

# BEN LUDLOW

## Auto Service Centre

For all your  
Vehicle Servicing  
Needs

Unit 2, 15 Pearson St, Ashfield

RING  
9279 1483



Notes from Verna  
Suburb Manager  
Ashfield  
Ph: 0432 563 800

I spoke recently with acting Senior Sergeant Holdway at Kiara Police Station. He informed me that while crime has been proliferating in our neighbouring suburbs, Ashfield has had no major crime incidents lately.

Congratulations to all those residents who are doing the right things in keeping our suburb a great place to live. In order to keep it this way, the following basic acts need to become second nature to us...

- Get to know your neighbours and chat regularly with each other.
- Review your home security regularly.
- Ensure items of value are marked for police identification.
- If you are spending time out the back, make sure the front of your residence is secure and vice-versa.
- Ensure tempting items such as laptops and mobile phones are not visible through unsecured windows.

Well done to all those residents who have joined Neighbourhood Watch and displayed signage on their bins. This also acts as a visible deterrent.

If you haven't yet joined Neighbourhood Watch and would like to do so, my e-mail address is : [verba1@optusnet.com.au](mailto:verba1@optusnet.com.au)

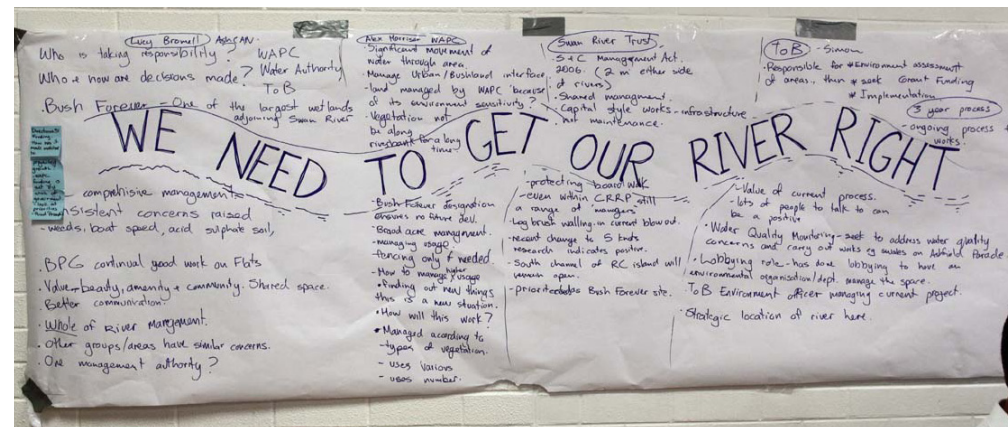
MAY 2015

Helping to build a better community

ISSN 1839-3071

Vol 5 No 2

**Ashfield**  
www.ashfieldcan.info



Comments captured at the recent river forum night.

see also articles pgs. 4&5

Ashfield Flats becomes fields of ash and after a cleanup takes place the rain brings new life. The new white fence on the hill was built to stop illegal dumping of rubbish.



**ASHFIELD**

How the locals like it™



**\$1.49**  
EA

AUSTRALIAN BURPLESS CUCUMBERS



**\$2.69**  
KG

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL MANDARINES



**\$2.99**  
1.5kg bag

**BIG 1.5kg BAG**  
AUSTRALIAN PINK LADY APPLES

ON SALE FRIDAY 8 MAY UNTIL SUNDAY 24 MAY 2015\*

3 Colstoun Road Ashfield, WA 6054

Trading hours 7.30am – 8pm, 7 days

\*While stocks last. Pictures used for illustration purposes only. Retail quantities only. No trade supplied.

*Ribbons of Colour*

Gary Blanch Reserve  
**Everlasting Planting  
& Afternoon Tea**

**Saturday  
23rd May  
2.00pm**

*Free  
Everlastings!*

Come and join us as we plant masses of everlasting seeds to create amazing ribbons of colour throughout Gary Blanch Reserve. Collect your free everlastings to plant in your own garden and enjoy a shared afternoon tea. RSVP for catering purposes to [info@ashfieldcan.info](mailto:info@ashfieldcan.info)



## Ribbons of Colour

Once again AshfieldCAN will be encouraging local residents to join us to create Ribbons of Colour in Ashfield. We will be giving away free everlasting seeds to residents to plant on their verges or in their front garden as well as planting seeds at various locations along Colstoun Rd and holding a planting afternoon and afternoon tea in Gary Blanch Reserve. See front page for details.

