



Wonga Park News & Notes

Volume 1 Issue 1

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Published by:
Wonga Park Community Cottage
Old Yarra Road, Wonga Park
(opp Tennis Courts)
**"FOR THE COMMUNITY,
OF THE COMMUNITY,
BY THE COMMUNITY."**

Welcome to the first edition of the Wonga Park News & Notes. We are excited to reintroduce this

worthwhile Community Newsletter after an absence of over 12 months. If you would like to submit an article that might be of interest, could you please drop it into the Community Cottage letterbox by the last Friday of every month.

We need sponsorship of \$30.00 per issue from a local business each month to enable us to publish this wonderful community resource that has been sadly missed. Please contact the Cottage on 9722 1944 for bookings. Members of the Community are quite welcome to place one line advertisements e.g. babysitting, piano lessons, items for sale etc. for the bargain price of \$1.00 per line. For articles over 100 words a donation to the Cottage would be greatly appreciated.

WONGA PARK COMMUNITY COTTAGE.

When you visit the Cottage this year you will find a few pleasant changes, namely the renovations carried out by Manningham City Council. With the freshly painted walls and new doors and windows we couldn't refuse the generous offer of a Committee member to make new curtains.

Also, through Manningham City Council funding Co-ordination hours have increased to:- Monday to Thursday 9.15am-3.30pm and Fridays 9.15am-12.15pm.

So if you haven't called in to see us for awhile or you are new to the area, please drop in and have a look at our crafts on display or discuss some of the things that you would like to see offered on the Cottage program which comes out every term. We also have lots of resources to browse through, a noticeboard and Fax and Photocopying facilities. We are looking for tutors (paid) especially for after school classes and for school holiday activities. One of the requests we often get is for Woodwork classes, but alas no tutor! Perhaps you know of someone who would love to come and share their skills with us in a variety of ways

Term 1 is well on the way with people enjoying Bellydancing, Art Lessons in Watercolour, Embroidery, Mini Maestro Music W/Shops, Tennis

Coaching and lots more. You are still welcome to join our Walking groups at 9.30am on Mon and Fridays. We still have vacancies in the following, book asap:-
15th March Sat. CALLIGRAPHY with Anne Marks
15th March Sat. NUMEROLOGY with Nikki Polak
19th March Wed. ROMANTIC SWAG with Jenny
22nd March Sat. SILK PAINTING with Ros Hunter
24th March Mon. INTRODUCTION TO CRYSTALS

Please join us for our first **SOCIAL NIGHT**.

This term on **Monday 24th March, starting at 7pm, "THE MYTHOLOGY OF ULURU"** with Jack Cockcroft. Jack was Tourist Manager for Alice Springs Tours at Ayers Rock in the late 50's and early 60's. He will relate the stories told by the first ranger and the tribal elders of the Pitchenchara tribe. Bring along the whole family and share the fun of travelling, meet your neighbours and find out something new. All this and more for \$5 per family.

WONGA PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION meets at the Cottage 2nd Friday each month, next meeting 14th March, at 8.00pm.

JUMPING CREEK ROAD BRIDGE UPGRADE:

From the original plan to rebuild the bridge the proposal has blown out to a major reconstruction and realignment of the road which will involve:

- Removal of vegetation including 100 mature trees
- Traffic disruption for several months

Warrandyte State Park Rangers are concerned with the loss of the canopy over the creek and bridge areas and disruption to the existing wildlife corridor. For further information contact: Mr. John Stamp - City of Manningham (Project Mngr) Mr Phillip Glenister - Wonga Park Residents Association.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY - SUN MARCH 3RD

Wonga Park had 2 clean up sites registered.

1. Hall and surrounds - Leonie Blowes (Site Supervisor). Leonie's team of 17 volunteers collected 13 full bags of rubbish of which 4 were recyclable.
2. Wittons Reserve - Dennis Easterby & Kirinari Kyak Club (Site supervisors) A team of 8 volunteers collected rubbish from the riverbank and surrounds while 25 kyakers combed the river from Lower Homestead Rd to Wittons Reserve. Total of 50 bags of which 20 were recyclable.

Congratulations to all people who participated in Sundays clean up and lets see more people from our Community participating in next years Clean Up Day.



