeway will support and help fund the concept of a shared pedestrian/cycle horse trail combined with a habitat corridor. For the record SW Councillors have always given South Ward pre-election promises to support construction of the MPF Extension.

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On the 8/8/2012 we sent the following letter to Mordialloc Chelsea News. At the time of writing it has not been published so we thought we should publish it in this Newsletter.

Letter to the Editor: Vic Roads Feasibility Study for Completion of the MPF

We were interested to read John Waddington's letter in the 1st August Leader about letters from some readers concerning the possible completion of the Northern Extension of the Mornington Peninsula Fwy and that he was concerned at the negative narrow views some people who are opposed to the proposed development have on the subject. This has all arisen because Vic Roads have been meeting the community as part of their feasibility study for the project.

To some extent you can't blame the writers, in many cases they have been bombarded with the need to keep the Green Wedge and not build within it etc. We have some very active councillors and organisations who constantly promote this train of thought. In fact this resident organisation also supports protecting the Green Wedge however we have always recognised the need for the MPF Freeway reservation and have agreed with other groups that our support for the Green Wedge comes with what has been reserved within its boundaries for decades and that is the MPF extension. Our forefathers did the right thing when they made the reservation they knew that this road would need to be built. Melbourne is a massively growing city: in the last 10 years it has grown by about 660,000 people.

Melbourne is growing outwards and also upwards with increased infill densities. As we grow one interest group will tell you to get on your bike another to use public transport. Interestingly many of those who tell you to do those things still use their cars. Business of course has its own needs, however they are told to put it on a train but they don't. Take note: the use of alternative propulsion and vehicle construction means that the car is here to stay and it will be cheaper, more efficient and safer and benefit from safe & efficient road systems that include freeways. The MPF Extension is a regional need that will improve the amenity of residents and local road users while enabling people to get off the Nepean Hwy and travel safely with minimum stoppages to where they work and play. A business boost also and public transport will benefit from the reduction in local traffic.

It is our view that the extension should get built and we list the many benefits of building it on our website. We list many of the additional benefits the road will bring while helping to achieve many other green objectives that may not be able to be funded without the extension. Please go to our website www.agrainc.org.au to have a good read. You can then say what a load of rubbish or you may say let's get on with it as soon as possible and pick up many of the benefits as soon as we can. If you agree then tell Vic Roads by emailing mseprojects@roads.vic.gov.au or phoning the project team on 9881 8701 and if you don't agree also tell them. Yours Sincerely, Ken Carney President Aspendale Gardens Residents Association, Inc



Personal Training and Group Classes

Monday	NEW Thump Boxing 9.15 - 10.15am
Tuesday	Thump Boxing 7 - 8pm
Wednesday	Express Legs/Abs 9.15 - 10.15am
Thursday	Thump Boxing 2.00 - 3.00pm
Thursday	NEW Combo Class 7 - 8pm
Friday	Walking Group 9.00 - 10.00am
Saturday	Combo Class 9.30 - 10.30am

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Aspendale Gardens



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/b-tru-2-u-health-fitness>

Children
welcome

You can view the AGRA submission to the Vic Roads Northern MPF Extension Feasibility Study on our website. www.agrainc.org.au
We hope this is of help to our readers.

Winner Circle Safe Entry & Exit Need for Traffic Controls

This serious traffic and children crossing problem has again shown up as a major concern for our community. A 39% community wide response on what in theory should only get a local response from those affected in Winners Circle is quite amazing. However we can advise that 90% of respondents from Winners Circle highlighted this item as critical to their needs and we would suggest to the needs of their children. Council have told us there is nothing they can do on this subject so now that we have this survey information we will raise this matter with Vic Roads and our politicians.

Boundary Road and Governor Road Roundabout. Controls needed.

The survey response of 57% for current projects that you believe are important to the benefit of Aspendale Gardens is another extremely high level of concern. So now that we have this survey information we will raise this matter with Vic Roads and our politicians.

Review of Widening Governor Rd to 4 lanes.

With a 40% response to our survey this item is clearly related to the roundabout issues as well. So now that we have this survey information we will raise this matter with Vic Roads and our politicians.

Traffic Lights Burdekin Pde & Governor Rd (Safe Access to Braeside Park)

Council have this project in hand. The vehicle trigger count has been passed and Council has undertaken action with the developer to get the lights installed. We expect an update from Council at the AGM.

