

# The Forum

Edition 8 | Autumn 2011

## Development snapshot

As always, there has been a lot going on at Arena. Titles for Stage 10 and Stage 5 are both due in July, whilst construction has commenced on some parts of Stage 10.

Our landscaping is coming along quickly, with the viewing platform (constructed from the old sales office structure) and the 'Aperture' sculpture, located on the crest of Arena Parade on the corner of Brownfield Drive, now open for residents to use and enjoy.

It is also now 12 months since work was completed on Arena's wetlands, and you might be noticing the return of significant amounts of wildlife.

Helped along by a warm and wet summer, we now have a number of ducks and swans calling our wetlands home. These populations will continue to establish themselves over the next year or two; we encourage residents to walk around the wetlands and introduce themselves.

## New land at Arena now available

The Courtside Release is located close to all the action, and benefits from direct access to the district open space, walking trail to the wetlands sanctuary and close proximity to the future onsite shopping village and nearby public transport. Lots range in size from 312m<sup>2</sup> to 643m<sup>2</sup> and frontages up to 18m.

For more information, visit our Land Sales Office which is open daily from 12noon to 5pm and is located at 7 Arena Parade (off Princes Highway) Officer (Mel. Ref. 215 B5). We hope to see you soon and to assist with making your dreams of building a new home a reality.



## St. Francis Xavier College Officer Campus to open 2012

As the Officer community continues to grow, we continue to welcome all sorts of services and facilities to the area.

Adding to Arena's already impressive list of local schools, the popular St Francis Xavier group will commence construction mid-year on a junior college to serve years 7 to 9.

To be located on the northern side of the intersection of Princes Highway and Cardinia Road, the first intake of Year 7s will take place 2012. It is expected that the school will accommodate years 8 and 9 within three years. St Francis Xavier has a senior campus for year 10 to 12 students located in Beaconsfield.

For more information visit [www.sfx.vic.edu.au](http://www.sfx.vic.edu.au) or contact the school on 9707 3111.



Land Sales Office  
7 Arena Parade  
Officer, Vic 3809  
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[www.arena-at-officer.com.au](http://www.arena-at-officer.com.au)

## A word from our editor

It's autumn at Arena, and it's amazing to think that just three short months ago we were entering optimistically into a summer full of beautiful weather. While we didn't get the endless heatwaves we're used to in Melbourne, the combination of decent rainfall and long hours of sunlight have been great for gardens and landscaping in and around Arena.

Construction is now complete on 230 homes within Arena, and another 117 are under construction. That brings our community up to well over 500 residents, all of whom are part of this exciting and growing neighbourhood.

Inside this edition of The Forum you'll find news about some great upcoming events and initiatives, as well as an interesting profile on one of Arena's many new residents.

We've also provided some updates about landscaping and home offerings around Arena.

Lastly, we're always looking for new content for this newsletter, so if there's something you'd particularly like included, please contact me at [mashby@avjennings.com.au](mailto:mashby@avjennings.com.au)

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## Easter Egg's Galore at Arena Park

A very busy Easter Bunny came to Arena Park very early Saturday morning the 16th April and hid a thousand Easter Eggs all around Arena Park, the play equipment and even behind logs and in bushes! Sadly Easter Bunny caught a cold while hiding the chocolate treasures in the chilly autumn air and had to go home to bed to recover in time for Easter Sunday.

Luckily his friend the Easter Fairy was able to come in Easter Bunny's place to meet the children and to hand out more eggs from her very full basket!

It was great to see so many children of all ages running around the park seeking out the chocolate eggs and filling their baskets. It was also great to see parents and kids making new friends with their fellow Arena neighbours.



## Resident Story

They say good neighbours become good friends, but for Michelle and Matthew Lucas and their three children, good family will make good neighbours.

Michelle's parents Pam and Roger Parker have bought the block across the street from them in Arena's Courtside release, where they will build their homes together.

"We've always wanted to build our own home, and to be able to select our own features and colours rather than moving in to someone else's house," Michelle said.

"Arena, and the Officer area, just seemed right to me. It's got a bit of a country feel but is close to big shopping centres and plenty of transport options. We were just really pleased with the atmosphere, and it kind of felt like home," she said.

