

CRRA



NEWS

Cardinia Ratepayers & Residents Association Inc.

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Issue No. 9 September 2009

RATES and TAXES.

By now, most ratepayers in Cardinia Shire will have received their annual Council rates account and while some may consider the average increase of 5.8% reasonable compared with a few other municipalities, it is important to consider what is being received for the amount being charged. The cost of usual basic services such as garbage/recycling/hard rubbish removal, road and footpath maintenance may have risen slightly. In a growth corridor municipality, administrative costs must also rise with additional staff, equipment and vehicles but the big ticket items (Beaconsfield sports complex \$860,000 2009/10, total cost \$5.3m, Pakenham Regional Tennis Centre \$2.8m 2009/10, total cost \$3.86m, Bunyip Multi-Purpose Auditorium \$1.25m 2009/10, total cost \$2.1m) add significantly to the Council budget with some of that cost being absorbed into the \$44 million current debt level which also comprises previous borrowing for earlier major projects such as the Cardinia Life Aquatic Centre and the \$15 Million Roads Program.

Council revenue is derived from rates, fees and charges and also handouts from State and Federal government which appear to be decreasing, and yet there is increased pressure to spend on ever more infrastructure, facilities and services due to government population growth policy. Under these conditions,

**Council Rates...
average increase of
5.8%**

**The Port Ward town
has sometimes
been overlooked by
the Council.**

**State and Federal
Government
handouts appear to
be decreasing**

the annual rates spiral must inevitably continue to rise, and because 2010 will be a property revaluation year, as ratepayers we can expect a much higher increase in Council rates next year. As taxpayers, we can expect to continue to be taxed via our Council rates.

DESAL. BOOSTER PUMP RELOCATE.

Cardinia Residents led by local spokesperson Catherine Manning won the battle to have the desalination plant booster pump station located on a more suitable site than the initially proposed location adjacent to the town centre and local primary school. A Cardinia Township Association has now been formed to safeguard the future interests of the local community whose Port Ward town has sometimes been overlooked by the Council. Interested residents can contact Catherine Manning by email: catherinemanning@inet.net.au or phone 0417 355644.

PUBLIC LAND MASTERPLAN

Cardinia Shire Council has committed to preparing a Masterplan for the public land, encompassing Pakenham Golf Course and adjoining land to the south. Melbourne Water is conducting a feasibility study of the site with regard to water management and conservation issues after which the masterplan will progress to consultation with interested local residents to identify possible recreational use of the land. Friends of Three Creeks Community Reserve has been formed to ensure the future of this Council owned land which will continue to be as open space and parkland for Cardinia Shire residents.

PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT

Issues are continuing to cause big concern for residents and ratepayers across Victoria. The State government proposed expansion of the urban growth boundary into previously declared green wedge sites is being widely criticised, and the proposal by the Growth Area Authority to charge current property owners \$80,000 or \$95,000 per hectare infrastructure tax on the sale of land brought into the urban growth boundary since 2005 has been strongly opposed. Affected ratepayers in Cardinia Shire are facing enormous rate rises due to artificially inflated land values that may not be realised until 2020/25, if at all. For the full story see www.taxedout.com.au

CRRA. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Cardinia Residents and Ratepayers Association was formed in November 2003 by a small group of concerned ratepayers.

The following are our aims:-

- To act in the best interest of all ratepayers and residents in the Shire of Cardinia.
- To create a network facilitating communication, co-operation and support among ratepayers and residents, town groups and community groups within the Shire of Cardinia.
- To function as an educational body and to disseminate information on issues and processes affecting or concerning the Shire of Cardinia.
- To work for equity for ratepayers and residents throughout the Shire of Cardinia.
- To work for accountability in the administrative process of Cardinia Shire, all tiers of government and other relevant bodies.
- To work for improved democratic process and public participation in local government.
- To put LOCAL back into local government.

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CRRA Web Site
www.crra.org.au

Check out these Leisure, Recreational and Information of Interest Opportunities.

Emerald Lake Park,

Glistening at this time of year, beautiful open space for a variety of outdoor activities. www.emeraldlakepark.com.au

Pakenham Golf Course,

An accessible and affordable venue, for physical outdoor recreation in picturesque surroundings. www.pakenhamgolfclub.com.au

Bayles Fauna Park,

A peaceful stroll, meandering pathways through the trees, see kangaroos, emus, birds. Kooweerup-Longwarry Rd. Bayles (Melways ref. Key Map Page 18.)

Mama Rosa Restaurant at Pakenham,

Fine Italian cuisine in a relaxed setting, or pizza to go. www.mamarosa.com.au

Berwick-Pakenham Historical Museum,

A fascinating opportunity to compare then and now Sundays 2.00-4.30 pm. (Old Shire Office building, Pakenham)

Serendipity Lavender Farm,

Nar Nar Goon, everything lavender, lunch or afternoon tea in delightful surroundings. www.serendipitylavender.com.au

Cardinia Shire Council meetings

– every third Monday 7 p.m. Always interesting, sometimes informative, comfortable seating, entry is free. www.cardinia.vic.gov.au



A TAX on LOCAL DEMOCRACY

The State government Planning Minister has recently flagged the possibility of charging residents to lodge objections to planning applications or inappropriate developments in their neighbourhood. Like the Growth Area infrastructure tax, is this another means of collecting money for financially depleted government coffers, or is it intended to deter those who choose to exercise their democratic rights?



RANGES WARD

Councillor Ed Chatwin has a web-blog inviting residents and ratepayers to comment on current activities in the Shire. The address is <http://www.edchatwin.com> - take a look and send in your comments.

LAND FOR MOTORSPORT The VicRoads land identified for a motorsport venue might look convenient on the map, but in actual fact its close proximity to properties in the Ryan Road and Pinehill Drive area will seriously compromise the residential amenity of many residents who are already impacted with constant noise from the nearby Pakenham bypass freeway. The motorsport venue would be less than one kilometre from 60 well established homes and there are more than 350 homes and units within 2 kilometres distance.

Join CRRA at the Pakenham Public Hall for A Night to Remember. Friday 30th October 8 p.m. Bring photos, memorabilia and personal recollections as we celebrate the history of this community friendly hall that has been so important to the residents of Pakenham and Cardinia Shire over the past 30 years. Due to receiving 'economic stimulus' funding from the Federal Government, the Council has decided to demolish the building and rebuild it with a new library attached. There are various opinions about the wisdom of this project but it seems the availability of funding was the key factor.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF CRRA.

Cardinia Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc.

I(Name).....

of(Address).....

Phone..... Email.....

desire to become a member of Cardinia Ratepayers & Residents Association Inc. In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the rules of the association for the time being in force, to pay annual membership dues as determined by the Association, to uphold the aims of the Association as expressed in the Statement of Purpose, and to work co-operatively with the other members.

Signature of Applicant.....

Date..... **Annual Subscription: \$10.00**

Comments.....

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Please send this form, with your subscription and any comments you may have to: The Secretary, CRRA, PO Box 161 Officer Vic. 3809.