

Vines
RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION (INC)



The Grapevine

NEWSLETTER

29 JANUARY 2022



UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR

When you are on holidays it often feels like the time goes very quickly however, this is not the case in regard to what has been happening on the VRA front. Two weeks seems so long ago.

Many of our VRA members and members of the golf club attended a special general meeting at The Vines Golf and Country Club. The objective of which was to update members on proposed changes within the organization.

As I am no longer a member of the club I was unable to attend this meeting. However, I have been told by many attendees that no real answers were provided. In fact, many club members left part way through the proceedings in protest.

As many would have heard on the radio or seen on television, the VRA has been working with an interested buyer for The Vines. An expression of interest to purchase the Vines resort was forwarded to the current owners. It was with somewhat disbelief followed by amusement, that I heard that The Vines management stated at their meeting, that an offer had not been received.

I am not going to debate what amounts to an offer, a contract or an expression of interest, but I will say that if correspondence from company "A" (let's call them the purchasers) is delivered to company "B" (let's call them the seller) expresses a desire to purchase the club as it stands and provides details of a specific dollar amount to cover this purchase, most people would consider this to be an expression of interest.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for attending the VRA meeting at the Ellenbrook Christian College. Those people that attended our previous meetings would be aware that a bigger venue was needed. We acknowledge that with the very hot weather and the requirement to wear a mask that it was not the most comfortable of meetings. However, we believe it is very important to keep you as residents up to date and to be available to answer all your questions.

With the uncertainty of what COVID will bring to this State during the next few months and the fact that we need to plan to accommodate 300 plus attendees at our meetings, it may be necessary to do things differently in the coming months. We welcome your feedback on how we might be able to do things differently and whether more suitable venues are available.

Treasurer's Report

A HUGE thank you to Residents who have donated to The Vines Residents Association (VRA) Fighting Fund. Residents have donated \$127K! We need to keep charging towards our target of \$250K to cover legal costs and to boost the huge public and political awareness campaign now underway.

**A COMMUNITY THAT IS
ENGAGED AND WORKING
TOGETHER CAN BE A
POWERFUL FORCE**



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

FUNDRAISING

The VRA Committee is a small team of volunteers with help from a few amazing helpers from within our community. We now need more Residents on board helping by getting out in the community, meeting and talking with other residents about the Fighting Fund campaign and, to help us reach our target. All ideas and suggestions for fundraising are most welcome – email The VRA at: vinesresidentsassociation@gmail.com

DONATIONS

In addition to legal costs, the donations will be funding professional Media and Public Relations representation, along with advertisements in newspapers and on radio. These are expensive but essential if we are to be successful in promoting our cause.

To date, The VRA has helped generate an Expression of Interest to purchase the Vines Resort & Country Club as well as a tremendous increase in public awareness and engagement with our public representatives. We have continued our high-profile media engagement with television, radio and local and WA state newspapers. To keep this up until we've won, the VRA are asking for \$1,000 per household. Any unspent funds from donations of \$1,000 or over will be returned on a pro rata basis, to donors who provide their name and address.

Please do not leave this to your neighbours. We must share the load – isn't this who we are as a community? If it helps, please remember that both the QR code and bank direct debit make it easy to spread payments over several months, if you cannot contribute what you want to in a single payment – the direct debit form can be found on the VRA website at: <https://thevinesra.com.au/fighting-fund-dd-form>

VRA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

SIGN UP A NEIGHBOUR AND ENTER THE RAFFLE!

This week we have 15 new households join The VRA, most of which have been referrals from VRA members. We now have 320 households signed up (over 650 individual members) which makes us one of the biggest Residents Associations. We are asking all of our members to **'sign up one new household'**. All referrals will go into The VRA raffle with the prize being dinner in the Swan Valley for two people (referrer name to be entered on Membership Application). The raffle will be drawn at the end of March.



HOW YOU CAN DONATE OR JOIN

A⁺

FIGHTING FUND QR CODE PAYMENT OPTION



FIGHTING FUND BANK ACCOUNT PAYMENT OPTION

BENDIGO BANK
ACCOUNT NAME The Vines Residents Association
BSB 633-000
ACCOUNT 187023775
REFERENCE Last Name & Street (eg: Smith – Vines Ave)

MEMBERSHIP DIRECT PAYMENT OPTION

BENDIGO BANK
ACCOUNT NAME The Vines Residents Association
BSB 633-000
ACCOUNT 142658913
REFERENCE Last Name & Street (eg: Smith – Vines Ave)

Don't forget to complete a Membership Application. This can be found on The VRA website:

<https://thevinesra.com.au/membership-application>

vinesresidentsassociation@gmail.com [0493 086 674](tel:0493086674) www.thevinesra.com.au [@TheVinesResidentsAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/TheVinesResidentsAssociation)

Safety

In January the police attended The Vines on thirteen occasions including:

- Seven (7) Noise complaints
- Two (2) Disturbances
- Two (2) Traffic Breaches
- One (1) Traffic Crash
- One (1) Assault



There was a big increase in police attendance jobs in The Vines during the month of January. Most were related to noise complaints and disturbances. This is possibly due to the warmer weather with more outdoor activity occurring.

