

# Aspendale Gardens News



Winter  
2016

The Official Newsletter of AGRA,  
Aspendale Gardens Residents Association

Distributed to over 2300 homes in Aspendale Gardens [www.facebook.com/agra3195](https://www.facebook.com/agra3195)

## AG Residents Feel the Need for Wireless Internet Speed

High-speed internet has come a step closer to reality for Aspendale Gardens residents after a telecommunications company showed interest in providing high-speed wireless internet to Aspendale Gardens.

Andrew Higham, new Aspendale Gardens resident and new AGRA committee member, has been researching wireless internet providers after discovering he was unable to have ADSL internet connected to his home. NBN is due in Aspendale Gardens in 2018, however for Mr. Higham this was too long to wait.

Mr. Higham's research lead him to Uniti Wireless, a South Australian internet provider. With an established Adelaide network, Uniti is embarking on expansion in Melbourne, with existing customers including Melbourne Storm and Melbourne Victory Football Clubs.

AGRA and City of Kingston councillors have since met with Uniti Wireless to understand what would be required to provide a local point of presence in Aspendale Gardens.

"Uniti's objective is to support communities across Australia, so that they may connect to better broadband" said Sasha Baranikov, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Uniti Wireless. "We believe it is critical to keep generations of Australians educated and inspired to live and work where they choose, bridging the digital divide for increased economic growth. Our aim is to connect Australians at speeds as fast as a fibre connection, at an affordable price".

Uniti have indicated that a target of 100 Aspendale Gardens households would make setting up a local point of presence feasible. It's likely not to happen if they do not reach that target. Residents are asked to register their interest at <https://www.unitiwireless.com/register>.

For more info visit [www.unitiwireless.com](http://www.unitiwireless.com)



*Photo: Uniti Wireless looking for expressions of interest from Aspendale Gardens Residents*

## Also in this issue...

It's federal election time! We asked our candidates about where they stand on issues close to our heart. Check out what they said and make an informed vote.

Also... following the huge resident turnout to the AGRA public meeting, Kingston council makes a call about the proposed 62 additional shopping centre apartments!

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**CALL TODAY TO BOOK YOUR TAXATION APPOINTMENT**

## President's Report

### Welcome to the 2016 Winter Edition of Aspendale Gardens News!

Thanks to everyone who attended the meeting about the Shopping Centre Development recently and to the 417 people who completed forms objecting to the proposal. It's great to get such strong community support.

Please mark Tuesday 16 August 7.30pm in your calendars – that's the AGRA AGM. We'll share the latest progress on the Shopping Centre Development and everything else residents have asked us to work on for Aspendale Gardens.

It's crazy to think we only have one dogs off-lead park in Aspendale Gardens and you can only use that between 5pm and 10pm at night. So we are working with council to get much more space where pet owners can exercise their dogs off lead.

Kind regards,  
Tony Firman, AGRA President

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Email: [agrasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:agrasecretary@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.agrainc.org.au](http://www.agrainc.org.au)



Photo: Aspendale Gardens Resident Roxy the Wonder Dog checks out the Aspendale Gardens Sportsground

### Your AGRA Committee

Tony Firman	President, Chairperson Advertising
Andrew Bearsley	Vice President, Editor
Mark Bruce	Treasurer
Lucinda Bertram	Minute Secretary

Also Andrew Higham,  
Louise McCormack, Peter Boardman,  
John Zeccola, Cameron Davies, Reny Frighetto,  
Serge Yan & Henry Warren

AGRA meets on the third Tuesday of the month except December. All welcome. 7:30pm at the Aspendale Gardens Community Centre

## Editor's Bit

Hello to all friends of Aspendale Gardens. It's Federal election time, so AGRA reached out to all Isaacs candidates and asked them for their opinion on issues affecting Aspendale Gardens. You'll find their responses in this issue.

AGRA is a non-party-political residents group who all love Aspendale Gardens. We aim to bringing people together and work with various levels of government to make sure we get what our growing community needs.

It's easy to sit back and be cynical at the world. Instead, why don't you do something positive and join us. Come along – Aspendale Gardens will be better for it.

Cheers, Andy Bearsley, AGRA VP and Editor.

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your place on the wait-list today!