# The Story of How Ashfield's

I was asked to write a short article about myself and my family's journey to Australia from Viet Nam and how we established a chemist in Ashfield. I was watching a documentary on SBS "go back to where you came from" a few months back made me reflect the journey I went through. After the fall of South Viet Nam to the Communists a lot of army officers and academics, had taken the option to stay back to rebuild the Country after the War. My father a lecturer at one the Universities recalled no staff at the University opted to leave Viet Nam via the US navy. They wanted to stay to contribute their expertise to Viet Nam. Their motive vanished, as the Communist Party introducing the program, so called "Re-education Camp". The Re-education Camp was not designed to reunite and progress the country, but instead to divide and corrupt the fundamental family unit. At school, children were brainwashed to report their family members to Party officials. Peoples' wealth and livelihood were bluntly robbed by corrupted officials. After experiencing these injustices, my father did not want his children to grow up in such an environment, hence decided to escape the regime. So at the age of 6, I attempted to leave Viet Nam with my parents. We had 6 failed

attempts, but in our last attempt without my sister and mother we succeeded. I can vividly remember being locked up with at least 30 other people, in an ice cabin of a fishing boat to avoid detection at various check points. When we passed the last check point and headed to open sea, another 65 people from another boat were transferred into our boats to complete the journey. Overall we had about 95 people, confined in a boat not bigger than the boat that was on the SBS TV show.

I can remember being terribly sea sick for the first week. I couldn't keep anything down. Fortunately somehow my sea sickness passed, I was then able to eat the Tuna that was caught by crew.

Our journey was considered to be quite fortunate. We met the Australian Navy on their way to Hong Kong, who supplied us with an abundance of food and fresh water. After 2 weeks in the vast sea, we arrived in Kuching a city in Sarawak, Malaysia. We were later transferred to Pulau Bindong processing camp, then later to Kuala Lumpur for 6 months. We arrived in Melbourne in October 1983; to me it was paradised compare to the processing camp. Our sponsor was helpful and kind to us.

Please support our advertisers who sponsor your newsletter

## Mayor's

On Saturday 25 April our Town commemorated the 100th Anniversary of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, the ANZACs landing at Gallipoli.

In excess of 3000 people attended the Town of Bassendean Anzac Day Service in the new civic gardens which is now home to our War Memorial.

I would like to thank the community for the support shown to the completed project. The area is now a fitting memorial to our dead men and women who have served our country both in war and peace keeping operations.

If you were unable to attend the Anzac Day Service, I would encourage you take the time to visit the site and reflect on the service personal who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms.

In relation to the Ashfield Flats Reserve and Foreshore erosion issues previously I advised that temporary fencing had been erected, upriver from the boardwalk in preparation for foreshore restoration works. I am pleased to advise that Town staff have commenced planting along the water line and further planting will be undertaken in June once we have had sufficient rain and we would love for community members to be involved with the plantings. If you would like to assist with the

Your'e Invited Everlasting Planting

## 2015 Dog's Breaky

On Sunday 29th March the Dog's Breakfast was held at Sandy Beach Reserve.

The Dog's Breakfast was part of the Autumn River Festival this year.



David  
and Evie

We had a beautiful sunny day for the event and it was attended by a large number of people. Thank you once again to The State Emergency Service team for cooking breakfast and to the Town of Bassendean for their ongoing support.

This year we not only had the competition of the dog that looked most like it's owner but we had the smartest dog competition and the 'Great Mates selfie photo booth.' The walk trail was again a big attraction giving people an opportunity to enjoy a walk around the beautiful Ashfield Flats.

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers from the AshfieldCAN for helping to make this happen.



## Gary Blanch Reserve Working Group

Calling all park people! Come and be part of the Gary Blanch Reserve Working Group. The group will meet regularly through the year to plan events and develop ideas for future projects. Join us in this exciting, ongoing AshfieldCAN project.