Pam Parker says she and Roger had been waiting for an opportunity to build for quite a while.

"We've lived in Glen Waverley for 32 years, but we're retired now so we had some capital to put into a new home," she said.

"I went along to a viewing at Arena with Michelle and I just thought it was a nice area. There's lots of open space, and it will be great to live so close to Michelle and Matthew and the kids," she said.

While Michelle and Matthew make decisions on the design of their home, which will begin construction around July, they are also making plans for their children Samara (7), Parker (5) and Cody (3).

The kids will need to move schools, but will also have the added excitement of dozens of new places to play and explore.

"We're looking forward to being so close to the ovals and bike paths and things like that. The kids are really into sports and riding bikes and being outside, and this neighbourhood seems like it will be just right for that," Michelle said.

Having grandparents living across the street should also make for some very convenient babysitting, although Pam isn't so sure.

"We might have to get something in writing," she laughed. "Although we can always use a hand with the gardening."

## Santa came to visit

We all know that Santa has an incredibly busy schedule towards the end of the year, so it was with great pleasure that we welcomed Mr Claus to Arena Park on Tuesday December 22nd.

Santa arrived in style on the Officer CFA fire truck to meet lots of children and parents who were getting into the festive spirit.

He made a special effort to talk to everyone in attendance, delighting children and handing out some sweets before he had to head back to work at the North Pole.



## Gum Scrub Creek Rejuvenation

One of the most important aspects of AVJennings original vision for Arena was to improve the existing environment, not only for its ecological benefits but also for the enjoyment of residents.

AVJennings will soon commence work on rejuvenating Gum Scrub Creek, which is currently little more than a farming irrigation channel running along Arena's western boundary.

The work, currently in design phase, will revegetate both the creek's embankments and the waterway itself, encouraging the return of flora like melaleuca and acacia trees and native grasses.

The area will be a restricted conservation zone, with pathways and a viewing platform and bridge open to residents. Interpretive signage will help teach residents about the native plants and animals that will live in the area, including the possibility of growling grass frogs and native birds.

We hope our residents are as excited as we are about bringing Gum Scrub Creek back to its former glory.



## New Community Initiatives

One of Arena's strengths is the strong sense of community.

Working with the Cardinia Shire Council there are many initiatives available to get people active and help them to meet their neighbours.

Foremost among these is the Arena Walking Group, which meets at 7:15pm on Tuesdays at Arena Park near Arena Parade. The group takes a health and fitness walk with plenty of good conversation. The walk takes up to an hour - children on scooters and bikes are welcome.

There's also an upcoming gardening activity hosted by Cardinia's Waste Educator, Ellen Boyen, on Monday 18 April. Held at Officer Primary School, participants at the workshop will learn how to grow their own vegetables and discover the health and environmental benefits of this activity. The workshop will include a planting session where participants can plant their own seed and seedlings and take them home. There will also be a worm farm display for children to look at.

All planting equipment is provided, but children must be supervised. The activities will go from 9:30am until around noon, and morning tea is provided. Booking are essential - contact Margie Conley at Cardinia on 5945 4432 (Tuesdays and Fridays) or email [m.conley@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:m.conley@cardinia.vic.gov.au).

Future activities to be held in the parks at Arena are also planned.

## Townhomes

If your friends or family are considering purchasing a new Townhome at Arena, the time to buy is now.

Arena's Bellevue Collection overlooks the wetlands sanctuary, where residents can enjoy peace and quiet or some interaction with the many birds that frequent the wetlands.

Our Townhomes offering has proved very popular, and these should be no exception. With upgraded fittings and finishes to the Bellevue Collection including Caesar stone bench tops, timber venetian blinds to front and back windows, front fencing and a large timber-decked private courtyard, we expect these homes to sell fast.

Prominent homes in the Bellevue release are currently available. Construction is well underway and is expected to be complete during July - and they're fully finished so purchasers can simply move in and put on the kettle.

You can visit our display at 2 Lords Lane Officer Sat & Sun, 1pm to 3pm.

Call Elaine Rennie at the Arena Sales Centre on either 5943 2175 or 0400 159 001 for more information or check out [www.arena-at-officer.com.au](http://www.arena-at-officer.com.au)

