



# ASPENDALE GARDENS NEWS

AGRA - ASPENDALE GARDENS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION  
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TITLE

## OH YES!

## HIGH SPEED INTERNET ARRIVES IN ASPENDALE GARDENS



## VCAT APPROVES 82 APARTMENTS ABOVE SHOPPING CENTRE

## OH NO!

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It's been a while between newsletters! AGRA has been communicating a lot on Facebook, but it's hard to beat a physical newsletter. If you've missed us, Here's an update since last time.

## Changing of the guard

We welcome our councillors for 2016-2020:

**Cr Tamsin Bearsley**

**Cr Georgina Oxley**

**Cr David Eden**

Going into council elections of 2016, local resident **John Ronke** hung up his hat after more than 20 years of service to our community. John Ronke was an original AGRA member, back in the day when our suburb was mostly paddocks, no school, no community centre, in much need of vision and leadership. We are eternally grateful for John's hard yards in service. John will be remembered as an Aspendale Gardens Legend!

Our incredible **Tony Firman** has passed the baton of AGRA President on so he can focus on invigorating the the Chelsea Baseball Club. Tony continues to be a champion for Aspendale Gardens, and is constantly giving his time and energy for others.

## Community Fun Day

Every two years, AGRA has been getting together with the Shopping Centre and Ritchies IGA to provide a Community Fun Day. We've applied to City of Kingston for funding to make it happen, so fingers crossed! The Community Fun Day is planned for 18th November 2017.

## Get connected

High speed internet has finally come to Aspendale Gardens through Uniti Wireless. It's not available to everyone yet - you'll need line of sight to the antennas on the shopping centre or Braeside. More antenna locations are coming soon. Let Uniti Wireless know that you're interested at <https://unitiwireless.com/register>

*Kind regards,  
Andrew Bearsley  
AGRA President*



**FACEBOOK:** [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AGRA3195](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AGRA3195)  
**EMAIL:** [AGRASECRETARY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:AGRASECRETARY@GMAIL.COM)  
**WEB:** [WWW.AGRAINC.ORG.AU](http://WWW.AGRAINC.ORG.AU)

**Our AGRA AGM is on Tue 15 Aug at 7.30pm and is your chance to stay up to date with community issues affecting our suburb. All residents welcome!**  
**VENUE: Aspendale Gardens Community Centre**

**President:** Andrew Bearsley  
**Vice President:** Lucinda Bertram  
**Treasurer:** Mark Bruce  
**Secretary:** Andrew Higham  
**Committee:** Peter Boardman, Reny Frighetto, Serge Yan, Henry Warren, Brian Stuart





# 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 John, Rahul and Bhajji - proud owners of Michelangelos Restaurant on Springvale Rd Aspendale Gardens, after taking ownership 2 years ago.**

John has 25 years of restaurant experience, owning a restaurant at Melbourne Central for 10 years as well as the well-known Intermezzos at Southland for 15 years.

Before the restaurant business, John was a school teacher at Malvern and Richmond Primary School. A customer one day recognised John and said "Hey you were my teacher 36 years ago in 1980!"

**What do you love about Aspendale Gardens?**

Connecting with all the families as they are all so down to earth and seeing the children grow up and being part of their lives over the years.

**Since you have started the quality and experience has greatly improved. What's your secret?** Our staff and customers are like family. That is the secret of a successful restaurant business. Head chef Tony Jones has been with me for 17 years, Bhajji and Rahul for 10 years and both are now part owners. Waitress Natasha travels to work every day from Box Hill. The floor staff have been with me for years and are all like family.

**What is your favourite product?** Our signature dish the 'Honey Glazed Lamb' and the 'Penne A La Panna'.

**How many hours do you work per week?**

Around 55 hours per week. We each have one day off.

**What do love about what you do?**

The long term friendships and relationships we build through our staff and long term customers who now are like our family.

**How far do your customers travel to have a meal?**

From the Peninsula, Hampton, Bentleigh and more.

**Your worst habit?**

Dropping red wine on the floor!

**What do you enjoying doing outside of work?**

John: walking, gym and supporting Richmond

Rahul: Cricket, music and I love dogs!

Bhajji: Time with my partner, and supporting

I Hope you enjoyed your local Q&A!

Nathan Arrowsmith



Above: Rahul, John and Bhajji  
of Michelangelos Restaurant, Aspendale Gardens

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# NETFLIX AND CHILL COMES TO ASPENDALE GARDENS

**High speed internet has arrived in Aspendale Gardens, thanks to an initiative from Uniti Wireless and AGRA.**

Internet access has traditionally been a problem for Aspendale Gardens homes. Long term residents will remember that Aspendale Gardens was the last suburb in Victoria to receive ADSL, with slow speeds well below modern standards.

Following discussions with AGRA, Uniti Wireless have set up high speed internet into Aspendale Gardens via access points on Aspendale Gardens Shopping Centre and Braeside. Download speeds have been measured at up to 50 Mbps, or ten times faster than current access. This is equivalent to NBN speeds, without requiring cable access.

Not all households are covered in the first stage of rollout. Initial coverage includes western and central Aspendale Gardens.

To expand the service further, City of Kingston councillors met to expand access in Aspendale Gardens via access points on council buildings. "We want to get high speed internet to all of our community as soon as possible" said **Cr Geoff Gledhill**.