Contact Emma Slavin on emmaslavin@bigpond.com for more information.

## Ashfield Primary School



The hard work that the students at Ashfield Primary School have been putting in over the past 12 months is starting to earn rewards. After many years without success, the school were Champions at not 1, but 2 Interschool Carnivals.

The Girls Football team were winners of the Eastern Conference Dockers Cup that was held in Forrestfield in late March. Schools from Perth, East Perth and Swan Districts zones played against each other with Ashfield finishing the day undefeated and winning the trophy. All of the training and participation in last year's Faction Footy gave the girls the skills to be competitive.

The very next week the Interschool T-Ball team repeated the effort by winning the Morley Small Schools T-Ball Carnival. Again, it was the training and skill development through the Physical Education program that provided the students with the tools to be competitive.

Deputy Principal and Phys Ed teacher, Mr Christiaan Moir said he was so proud of how hard the students worked in Phys Ed to develop their skills. 'We started with the very basic skills of throwing and catching and after mastering that we went about teaching them how to apply this to a game. Their development was amazing and you could really see they were enjoying learning new skills.'

More importantly, Principal Matt Snell said it was the overall attitude of the students that impressed him most. 'The best thing about all of this is that the kids have learnt if you work hard enough, and apply yourself to the task, anything is possible. I am also incredibly proud of the behaviour and sportsmanship demonstrated by our students. They represent their school with pride every time they get the opportunity to do so.'

Mr Moir and Mr Snell say this is just the 'tip of the ice-berg' with regard to the achievements that Ashfield students can look forward to if they continue to apply themselves.



Ashfield Primary School P&C has conveyed their thanks for the very generous donation from Ashfield IGA

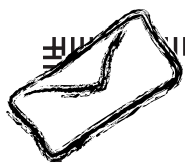


## "Award Winning Plumbers"

Master Plumbers and Gas Fitters  
Association of WA  
2008 Plumbers Licensing Board  
Plumbing Business of the Year

289 Guildford Rd, Maylands WA 6051  
Ph: (08) 9271 4021 Fax (08) 9370 4750  
water@prideplumbing.com.au  
www.prideplumbing.com.au





## Letter To The Editor . . . Maidos Street

Re the Battle of Maidos, there never was one . . . When the Aussies landed at Gallipoli their objective was the Plains of Maidos - near the town of the same name. Just think if they had got there what a famous street it would have been. The battle of Ashfield was fought between us kids, the railways and the state housing. Unfortunately, it was only a delaying action. Gorrilla warfare included the moving or removal of survey pegs. I think they surveyed three times. Also when the night watchmen were asleep the pumps were turned off or damaged. For deep sewerage we lost our playground, from Maidos St to the white rocks. What a lot of young vandals we were!

Ashfield was named after a Mr Haig's mother's estate in Scotland. Kitchener Road, gone many years ago, now named Colstoun St was, Colwyn, then Colstoun. We were told that Kitchener was a hated man by many for what he did in Africa and someone in the shire at the time changed its name. (Well it's had three names since I've been here, so maybe it's time for another change.)

Mons St, for years the light and sign on the lamp post and would have, should have gone all the way through to Guildford

Road. Ashfield Flats was a hard white sandy surface on which nothing would grow due to the overflow of the acid drain.

Seepage along the railway line from Cumming Smith crossed Guildford Road where the Mons St sign was. Short St was built later near the school and it was supposed to go all the way to Guildford Rd. When Charlie McDonald sold the farm to the Swan River (destruction) Board, who changed the name to Ashfield Flats, Or was it the Shire?

In those days the 5th of November was the biggest day of the year with a large bonfire on the hill where Haig St is now. All year to build and after 2-3 days of letting off Fizzogs, the fire over and out, the re-building would start for next year.

We had the land cleared for when they built houses and saved them all the money. Only one large tree was left. Earlier, timber cutters had been through. A big Red Gum about 5 ft in diameter we all thought they would leave and build a park around it, but it too went. There were several saw pits round the area where one poor man would be under the log with a mate on top using a cross

cut saw. All the Jarrah went, but huge stumps were left and we would dig them out as the roots make excellent fire wood.