<https://www.unitiwireless.com>

## Upcoming Federal Election: AGRA asks the Candidates

It's that time again when Aspendale Gardens residents go to the polling booths for a sausage sizzle and a say in the running of our country.

To help residents make an educated decision, AGRA reached out to the candidates and asked for their opinion on issues affecting Aspendale Gardens. We also gave all candidates the opportunity to advertise in the newsletter, which helps cover printing costs.

The Greens candidate did not respond, however all other responses from Liberal, Labor and Animal Justice Party are included here.

### Garry Spencer Liberal



Garry: Having lived locally for over 25 years, I understand local issues and have a record of working hard for the community.

I hold a Member of the Order of Australia for service as a military technology specialist. I then worked for IBM across Asia and now operate my own management consultancy.

Locally, I established the Mentone Track and Field Centre, the Friends of Mentone Station and Gardens, and Mordialloc Creek Community group.

I am married with three adult children.

**AGRA: What plans does your party have for improving the traffic congestion in the Melbourne's South East? Are you a supporter of the Mordialloc Bypass / Morning Peninsula Freeway Extension? If so, what are the plans of your party to move this road extension forward on the transport and infrastructure agenda?**

Garry: The Mordialloc Bypass is my top infrastructure priority and I am fighting hard for it. We have to reduce traffic congestion on Wells Rd, White St, Nepean Highway and surrounds. Good road connections improve the quality of life of residents, and improve business efficiency which creates jobs and growth.

The Napthine Government committed \$10.6m to plan the Bypass and promised \$200m to start construction. The Andrews Labor Government dumped it and are saying it may not be needed until 2048. I know it is needed now. The Turnbull Government's \$1.5 billion Victorian infrastructure commitment will complete other competing projects. I'll fight to bring the Bypass to fruition.

**AGRA: Most of Aspendale Gardens will not be connected to the National Broadband Network until 2018 and most suffer from very poor upload and download speeds in the evening. Some residents have no access to internet at all due to limited ports on the Telstra exchange. Do you have any plans to help improve the connectivity of Aspendale Gardens?**

Garry: I'll fight to fix the internet issues Aspendale Gardens has had for years. The only progress made recently was when State Liberal MP Lorraine Wreford and Cr Tamsin Bearsley took action and delivered more ports.

Telecommunications are a Federal responsibility but our current sitting rep has made no progress. In 9 years he's never raised it in Parliament.

I've already had discussions with the Minister for Communications. We've fixed Labor's NBN bungles and will get Aspendale Gardens online as a priority.

**AGRA: What other comments would you like to make that you think would interest the residents of Aspendale Gardens?**

Garry: In 9 years, Mark Dreyfus has only mentioned Aspendale Gardens 7 times in Parliament. That's not good enough. As a local I am far more interested in representing the community than I am in gaining titles.

For Isaacs, my top priorities are:

- Reducing traffic congestion
- Fighting against ugly over-development like SkyRail
- Creating local jobs
- Providing support for local businesses
- Bay, park and waterway protection

Your support will give you a strong voice in Malcolm Turnbull's team.

Please visit [GarrySpencer.com.au](http://GarrySpencer.com.au) for more information.

Best regards,  
Garry Spencer  
0418 996 856

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# GARRY SPENCER

Liberal for **Isaacs**

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- ✓ **Opposing SkyRail**
- ✓ **Wants better internet**
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*It's time to elect a local*

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Authorised by S Frost, 104 Exhibition Street, Melbourne 3000.



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## Mark Dreyfus

### Australian Labor Party



59 year-old Dreyfus was a prominent Melbourne barrister and QC before his election to parliament, and is a former Director of the Law Council of Australia. He has also served on the Victorian Bar Ethics Committee and Victorian Bar Council, and worked as a ministerial adviser to state Labor Attorneys-General and as a Research Fellow at the National Research Institute of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine, and at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies. He served in several parliamentary secretary roles before leaping into Cabinet as Attorney-General and Minister for Emergency Management in February 2013 after the resignation of Nicola Roxon. In the re-shuffle that followed the non-challenge to Julia Gillard's leadership in March 2013, he was also given responsibility as Special Minister of State and Minister for the Public Service and Integrity. He retained the portfolios when Kevin Rudd resumed the Labor leadership and in Opposition has been Shadow Attorney General and Deputy Leader of Opposition Business.