"This is a breakthrough for our residents, and we need to make sure no-one in Aspendale Gardens is left behind" said **Cr Tamsin Bearsley**.

Uniti Wireless reports more antennas are planned. AGRA have heard rumours that Uniti speeds may double to 100 Mbps in the near future with upgrades.

Feedback from residents in the coverage zone have been overwhelmingly positive, with the following comments from the AGRA Facebook page.

"We signed up first change we had and have never looked back. Fast and reliable, Great start Uniti" said resident **Kevin Wilson**.

"No more World Wide Wait; NBN speeds NOW, not in 'maybe' 2-3 years, rock solid stability, even during downpours, and very generous data allowance. WIN WIN" said resident **Lindsay Vincent**

For more information, go to <https://unitiwireless.com/> or AGRA's Facebook page.

## THE NEW YOU

**BENDIGO BANK INVITES YOU TO A PUBLIC FORUM TO IDENTIFY NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY**

The Aspendale Gardens Edithvale Community Bank invites you, your friends, your club and community organisation to a public forum on **Tuesday 11 July from 7-9pm at Bert Thomas Pavilion** in Edithvale. The purpose of the forum is to discuss current and future community needs and identify possible solutions.

Have your say on possible collaborative community projects that could be undertaken with the assistance of the Community Bank.

Bendigo Bank suggest clubs and organisations nominate two or three participants from your management team to attend. They also invite members of the community, businesses, from the City of Kingston and local politicians, to give a good cross section of our community.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served on your arrival and supper will be served at the conclusion of the meeting.

Call the branch on 03 9588 0610 to register your interest.



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## Long-awaited Mordialloc Bypass gets the green light!

The Victorian Budget 2017/18 will include \$300 million to build the 9 kilometre road between Springvale Road in Aspendale Gardens and the Dingley Bypass to slash congestion and improve safety in one of Melbourne's fastest growing areas.

"I am so proud that the Andrews Labor Government is building this vital and necessary road, to

support local jobs and get you to work and home sooner and safer," said Member for Mordialloc, **Tim Richardson**.

Over coming months, local residents, business owners and road users will be asked for input on concept designs, which will be considered as part of the planning process.

## ATM THIEVES BUNGLE HEIST

The ANZ ATM Machine was again attacked in May with thieves attempting a 3am heist armed with hi-viz vests and angle grinders. They were disturbed after police within two minutes. They fled empty handed after ramming the police car. Centre management have confirmed the ATM will be replaced inside the centre so only available during centre hours.



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# IT'S NOT ALL GOOD NEWS

SERENDIPITY  
Swiss Ice Creamery

VCAT DISREGARDS RECORD NUMBER OF OBJECTIONS  
AND APPROVES 82 APARTMENTS ANYWAY

In a shocking slap outcome for the Aspendale Gardens community alongside Ritchies IGA and shopping centre traders, VCAT have approved **82 apartments** to be developed above the Aspendale Gardens shopping Centre.

The VCAT decision overturns an earlier Kingston Council ruling, which rejected an extension to development above the Aspendale Gardens Shopping Centre.

After a public meeting organised by AGRA, City of Kingston received over 400 objections to the overdevelopment.

**Ken Carney** represented AGRA at the week-long session at VCAT in February.

AGRA was joined by **Jono Whelan** from the Aspendale Gardens Community Centre, representatives of IGA and the ground floor owners corporation, and City of Kingston, all facing off against the upstairs developers.

Both Ken and Jono were unpaid, and took an entire week out to represent us. We received feedback that they both did an amazing job. We thank Ken and Jono for supporting our community.

## VCAT APPROVES "CAR STACKERS" FOR APARTMENTS ABOVE SHOPPING CENTRE

Regardless of the opposition by AGRA, Kingston Council, IGA, the AG community centre, and 400 objectors, VCAT still ruled in favour of the developer.

In a controversial move, making the situation even worse, VCAT endorsed a solution that included car stackers and car parks that fail to meet the Australian standard for car park dimensions.

"This is totally the wrong direction for a state government body like VCAT" said **Cr Tamsin Bearsley**. "Council rejected the developer application with five pages of reasons. If VCAT overrides our decisions, as citizens we need to re-assess the mandate of VCAT".

The case presented by AGRA included neighbourhood character, car parking, waste management, services on balcony areas, traffic, internal amenity and impact on the shopping centre.

AGRA's case was backed by expert town-planning guidance from **Lauren Richardson**. We thank Lauren for her support.

Residents report that the car park is already full at school drop-off and pickup. VCAT dismissed parent concerns that extra pressure from apartments will make this worse.

"Who in their right mind would use car stackers when there's a whole outside car park available?" said resident **Lucinda Bertram**.

According to the VCAT order, construction must begin before 6th April 2018.

Before construction, the developer must first get agreement from the downstairs owners on a range of conditions.

Discussions with downstairs owners indicate that agreement between upstairs and downstairs on construction details is not likely to be forthcoming in the near future.

How will this affect downstairs tenants? That's the question no-one has an answer to yet.

### Watch this space...

**All is not lost.**

The upstairs developers have an almost impossible task of requiring downstairs agreement to proceed. It may yet prove all too difficult for the developers.

Stay tuned to AGRA's Facebook page for updates.

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