Bicycle & Pedestrian Paths between Wells & Boundary Roads to give access to the Braeside Industrial Estate

The resident who raised this subject many years ago will be impressed to see that 38% of respondents to our community needs survey see this as a major need for the regional community. By that we mean not just for us but for anyone in Aspendale and Edithvale who want to ride their bike to work in the Braeside area. This now has to become an important part of our future objectives.

Brannagan Dr & Kearney Dr & Langslow Dr Safety Measures (Rat Run). Brannagan Dr Speed Hump as pedestrian crossing

We are waiting on Council to supply the report on how well the road humps etc. have worked. We expect to have the information for the AGM.

Red Light & Speed Camera Wells Road and Royal Palms

We have news. The Department of Justice report that the project is close to going ahead with Vic Roads who now are giving their support. It's a slow process and we had better not say we are there yet but we are close. Mind you we were close over a

year ago so fingers crossed. Vic Roads or one of the government agencies is carrying out counts etc. to decide whether the lights should be installed at Royal Palms or Narelle Drive. We have given our recommendation as travelling south at Royal Palms.

Ken Carney, President.

See you at the AGM. We work hard for the community and it would be nice if you could come along and join us. Your attendance makes it worthwhile.



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Join the Committee of Management

Aspendale Gardens Community Centre is a not for profit incorporated body that is required by law to have a volunteer committee of management (sometimes called "a Board". We have been serving the community since 1995. Our Community Centre is governed and managed by local people for local people. No experience is necessary, just a desire to get involved in making the Centre a wonderful place for the community.

As a community organisation, we seek a wide representation on our Committee of Management to ensure that the community's needs are represented and our services meet those needs. The committee is a passionate team who strive to deliver good governance and strategic direction for the Centre. We also review performance against agreed objectives and plans. It is also a terrific opportunity to learn new skills. Whether you were born in the 40's or the 90's, if you are interested in having a direct "say" in the Centre, then we would love to hear from you.

So long, farewell...

After 13 years' service, Jan Masson, our Centre Coordinator, has decided to resign. In Jan's words: *"When I first started at the Community Centre, we offered preschool, occasional care, calisthenics and karate. We certainly have achieved a lot and developed our services since then. I would like to thank all of the volunteers I have worked with over the years for their contribution and hard work to making this a great place to be. I would also like to thank my extremely dedicated and hard-working team for all of their support and endeavours. Finally a BIG thank you to the community, neighbours and friends for all of their support."*

Restructure of Community Centre

With the resignation of Jan Masson as Centre Coordinator, we are excited to announce the restructure of our administration for the Centre. Meagan Henry has been appointed as the Business Manager for the Preschool and Community Centre and we are currently in the process of recruiting an experienced Community Development Manager for the Community Centre. With these changes we aim to expand the range of centre based services to the community particularly in the areas of youth services and seniors' activities.

Changes to the Preschool Hours of operation

After many hours of planning, consultation with our

From Your Local Community Centre
Aspendale Gardens Community Centre
103 - 105 Kearney Drv, Aspendale Gardens
Phone 9587 5955
www.agcsinc.org.au

preschool parents, discussions with Council and government officials, we have finalised our preschool timetable for 2013. We hope it reflects the needs of our community and allows the flexibility that our preschool parents and carers were seeking. We will offer two groups of four year old kinder 15 hours per week, two groups of four year old 10.75 hours per week, three groups of three year old kinder 5 hours per week and two occasional care sessions. For more information, please go to our website: www.agcsinc.org.au.

New to the Centre

FREE!! Financial Planning Seminar for Families.

This seminar is tailored to the needs of families to help you protect your financial future. This important seminar will cover topics such as starting a family, cost of education, insurance (how much is too much), separation and divorce and more!

Date: Tuesday 11th September 2012

Time: 7.30pm-8.30pm

NEW! Slime Lab

Science workshops for kids aged 4+. A fun and educational way for kids to learn about science while participating in activities such as making their own colourful slime. Only non-toxic, environmentally safe and child proof products are used.

Wednesdays from 4-5pm Contact Linda on 0413 338 658 or email: slime.lab@hotmail.com

And don't forget our AGM:

Annual General Meeting
Aspendale Gardens Community Service Inc.
4th September 2012 at 7.30pm



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AGRA Annual General Meeting.



Wednesday the 29 August 2012 - 7.30pm
At the Community Centre, Kearney Drive.