(source: [www.abc.net.au/news/federal-election-2016/guide/isaa/](http://www.abc.net.au/news/federal-election-2016/guide/isaa/))

**AGRA: What plans does your party have for improving the traffic congestion in the Melbourne's South East? Are you a supporter of the Mordialloc Bypass / Morning Peninsula Freeway Extension? If so, what are the plans of your party to move this road extension forward on the transport and infrastructure agenda?**

Mark: Melbourne is a growing city and roads and public transport are always an issue in our community. The Victorian State Government is working to relieve pressure on our roads by building the Melbourne Metro, to get more people on trains, and completing several roads projects that will assist residents in the Isaacs electorate.

The Mordialloc Bypass / Mornington Peninsula Freeway Extension has long been proposed and a feasibility study was completed in 2014 about the benefits of the project. I support the construction of local roads that will benefit our community and would welcome the next step of community consultation and studies by VicRoads.

**AGRA: Most of Aspendale Gardens will not be connected to the National Broadband Network until 2018 and most**

**suffer from very poor upload and download speeds in the evening. Some residents have no access to internet at all due to limited ports on the Telstra exchange. Do you have any plans to help improve the connectivity of Aspendale Gardens?**

Mark: Before the 2013 election, Mr. Turnbull, then the Liberal Communications spokesperson, promised that every household in Australia would have a cheaper, faster NBN by 2016. Like the Liberals' broken promises on healthcare, education, pensions, the ABC and so many other issues, the Abbott-Turnbull Government broke their commitment to our community on the NBN.

80 per cent of Australians are still waiting for the NBN and no place knows this better than Aspendale Gardens. Since 2013, Australian internet speeds have dropped from 30th in the world to 60th. ADSL users in Aspendale Gardens know well the drama of getting a good internet connection, with many local residents and businesses unable to access internet that meets their needs.

The choice is clear this election. The Turnbull Liberals have a plan to roll out an already obsolete copper network NBN. This plan has already gone well over budget and the expected completion time has been pushed back again and again. Under the Liberals, no resident of Aspendale Gardens can be confident of getting the NBN, let alone a world-class NBN, in any timeframe. Conversely, a Labor Government will deliver a world-class fibre NBN. A fibre NBN is a priority for Labor, because we understand that quality internet actually delivers an economic benefit to local businesses and families.

**AGRA: What other comments would you like to make that you think would interest the residents of Aspendale Gardens?**

Mark: The most common issues that residents of Aspendale Gardens raise with me are the cost of local healthcare and the funding for local schools. A Labor Government will reverse the Liberals' cuts to Medicare by lifting Turnbull's Medicare rebate freeze, to reduce healthcare costs for local residents. The Liberals' cuts to Medicare have seen healthcare costs climb and everyday tests such as blood tests and x-rays incur a fee, in many cases for the first time.

Labor also has a plan that will benefit all students, including local students attending Aspendale Gardens Primary School and local secondary schools. The Abbott-Turnbull Government broke their pre-election promise to match Labor 'dollar for dollar' on schools funding, cutting billions of dollars from Australian schools. Aspendale Gardens Primary School is \$500,000 worse off following the Liberals' cuts.

State and Federal Labor Government have a record of delivering for local schools, including funding for the Aspendale Gardens Primary School hall and the school's Stephanie Alexander kitchen garden. Labor's plan for schools will see increased investment and targeted support for local schools, as recommended by the Gonski Schools Report. While the Liberals give a \$50 billion tax cut to big business, Labor will invest in the things that matter like health and education.

# A letter to residents of Aspendale Gardens



Dear local resident,

Like many local communities, Aspendale Gardens has lost out because of the Abbott-Turnbull Government's cuts and mismanagement.

Before the last election, the Liberals promised no cuts to pensions, no cuts to health, no cuts to education, and no cuts to the ABC and SBS. They have broken every one of these promises.

The Liberals have failed our community. Unemployment in Melbourne's South-East has risen because of the Liberals' refusal to support our local automotive manufacturing sector. There are fewer opportunities for Aspendale Gardens' residents because of the Liberals' cuts to universities and schools, while Turnbull's planned closure of the CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research Centre in Aspendale will cost more local jobs, all for the sake of a real estate opportunity.