The vandals used to strike fast. Fast flowing acid drain (what muck went into the river) was dammed by the whole of Ashfield Flats area and would go under the water and muck, till workers from Cumming Smith came to clear it.

There were five houses in Maidos Street and six in Guildford Road.

The original progress association gave their hall (now the Ashfield Sports Club) to the shire.

Radio Hill was covered with smoke bush. A new name when amateur radio club built a shack near where the CJ high school now stands.

They were the days of our bush.

**"Charlie" has lived in Ashfield since 1944.**

**Name and address supplied.**

**A small article in last months newsletter has drawn a response, in letter form, from a long time Ashfield resident . . . Interesting memories.**

**Ben Ludlow has some recollections of a school day**

## Lightning Strikes Ashfield Primary School

One of my early memories of Ashfield Primary School started the night before a school day in the form of a massive thunder and lighting storm! (In my 63 years it was probably the best thunder storm I've ever witnessed) My entire family stood in front of the house taking in one of natures greatest (and most frightening) entertainments. One bolt of lightning hit the railway line and skipped down the tracks. You had to see it to believe it.

Next day when I arrived at school (late as usual) I noticed a group of kids and teachers at the south eastern part of the school, the grade seven class. They were all looking at a large churnk of concrete which had been blown off the school by the lightning (Awesome, can we go home now? I was thinking)

One of the teachers explained that when the water from damp inside the concrete super heated blowing a chunk off? When I arrived home that day all excited about the event I told DAD what the teacher said and he said, "that's plausible". I only just now realise that Dad used the word 'plausible' quite often, he must have been a very early 'Mythbuster'!

**Ben Ludlow**

Any recollections from readers – What year did this happen? Ben Ludlow is a valued sponsor of AshfieldCAN

## Digital and Vinyl Designs



We specialise in:  
4WD suspensions  
Digital and Vinyl Designs  
for all your signage needs

Unit 2/15 Pearson St  
Bayswater 6053

**9379 3075**

**CALL US TODAY**

## First Chemist Made it to Australia



**Ben and Tracey are valued sponsors of AshfieldCAN and your newsletter**

**Ben Tran**

We moved to Perth the following year to be closer to our relatives. I was fortunate to be driven by a lovely teacher to St Michaels Primary School in Bassendean, where I attended my early years of learning. My mother and sister reunited with us in 1989, when the Vietnamese government allowed family members to be sponsored and reunited with their families overseas.

I attended Curtin University and completed my Chemistry and Chemical Engineering degrees in 2001, where I met my wife Tracey.

I later developed an interest in medicine and decided to pursue Pharmacy. After graduating in Pharmacy I worked at various Pharmacies as a locum, until there was an opportunity to establish my first Chemist in Ashfield. Returning to the area after 25 years, I found it still lacked health services, hence Ashfield Community Chemist was established in August 2012. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the community for the support in the past years and I hope to bring more health services to the area in the near future.

## Message

river plantings please contact the Town of Bassendean Environmental Officer Jeremy on 9377 9024.

The Council has passed a motion to establish a Bassendean River Parks Management Committee comprised of the Town of Bassendean staff, Councillors, key stakeholder groups and community representatives and invite the Department of Planning, Swan River Trust, Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Department of Water to oversee the management of our river foreshore and catchment. With the initial objective of preparing a management plan for Ashfield Flats.

On a final note the Town of Bassendean Council is extremely thankful and supportive of all the efforts from AshfieldCan to enhance our community be it through events, community enhancement projects or information sessions that the Council resolved to consider an amount of \$10,000 in the draft 2015/16 budget and list \$10,000 in the 2016/17 and 2017/18 Long Term Financial Plan. Thank you to all the dedicated volunteers in Ashfield.