MOBILE PHONE TOWERS IN WONGA PARK

Vodafone have put forward a proposal to erect an antenna facility (ie mobile phone tower) at our local CFA Fire Station. The tower would replace the existing timber hose drying pole. The height of the tower will measure 25m with three vertical antenna panels approx 2.5m in length and 30cm wide, mounted on top of a steel pole giving an overall height of 27.5m. An equipment cabin (3.5m x 2.5m x 2.4m high) will need to be located adjacent to the south side of the CFA building.

The tower will be situated some 50m from the Kindergarten and 110m from Wongaroo. As you are aware this is our town centre providing many services and facilities utilized by the whole community and if it goes ahead it may become a real threat resulting in parents removing their children from these facilities and a decrease in enrolments, which may result in the centres closing down.

Vodafone stated their emissions are 1/1000th of the Australian Standards. However, the Standards do not appear to be universally accepted and in the absence of long term human studies, we are concerned about the long term effects of such emissions on our children and future children.

With two networks having/proposing antennae in Wonga Park we can only assume that the remaining network and others (after deregulation) will follow. If Telstra can manage to place their tower in a remote site, we can see no reason why Vodafone cannot do the same. An Action Group has been formed to object to Vodafone's proposed site and to negotiate alternate sites.

If you would like further information please call Julie Dalrymple on 9722 1191 or Danny Van Eerden on 9722 1300 or 041 984 0840.

WONGA PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Primary School is holding a **Country Fair** on **Sunday 16th March** between **10am-3pm**.

Come and join in the fun!!

Homemade Cakes	Hot Potatoes
Devonshire Teas	Sausage Sizzle
Cake Competition	Country Kitchen Preserves
Sweets	Plants
Best Dressed Teddy	Show Bags
Pony Rides	Craft & Cottage Plants
White Elephant	Harley Rides
Bouncy Castle	Books & Magazines
Electric Cars	'Under the Sea' Room
Merry Go Round	CFA/SES Display
Handball competition, John Platten	
and much, much more.....	

WONGA PARK FIRE BRIGADE

Thanks to those people who offered to help the brigade during the recent fires in the Dandenong Ranges, in fact we now have about 13 new members but would still be very keen to have you join if you live close to the fire station and are home during the day.

You may not have heard the fire siren (all members are now alerted by pagers and we have not sounded the siren for some months) but the brigade has been very busy. We have fought the fires at Mount Martha and the Dandenongs as well as numerous grass, scrub and vehicle fires in the local area.

The brigades emergency phone number 9722 1288 has been redirected through 000 and operators there will now answer all calls and activate the brigade via pagers. This year's fire season is just beginning. The CFA and the Wonga Park fire brigade strongly urge everybody to take extreme care this Summer.

You may be wondering how best you can help your Brigade? * By joining the brigade.

By becoming a member of the brigade and learning how to use the equipment and effectively fight fires and incidents. The Wonga Park Fire Brigade is completely volunteer and welcomes new members. During the Summer months we train every Wednesday night at 7.00pm, on Sunday mornings we do maintenance work as well as some additional training. Enquiries can be directed to Captain Jim McKee on 9722 1732 or Lieutenant David Miller on 9722 1486.

*** Always have your property well prepared in case of fire.** It is not too late to clean up around your house, especially the roof guttering (but do not burn off).

*** Learn how to look after yourself, family and property in the event of fire.** The brigade can help with literature and you can get more information by phoning 131 599 or from the CFA web site ...

<http://www.vicnet.net.au/vicnet/vicgov/cfa>

BURCH MEMORIAL KINDERGARTEN

Our Kindergarten has had a busy beginning to our year as we welcome all our new families and settle our groups of children.

We are planning a year of adventure and learning through PLAY for our young children that will foster their individual development in readiness for life's challenges.

Our educational program offers a variety of experience that allows active, hands on learning opportunities.

We have had good use of our beautiful outdoor pond area with all the hot weather and hope to continue with new development to our outdoor environment. A ramp to provide wheelchair and pram access will be built early this year and new planting and paving will ensure an appealing garden for our children to play in.



Kindergarten cont'd.

We warmly welcome Mrs Rachael Koger, to our teaching staff, as she takes over Mrs Trish Clarks position as 3 year old group teacher for 1997. We hope Rachael finds great enjoyment throughout her year with us.