7.00pm. Doors open. All visitors please register at the door. Note you do not have to be a member to attend or ask questions. You only need to be a member to vote. If you wish you can become member of AGRA by registering at the desk; there is no charge to be an AGRA member. Membership does not mean you have to join the committee or to carry out any work, it means that you support AGRA and the work it does for the community. Without a strong membership base or community support AGRA would not exist. All new and existing AGRA members will be given a card at reception to display when voting at the meeting.

Agenda

- 7.30pm. Welcome and Apologies. Introduction of the 2011/12 Committee.**
Apologies Donna Bauer State MP- Today is a parliamentary sitting day.
- 7.35pm. Minutes of Previous Meeting 31st August, 2011.**
Matters arising? (Copies of the previous minutes will be available at the meeting).
- 7.45pm. President's Report and Questions. This will be a Power-Point summary of key items.**
Please read the full report in this AGRA Newsletter. Ken Carney
President Ken Carney will move acceptance.
- 8.05pm Treasurer's Report and Questions.** John Zeccola.
Copies of the Treasurers report will be available at the meeting. Treasurer John Zeccola will move acceptance.
- 8.15pm Changes to the AGRA Constitution.**
No changes advised.
- 8.20pm. Election of Officers. Chaired by local Councillor Dan Moloney.**
Any Aspendale Gardens resident can nominate on the night to become a member of the AGRA committee. Tradition is that we elect the following positions; President, Treasurer and Minute Secretary tonight along with individual committee members. The committee then fills all other official positions during their first meeting. We need three new Committee members to join us tonight.
- 8.30pm Re-appoint Auditor for 2012/13.**
Again our thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Lovell for auditing our accounts for many years.
- 8.35pm Melbourne Water Presentation by David Reginato** Team Leader Developer Planning South for Melbourne Water on the Mordialloc Creek Waterway Development including the Industrial Estate on the Eastern Side of the Creek. David may be supported by two other Melbourne Water staff. We are hopeful that a Town Planner from Council will also attend so that shielding of the development can be discussed. This is an opportunity for all residents to get an update on what is going to be an amazing development in our backyard. You will be able to ask questions.
- 8.55pm. Hooliganism in Aspendale Gardens.** A police officer will attend, (Mordialloc Police Station) The police will update residents on actions taken by the police to minimise hooliganism in our region. Questions will be taken from the floor.
- 9.05pm. Question Time.** Our South Ward Councillors Mayor John Ronke, Trevor Shewan and Dan Moloney will answer any questions you may have.
Any other Business.
Newsletter deliverers. General community questions.
- 9.15pm appx. Finish. Light refreshments kindly supplied by Ritchie's Supermarket.**
An opportunity to mix and mingle with Councillor's John Ronke, Trevor Shewan and Dan Maloney and also our local MLC Inga Peulich if she is able to get here in time from Parliament.



Primary School Update



Aspendale Gardens continues to provide an outstanding, challenging and engaging educational program for the students. We recently had visitors from China visit us. There were 19 students and 2 teachers from our sister school in Youfu West Street School in Nanjing. They were able to experience the Australian school system and how Australian students live by being billeted with our very generous families. The students along with their host family students had a wonderful day at Healesville Sanctuary which was highlighted by the amazing birds of flight show. I would like to thank our wonderful families, students and teachers for making our visitors feel


welcome and for giving their time to ensure their stay was enjoyable and memorable. This would not have been possible without the amazing work from Mrs Julie Lach and Miss Mei-Lin Chu our Mandarin teacher. Julie and Mei-Lin spent many hours organising the activities, the host families and the finer details regarding travel and the overall organisation. This was a massive job and one that Julie and Mei-Lin covered brilliantly.

As a follow up I will be accompanying 8 students along with Mrs Julie Lach and Miss Mei-Lin Chu during the September school holidays to China. The students will be billeted for some of the time and will be staying at our sister school, Youfu West Street in Nanjing and in Shanghai on the way home. The children are really excited as are the adults attending and we are looking forward to sharing our experience on our return.

To complement our Chinese Mandarin teaching program we have a Chinese Exploratorium which was donated by the Chinese government. The Exploratorium is made up of five interactive LCD screens which have an array of Chinese interactive sites the students can explore. Thank you to Mr Wyatt who has been in charge of the project. We are looking forward to enhancing our Chinese program with the new screens. The grand opening will be before the end of term.

Cheryle Osborne, Principal.

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Phone: _____

Please tick one - New Member [☐] Renewing Member [☐]

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