**Cr. John Gangell, Mayor  
Town of Bassendean**

**Gary Blanch Reserve 23rd May 2pm**

**Fauldings Fish Oil 1500mg  
500 Capsules Odourless \$24.99**



**ASHFIELD  
COMMUNITY  
CHEMIST**

**New chemist in Ashfield  
(next to Ashfield IGA)**

**Open: Mon - Sat 8am - 7pm**

**1B Colstoun Rd, Ashfield  
Western Australia 6054**

**(08) 6161 9958**

**ashfieldchemist@optusnet.com.au**



## AshfieldCAN's River Forum 30th March

# An Ashfield Parade Perspective

At the recent River Forum I spoke, representing not AshfieldCAN but rather the residents of Ashfield Parade. The issue was not one of conservation, a matter of great personal passion, but rather of deception; the apparent deception perpetrated by the environmental consultant company during the consultation phase of the Ashfield Parade Concept Plan (a project completed in 2013) which promised an outcome embraced by those living on the Parade. Almost contemptuously, the large posters demonstrating the deception remain in place at each end of the Parade.

This is what people were told:

- 'Low growing vegetation (<600mm high) to be planted not to restrict views'
- There would be fencing but it would be temporary.
- Effective erosion control measures would be introduced.

This was all supported by compelling graphics, designed to perpetrate the deception and elicit agreement, depicting the project outcomes when completed. I have included two of the graphics complete with an expensive SUV. Who wouldn't agree?

The reality:

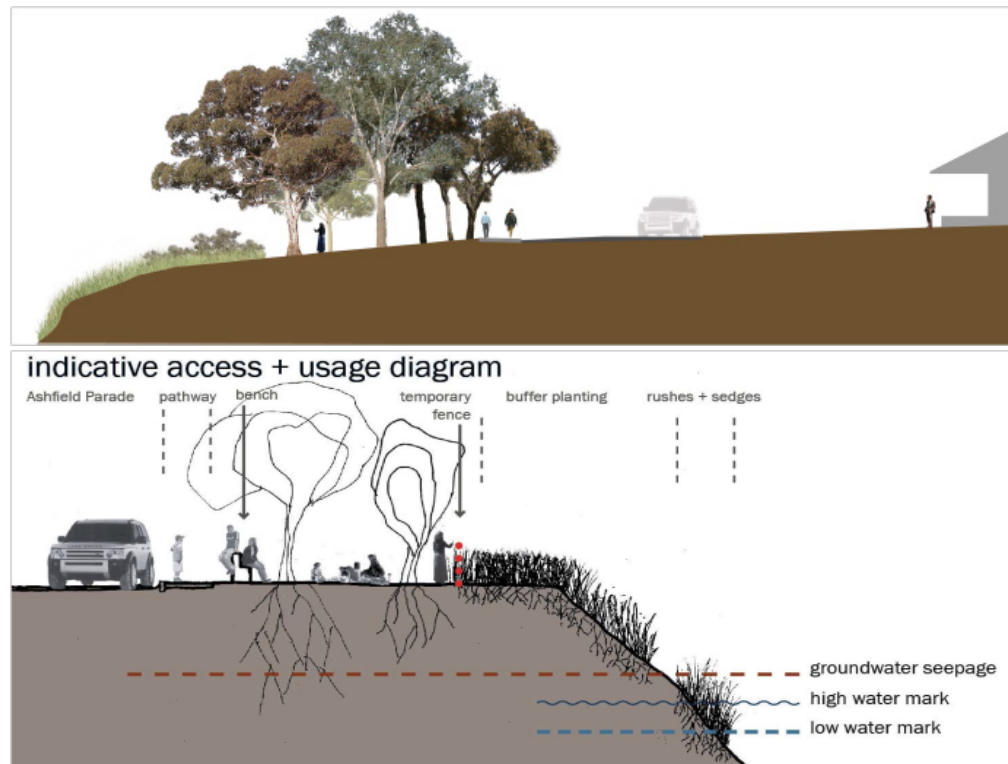
- Dense plantings of trees up to 10 metres high completely obliterate views enjoyed for decades by many generations of residents at the northern and southern end of the Parade.

The larger trees and numerous others to four metres are project plantings and not 'feral' short-lived regrowth as some have suggested.

- The Temporary fence has now become 'permanent' and extends along Ashfield Flats. Soon the only people who will have an intimate relationship with the river will be those wealthy enough to own a boat.