Enrolment forms for 3 year old and 4 year old kindergarten are available at the centre.

Contact: Anne Giblett, Director Ph: 9722 1639

B **BLUE CROSS ANIMALS SOCIETY OF VIC**

Blue Cross open day and Blessing of the animals will be held on the property at 26 Homestead Road on Sunday 6th April, from 12 Noon onwards.

There will be a BBQ and sausage sizzle with cold drinks and tea and coffee available. There will be many fun competitions with prizes for the dogs, ie 'best dressed' and 'pet most like it's owner' etc. as well as several stalls including trash and treasure and plants.

This promises to be a really great day and we would welcome our friends and neighbours from Wonga Park, together with their pets (suitably restrained of course); many of whom are originally from Blue Cross. We are very lucky to have our 'regular' Rev. Douglas Wilson to conduct the Blessing which will commence at 2pm.

This will be a great opportunity to come and meet our very caring staff who will show you through our kennels and cattery and see all the animals awaiting adoption.

You will see all the work that has been done around the property in the interest of ever improving the lifestyle of our beloved animals and making us the best Animal Shelter in the country.

W **ONGAROO CHILD CARE CENTRE**

Wongaroo Child Care Centre is a long day care centre situated at the rear of the Wonga Park Community Cottage. This centre is a community based centre run by the Wonga Park Community Child Care Co-operative Ltd (a committee of local residents).

The centre evolved way back in 1985 with the establishment of a small child minding facility at the Cottage. A committee was formed in 1987 and the Shire of Lilydale granting the land and the Commonwealth Government funding the construction of the centre. Wongaroo was the first community group in Victoria to receive such Commonwealth funding (thanks to the determination of that hard working band of community minded people).

The official tree planting ceremony took place in May 1988 to mark the beginning of construction with the centre planning to be opened in September however the builder went into liquidation in November 1988 prior to completion of the centre.

Joke:

Q: Why did the toilet paper roll down the hill?

A: To get to the bottom!

With the advertised opening set for January 1989 the Community Cottage came to the rescue with the offer of the use of their annexe as a temporary centre. On 31st January 1989 the centre opened at the Cottage.

On the 11th September 1989 the move into the current building was completed.

Wongaroo reflects the spirit of the Community - the dedicated group of people who started to project and the dedicated parents who have continued as the management committee in the intervening years.

Wongaroo has a lot to offer. It is situated in a quiet, safe and rural environment surrounded by parklands. This is a benefit of the Wonga Park area. We are one of the few community based 'non profit' centres and unfortunately recent years has seen private investors develop child care centres at an alarming rate, thus resulting with decreasing enrolments in 1997.

We are open Monday to Friday 7.00am to 6.30pm and welcome any who would care to see over our wonderful centre. Contact: Pam Duggan 9722 1801

W **ONGA PARK PLAYGROUP**

Come and join in the fun! Great for children and Mums. Vacancies exist on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 9.30-11.30am. Ages 0-4 years.

Contact: Sue Offer for enrolments on 97229435.

W **ONGA PARK MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH CENTRE.**

My name is Vikki Tonissen, I am the Maternal & Child Health Nurse at Wonga Park.

The centre is open on Wednesdays, I also work at Park Orchards & Warrandyte.

The Birth Rate for the financial year 96-97 at March 97 is 22 new babies, the enrollment rate is 34, which would indicate that families with young children are moving into the area.

There have been a number of first time mothers, so I am conducting a first mums group on Wednesday afternoon. This is well attended. Immunization is held at the Health Centre on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 9.30-10.00am. There has been one case of whooping cough in Park Orchards.

My contact number is 9722 1912.

W **YENA HORSE & PONY CLUB**

On Saturday 22nd February and Sunday 23rd February Wyena Horse and Pony Club held their annual horse trials. Many competitors entered and most were satisfied with their performance. Sunday was the day of excitement with all competitors doing the large and very exciting cross country course. Many Wyena members competed and quite a few were placed. Both days went well and we are sure there were many happy and tired horseriders not to mention the horses!



FLORA'S POINT OF VIEW...

So, we've survived the heat wave the like of which none of us has seen before in the Melbourne area. But how have our gardens fared? It's times like these that the thought of a small garden and no lawn seems immensely attractive.