While the Liberals have been cutting and infighting, Labor has been preparing positive policies for Australia.

We will reverse Turnbull's cuts to health and schools and provide the greatest investment in education in a generation, an investment that will benefit schools in Aspendale Gardens and surrounding suburbs. We will return the Budget to surplus the same year as the Liberals, but our budget repair will be fair and won't target vulnerable Australians.

While the Liberals want to protect big multinationals from paying tax and hand a \$50 billion tax cut to big business, Labor's priorities are to invest in local services and infrastructure, like a world-class NBN and a Medicare system that benefits all Australians.

The Liberals have neglected our community for too long. On July 2 I ask that you put the Liberals last – it's where they've put you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Dreyfus".

**MARK DREYFUS QC MP**

**Federal Labor Member for Isaacs**



## Elizabeth Johnston

### Animal Justice Party



My name is Elizabeth Johnston and I am the Animal Justice Party candidate for the seat of Isaacs in this federal election.

I have lived in this electorate most of my life and value the way of life here. After the Four Corners Program of 2011 exposing the horrors of the live export trade I joined the party.

I believe in the AJP values of kindness to other species', as well as our own, who inhabit our planet with us, and of their protectiveness of the environment that ultimately sustains us all.

The Animal Justice Party welcomes and is appreciative of this opportunity to communicate with the residents of Aspendale Gardens. Realistically speaking our lead Senate Candidate Mr. Bruce Poon, rather than myself, has the best chance, through the Senate, of representing and fighting for your views.

**AGRA: What plans does your party have for improving the traffic congestion in the Melbourne's South East? Are you a supporter of the Mordialloc Bypass / Morning Peninsula Freeway Extension? If so, what are the plans of your party to move this road extension forward on the transport and infrastructure agenda?**

Elizabeth: The AJP does not have an official policy on the Mordialloc Bypass and the Mornington Peninsula Freeway Extension. Independent expert assessment would guide any decisions made by the AJP. However, if the population continues to grow at this rate in this region and down onto the peninsula, it doesn't matter how many roads you build, it won't solve the problem of traffic congestion.

And no mention of rail or other forms of public transport? Is it in the mix? An environmentally friendly sustainable alternative or addition. The planet could do with some sustainable policies.

**AGRA: Most of Aspendale Gardens will not be connected to the National Broadband Network until 2018 and most suffer from very poor upload and download speeds in the evening. Some residents have no access to internet at all due to limited ports on the Telstra exchange. Do you have any plans to help improve the connectivity of Aspendale Gardens?**

Elizabeth: The AJP does not have an official policy on the telecommunications network in the area of Aspendale Gardens and its surrounds. However, in this first world country it is hard to believe that it is apparently easier to communicate with the space station circling above earth

than it is to speak to your neighbour in the next suburb or to use your computer. The AJP would call on, and listen to, the views of independent telecommunication experts on the best way to fix these problems. This issue has become politicized.

**AGRA: What other comments would you like to make that you think would interest the residents of Aspendale Gardens?**

Elizabeth: The last thing the AJP would like to say is that the Federal seat of Isaacs is home to the beautiful and environmentally significant Edithvale Wetlands- a sanctuary for water birds and other species. Along with the Green Wedge which runs through our electorate it provides a breathing space for us and other species. Pressures are being placed on these 'green lungs'. Whatever our development plans, it must never be at the expense of our environment. Be vigilant!

Thank you Elizabeth Johnston AJP Candidate Isaacs

## Council puts the Kibosh on More Shopping Centre Apartments

Council has issued a notice of refusal for the application to build an additional 62 apartments above the Aspendale Gardens Shopping Centre.

This follows the public meeting organised by AGRA, where residents turned out in droves to a residents meeting organized by AGRA to express concerns about the application which would have brought the contentious development to a total of 85 apartments.

The Aspendale Gardens community centre had standing room only as residents asked questions and expressed concerns. The vast majority of attendees voted by show of hands to oppose the development.



*Photo: Aspendale Gardens Public Meeting, Thursday 12 May 2016*

"I guarantee you I will read every single objection" said Mayor and Aspendale Gardens resident Tamsin Bearsley to the packed public meeting. "Even you all being here, on a rainy night, is useful information for us when considering the application".