• The erosion mitigation measures (the heart of the plan) applied to the steep clay cliffs at the Northern end of the Parade and some other areas are an abject failure; ironically the shame of this failure is hidden from view by the dense plantings and the hideous fence. A further irony is that it appears some of the 'deep rooted' trees have contributed to erosion by fracturing ancient hard-packed clay cliffs in a process referred to as 'sub-aerial erosion'. Following my contribution to the forum the Swan River Trust representative, in what I think was a well-rehearsed, condescending response, brushed over the unambiguous truth, indicating the Project had created a thing of beauty. Yes Minister.

I believe the Town of Bassendean should be congratulated on the high quality of civil works completed along Ashfield Parade and believe the Town is making a great contribution



Outcomes following completion in 2013. Note the riverbank vegetation height; deceptive?

to the aspirations of those people and organisations passionate about the care of our river.

I do believe, however, there is a compelling case for a review of the Ashfield Parade Project outcomes and where the outcomes exceed or do not match the information provided during public consultation, immediate remedial action should be taken.

In closing I wish to stress my family home on Ashfield Parade is not one effected by the Project. This frees me to advocate on behalf of those who are, and for the future of the Swan River.

**Bob Brown** Resident Ashfield Parade

### Bassendean River Parks Management Committee.

At the Town of Bassendean Council meeting on the 28th April a motion was passed to create a Bassendean River Parks Management committee. This committee would comprise of Government Departments, Town of Bassendean Councillors and staff and local community group representatives. One of the initial objective of this committee would be to prepare a Management Plan for Ashfield Flats.

We welcome this as a positive tangible outcome to our endeavours to highlight the concerns about the management of Ashfield Flats and will continue to support the process in any way we can.

*It was good to see how many people turned up to the forum and believe that management of the Ashfield Flats and Swan River are important issues. Thank you to all those that attended.*

The forum was well attended by the local councils bordering the River in this area. Representatives attended from Bassendean, Bayswater and Belmont Council, The Swan River Trust and Department of Planning. Dave Kelly, the local Member for Bassendean and Chris Tallentire the Shadow Minister for the Environment also attended. Representative from local community groups such as the Bassendean Preservation group, Baigup Wetland group, Banks Reserve Precinct Group and the Claisebrook Catchment Group also attended. A number of interested local residents also attended.

Representative from the AshfieldCAN, Department of Planning, Swan River Trust and the Town of Bassendean all formally spoke at the meeting about their connection to the Ashfield Flats. This was followed by a questions and comments time.

While the comments and questions reflected a wide range of issues, one of the main issues was about getting a management plan for the area.

There is no formal management plan for the area as it stands today. The style of broadacre management that the Department of Planning provides for the area is not enough to protect the unique wetland within the Ashfield Flats and



Pictures of the AshfieldCAN Forum

## Dave Kelly Supporting AshfieldCAN

Congratulations to AshfieldCAN, particularly Lucy Bromell, for the River Forum in March. It was fantastic to see local residents, community groups and departmental officials come together to discuss how we can protect the Ashfield Flats.

Even though so many people recognise the urgency of the problem, it is frustrating that the Barnett Government will not commit to a comprehensive management plan for the area. Even the fire near Hardy Road, which came dangerously close to people's homes, has not been enough for the Government to take action.

Until we have a management plan, we will not find a long-term solution to safeguard this fragile area of land and water. I will continue to raise this matter with the relevant ministers and in Parliament.

I am also hoping to organise an Ashfield crime forum for residents and local police in the near future. So watch out for that. Best wishes

**Dave Kelly – Bassendean State MP**

(the electorate of Bassendean includes the suburb of Ashfield)

we need to have a more comprehensive management plan in place. As the area of Ashfield and Bassendean continues to grow, the popularity and usage of the Ashfield Flats is going to increase putting greater stresses on the area. This makes having a good management plan to protect and support all the different uses of the area even more important.

While most in the room would agree that better management was the best way forward, finding the funding and the political will to make it happen were clearly going to be the stumbling blocks.

So how do we find a way forward?

The AshfieldCAN will continue to support all tangible measures that will bring people together to work together to find a solution for better management for our beautiful Ashfield Flats.

**Lucy Bromell**  
AshfieldCAN President



# Dave KELLY

Representing  
Ashfield in  
State Parliament

e dave.kelly@mp.wa.gov.au  
p 9279 9871  
w www.davekellymp.com

Ashfield is part of the State Electorate of Bassendean

