

FOREST GARDENS ESTATE NEWS



A COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER
FOR
FOREST GARDENS ESTATE
OWNERS & RESIDENTS

DECEMBER 2008

Dear Resident,

Welcome to the November edition of the Forest Gardens Estate Newsletter. In this edition you will find out what happened at the AGM, have a go at a new Sudoku puzzle, try out a tasty recipe and get updated on Christmas.

Did you know? The Whitehorse Council offers trips to ratepayers. Check our website for details or look out for the pamphlets at Council shop at the Forest Chase.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held on the 5th November. The Horticultural Centre was a great location and we had 52 owners (including proxies) represented. Unfortunately we did not have enough for a quorum but a reasonable turnout.

The Grey Army was introduced to owners and Dennis and Mick had a quick chat about themselves and their plans for the estate.

Several other items were discussed the most notable was a motion (without notice) put by Mr Ottobre requesting Owners to pay the \$18,000 that Mr Norman Pauline was ordered to pay by VCAT. Opportunity was given to speak for and against the motion and it was clear there was no support for such a motion to proceed. One of Mr Pauline's supporters actually spoke AGAINST the motion and said he DID NOT support the foolish action taken by Mr Pauline and certainly didn't expect that the whole estate have to pay for it. The matter was declared closed.

Nominations for Owners' Corporation Committee members were called for but only one came forward a resident of only four weeks put up her hand to assist the Committee and was gratefully accepted. Mr Ottobre and Mr Kenyon were nominated to join the Committee but refused. All 2007/2008 Committee members renominated and were accepted.

It is sad that a few residents have made it so difficult for other residents to volunteer their time and skills to be a part of the management Committee. It is in the best interest of us all, to have the best people available to tackle our own particular issues. The fear of legal action against Committee members has certainly made residents think twice about getting involved.

If any one has some time to assist the Committee (in the background) as part of a support team please contact a Committee member, your help will be appreciated.

A suggestion was also made regarding collecting email addresses and fax numbers. to enable the electronic distribution of newsletters, accounts, notices.

If you have an email address and are happy for anyone within the estate to be able to contact you then forward an email to Julie.Miller@bcssm.com.au

GARDENING UPDATE

Mick and Greg have settled in well. They have been very visible around the estate. The first few weeks have been spent pruning overhanging trees, shaping shrubs and clearing specific areas of garden. In addition the hedges near the Canterbury Road entrance have been trimmed to improve visibility and safety.

You will also have noticed that they have been shaping hedges and cleaning up around our front gardens. This has been done as a "once off " to give the whole estate a general tidy up. **All residents are now to look after their garden beds.**

Please remember that Mick and Greg are here to look after the common areas and your gardens are your responsibility. Any gardens not maintained to a minimum standard will be serviced by Mick and Greg and an account will be forwarded by BCS.

As is with the Owner's Corporation quarterly fees, interest will be charged on amounts unpaid.

Please also note Forest Gardens Estate is a workplace and therefore must by law be free of harassment, bullying etc.

Should any further incidents be reported, action will be taken by the Grey Army against those responsible.

RECIPE CORNER:

Christmas Shortbread

250gr (8oz) butter
1 cup icing sugar
1 cup cornflour
1+1/2 cups plain flour
pinch of salt.

Cream butter and sifted icing sugar until light & fluffy, add sifted flours & salt, mix well. Turn mixture out on to lightly floured board, knead lightly. Divide mixture in half. Roll out to 1+1/2 in) 4cm wide. Cut with your favorite shape (cookie cutter). Bake in moderate oven 190deg from approx 10 to 15 mins.

Shortbreads can be made in a food processor and look great with sugar on top, which needs to be placed on before cooking.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

It is that time of the year. Let's put the past behind us and enjoy some Christmas cheer at the Annual Forest Gardens Christmas BBQ to be held at the **reserve in Heathcote Drive on Thursday 11th December from 6pm.**

Santa is expected around 7pm to catch up with some of our younger residents.

It is hoped Mick will lead the Committee Cricket team against the 'rest' of the resident's team in a game of touch cricket. Should be fun!

Come along, bring your own chair, extra food and liquid cheer. See you there!

WEBSITE:

The website is www.forestgardens.org.au has been activated and is well worth a look. Some problems getting information loaded up is slowing things down. Any suggestions or assistance in maintaining the information will be most welcome.

PETITIONS:

Once again the estate is being subjected to another petition. This time it is to pay the \$18,000 that VCAT ordered Mr Norman Pauline to pay. If you are approached to sign please read the Orders from the Court on the next page or on the Noticeboard first. Also don't be fooled it "will cost you money". Email Julie.Miller@bcsm.com.au or call BCS on 9616 1699 if you have any concerns

PARKING:

Parking or lack of - has always been an issue.

A concerned resident's request to all residents

"Can you ask that residents do not walk prams on the road where there is a footpath on the other side of the road, as (1) its not safe and (2) many drivers speed or certainly exceed the 20kmh speed limit and one day someone will be hit."

"Also can residents abide by the parking restrictions of 'the 4hr limit', or "short term visitor parking" signs, instead of just using the area as their carport as their garage is full."

Residents are not to park over footpaths. Footpaths are for prams and people.

As Christmas is coming there will be more cars around and visitors will not be able to park.

COMINGS & GOINGS:

Welcome to all new Owners that have moved into the Estate in November.

Note: Record prices for units are still being achieved regardless of the economic downturn.

RUBBISH

Garden rubbish has been dumped at the top end BBQ in Heathcote Drive.

This is not on – anyone caught dumping any rubbish around the estate will be fined in accordance with Owner's Corporation rules AND Whitehorse Council regulations.

Security

It's that time of year again please be aware of non-residents behaving badly near BBQ shelters or for that matter anywhere in the estate.

Residents should call the **Police on 000** or **Nunawading Police on 9871 4111**

SUDOKU NO. 2. NOVEMBER 2008

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