But this is Wonga Park built on Silurian derived sedimentary hills with soils poor in plant nutrient and humus, and a lot of us have one acre blocks. So, how do we cope through a heat wave?

We decided when we first planted our garden that we would not use huge amounts of water keeping lawns green. Grasses are the great survivors and recover with the first good rain. As for the rest I've planted Australian, including many indigenous species, watered them through their first summer and since then no watering at all.

I have found that the best survivors are the Eucalypts, Banksias, Callistemons (bottle brush), Phebaliums, Correas, Eriostemons (Wax flowers), Eremophila species, especially E. Maculata, Grevilleas, native grasses and Persoonia pinifolia (Geebung).

I did water my vegetable garden of course and my precious King Fern, Boronias, Croweas and Prostanthera (Mint Bush). If you have planted tree ferns, you will know by now if you have placed them in the right spot! Remember, they grow naturally in steep mountain gullies protected by an over storey of Sasafras, Myrtle Beech and Mountain Ash.

Those of you who provide water for birds in your garden will have been richly rewarded with the sight of Wrens, Honeyeater and Thornbills splashing in the bird bath. I hope the cat is inside at night!

The roadside bush is looking shrivelled, but aren't the trunks of the Manna Gums and Candlebarks at the bridge in Jumping Creek Road lovely now with their bark peeled for summer and autumn. Slow down so that you can enjoy them.

We can look out for Twining Fringe Lilies and Blue Bells and soon the first of the autumn orchids. Some of the Red Box will be flowering soon. The Wattlebirds will let us know.

ALL SAINTS MILPARA

Milpara - an aboriginal word meaning "a gathering of people".

'All Saints Milpara' came into being as a result of the North Croydon/Wonga Park members of the Croydon Catholic Church seeing a need to establish a more local focus. This resulting in Sunday Mass being held in the Wonga Park Hall on a monthly, then fortnightly basis over a period of 8 years. On Sunday 19th February 1995 our mass was celebrated for the first time at our new Church in Yarra Road, site of the old Gospel Church. Weekly Sunday Mass is held at 10.30am. All Welcome. Contact Fr. Michael Morgan 9725 5816.

WONGA PARK TENNIS CLUB

Hi to all the local community of Wonga Park from the Committee and members of the Tennis Club.

If you have driven down Old Yarra Road on a hot Saturday morning or a cool Wednesday night or even on a windy Thursday morning you may have noticed quite a few people on the tennis courts chasing a little yellow ball around!

Well actually, there are not many times day or night when you drive past you won't find people on the court or in the clubhouse, as the club is being used 7 days and 5 nights a week for some kind of competition.

We have a large range of competitions available from beginners, juniors and up to the advanced players.

Midweek Ladies available Monday to Thursday
Junior tennis all levels on Saturday morning
Senior tennis all levels on Saturday and Sunday afternoon.
Pennant tennis in winter for all levels.

We also have our very popular night tennis Monday to Thursday in which you are able to form your own mens, ladies or mixed team and enter at your level.

The coach at our club is Peter Dellavedova (the current Australian champion at Veteran level). Peter offers a wide range of coaching at very reasonable rates.

Courts are available for hire day or night and m'ship fees are very reasonable - single/family available.

President: Greg Lloyd 9722 1978

Coach: Peter Dellavedova 9722 1835

Membership: Janet Yen 9879 3697

Court Hire: Greg Lloyd 9722 1978

WONGA PARK HALL

The Wonga Park Hall Committee have been seeking an extension for many years to provide a storage room for the chairs, (currently stored on the stage). The original plan was to extend the Infant Welfare Centre (IWC) out and incorporate a storage room within the existing waiting room. As the IWC required upgrading to current regulations, this extension would've blown the budget.

An alternate plan has been proposed by Manningham City Council in consultation with the hall committee to extend onto the north east corner of the hall. This would be in sympathy with the Kitchen/Supper room extension but retaining the existing windows on the eastern side of the hall. Plans for this extension are on display at the Wonga Park Village Shopping Centre.

The Hall is encompassed in a bushland setting on Old Yarra Road, and is perfect for 21sts, Engagements, Dance classes, Playgroups etc. Mornings, afternoons and evenings available. Contact: Dianne Jacobs 9722 1300 for more information.

Editors Note: If you have any clean jokes, poems etc. that you wish to share, please place in WPCC letterbox