From AGRA, we thank everyone who attended the meeting including Cr Tamsin Bearsley, Cr David Eden, Tim Richardson MP and federal candidate Garry Spencer who came to listen to residents.

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## Get to Know Your Neighbours

Our local traders in Aspendale Gardens are the heart of our community. Nathan Arrowsmith finds out what they love and what makes them tick.

**Meet Dr. Jessica Dhir, owner of Carewell Medical Centre in the Aspendale Gardens Shopping Centre.**



Photo: Dr. Jessica Dhir

Address: Shop 15, Aspendale Gardens Shopping Centre

Contact: 03 9590 9955

Email: [reception@carewellmedical.com.au](mailto:reception@carewellmedical.com.au)

Web: [www.carewellmedical.com.au](http://www.carewellmedical.com.au)

The Carewell Centre provides services including children's check-ups and immunisations, women's health including pap smears, pregnancy care and contraception services, aged care health assessments and chronic disease management plans, skin checks and skin lesion removals, travel advice and travel vaccinations.

Jessica's husband Mohit is also a doctor. They have 3 children, two boys and a girl, aged 12, 17 and 21 years.

**What do you love about Aspendale Gardens?** Jessica: I moved into the area originally for the great schools. Since living in the area quickly realized how community based it was here. I always wanted a more personalised medical centre opposed to the larger bulk-billing centres.

**How long have you been in business?** I have been a doctor since 1991 and started CMC (Carewell Medical Centre) Aspendale Gardens on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2012.

**Why did you become a doctor?** Growing up my family all worked at a medical school. Being around them, the school and seeing all the well dressed students in their white jackets really attracted me. I went straight into medical school from year 12.

You never stop studying and learning as my industry is forever changing. Research and safety in the medications are always improving. Detection is earlier and side effects are always improving.

**What is your favourite service that you provide?** I have a masters and specialise in women's health so am very passionate in that area. For children's health, I love it when the kids bring in their picture and things they make. My clients come from as far as Mornington.

**What time do you start work?** I start at 9am and work about 40 hours per week. I love my balance, so I take Thursday and weekends off.

**If you weren't a doctor what would you be?** If I wasn't a doctor, I would be a chef because I love cooking, or a singer! I love to sing out loud at home! To unwind, I love to watch a romantic movie with my daughter.

**What is your Favorite place to go on holiday?** Fiji! I also love going to the Mornington Market, Main Street Mornington and Olinda.

**What is your favorite drink?** Chamomile tea

**What is your favorite food?** A hot curry!

**What is your favorite restaurant?** Chin Chin in the city

**What is your number one health tip?** Remain active and have a mindset of total happiness!


*I hope you've enjoyed your local Q&A!*

**Nathan Arrowsmith**

Sales Manager, Buxton Real Estate

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## Vale Kerry McKenna

It is with great sadness that we report that one of AGRA's early members Kerry McKenna passed away on the 13th of May 2016. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Mitchel and all of the family.

Kerry joined the AGRA Committee in November 1998. Her main objective was to get the Aspendale Gardens Primary School built and operating quickly. Kerry brought to the AGRA committee her vision, energy and determination to see this objective come to fruition.



Kerry convinced the AGRA team that the school was needed immediately not at some unknown time in the future. The land was available but the government of the day was not keen to build the school. It appeared to them that the numbers were not there to justify building the school.

Kerry's School Action Group prepared and managed what must have been one of the most comprehensive community surveys ever carried out. If I remember correctly over 60% of residents responded. The results were astounding and history shows that the survey accurately forecast the need for the school and future growth.

Was Kerry a mover and shaker, was she ever! Kerry could not have achieved what she did without the support of her family and the community, but if Kerry had not arrived with all her enthusiasm, knowledge and drive at the time she did, who knows whether the school would have ever been built.

So on behalf of our community and the children who have or will attend Aspendale Gardens Primary School, Kerry, we thank you and your family for the energy, drive and enthusiasm you brought to the project and for their support in doing what you did for us all. You can certainly rest in Peace. You will be missed and remembered by many friends.

*Ken Carney, Past President AGRA*



Some things  
are best left to the pros.



**Taylan Kursunlu**

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**Andy Choi**

Sales Manager  
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