The additional link roads through The Vines to Annes Landing and North Ellenbrook have resulted in a steady increase in traffic related incidents. This is illustrated by the traffic accident on the corner of Bordeaux Lane and Vines Avenue and two (2) separate traffic breaches.

Please make sure you report traffic and hoon related behaviour to police. The more complaints that are received the greater the chance for the allocation of additional traffic patrols.

Remember, if you need police assistance, call 131444 or 000 in an emergency. Braven Security can also be called if you wish to report any suspicious behaviour on (08) 9278 9696.

Environmental Matters

Quenda

One of the most popular animals in our recent photo competition was the Quenda, a sub-species of the Southern Brown Bandicoot.

Quenda weigh up to 1.5kg and grow to 35cm in length. They are very stocky, with a long pointed nose and small round ears.

They prefer dense understorey, banksia and jarrah woodlands, which includes gardens with areas of native shrubs and untrimmed grass trees that provide great habitat. The Vines currently has a healthy Quenda population - which is very special, as they are currently classified 'Near Threatened.' Quendas need space - their territories range from 2-6 hectares - one of the many reasons that the golf course fairways and rough are absolutely essential - they provide crucial habitat and form the corridors between gardens and remnant bush. More housing will create barriers, fracturing the environment into a mosaic of small patches too small to sustain life and will rapidly destroy our Quenda population.

(It's not just food either, Quendas need to be able to meet other Quendas!) They are a gardener's friend (mostly!), as they love bugs, tubers, and fungi. They may also dig small, conical holes in your garden, including the lawn, to get bugs out. (Any big holes - it's a rabbit) Whilst they normally go looking for food at night, they are active at dusk, and we are occasionally lucky to see one taking advantage of spilled parrot seeds.

Quendas are great ecosystem engineers who are looking after the long-term health of remnant patches of suburban bushland. By digging (and turning over nearly 4 tonnes of soil a year!) for food, quenda are helping the environment. They breakdown soil organic matter, help water infiltrate into the soil, facilitate nutrient cycling, aerate the soil and assist seed germination.

All good reasons for helping to keep our quendas healthy!



History of The Vines

Did You Know ?

THE WORLD CLASS RESORT AND COUNTRY CLUB was named "THE VINES" after an estate of the same name involved with viticulture. (Ref: *City of Swan Website*)



Wine Within The Swan Valley

Start the Presses ...

The sound of crushers and presses working at Swan Valley Wineries has hailed the start of Vintage 2022.

This year's vintage (wine grape harvest) started in mid-January. A wet winter and mild spring saw the grapes develop slower than most years, but intense heat in mid-December and January have seen the usual ripening cycle back on schedule.

Chardonnay for sparkling wine production is one of the first crops harvested followed by the white wine varieties of Verdelho, Chenin Blanc and Semillon. Depending of the weather, late February or March will see the harvesting of the red wine grapes, Shiraz, Grenache, Petit Verdot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Tempranillo and Malbec. Late March and April will see the final pick of grapes for the season. These grapes are used to make the Swan Valleys luscious fortified wines, Pedro Ximenez and Muscat.

Warm vintage seasons result in grapes with bold and full flavour, some winemakers tend to take the fruit off the vine slightly early in warm years to retain as much acidity and freshness as possible.

Selective canopy management and scientific water monitoring ensure crops remain in excellent condition to harvest.

The next few months will see many tonnes of grapes from the Swan Valley and fruit brought in from other regions crushed, resulting in plenty of long hours processing fruit and fermenting wines. For a winemaker, it's the most exciting time of the year - hard work but very rewarding

While it is too early to call, all the signs point to an excellent Swan Valley vintage in both quality and quantity.



VRA Liaison Officer



Hi, my name is Robbie (Roberta) Emanuel and I have joined the VRA as a volunteer Community Liaison Officer. My task will be to work within the community to increase awareness of the work the VRA committee are doing. Initially I will be endeavouring to set up some regular times so that members (and non-members) can pop in and have a chat, ask questions and offer up their ideas about ways in which we can improve what we are doing. Many of you will know of an elderly neighbour or friend who is not "techno savvy" who is likely to be missing important updates from the VRA – so now is the time to raise their awareness by inviting (or even bringing) them along to a meet and greet. We are negotiating a suitable venue to hold these sessions – so watch this space. In the meantime, if you want to set up a meeting with me I can be contacted via the VRA and will endeavour to meet at a time that's suitable.

In our quest to build the strength of the VRA I want you to help me to recruit 'one more' to join the VRA and ultimately commit to donating to the "Fighting Fund". As you have no doubt read earlier in the newsletter – the VRA are running a competition throughout February to recruit as many new members as possible – each time you recruit one new member – your name will go into the draw to win a prize drawn in March.