

THE



The Grapevine

Newsletter No 53

22 December 2023



UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR

On behalf of the committee of The VRRRA I take this opportunity to wish all of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As I reflect back on 2023 I am reminded of our many achievements, and I extend our great gratitude for your continued support.

Time also to think about what 2024 might bring and the challenges we continue to face. With the owners now publicly stating their intention to proceed with only a single 18 hole golf course from Easter, we will continue to resist their vision of a housing estate on large areas of green space of the golf course. There are always opportunities for further support so I invite anyone wanting to play an active role on the VRRRA , or any support activities, to please give us a call or drop us a line.

Looking forward to seeing you all again in 2024 as we continue to protect and promote our Vines lifestyle.



Christmas in The Vines 2023

Christmas in The Vines 2023 was yet another successful event thanks to the 2,000 or so attendees from The Vines and surrounding suburbs.

The primary purpose of providing a Christmas in The Vines event is to bring our community together, to encourage a stronger sense of community and to celebrate and enjoy the natural beauty of the environment in which we live – The VVRA is confident that this was achieved.

Features of this year's event

Apart from the wonderful range of goodies on sale from the various Kanga Market Stall Holders, this year's event had a variety of entertainment for the young and young at heart.

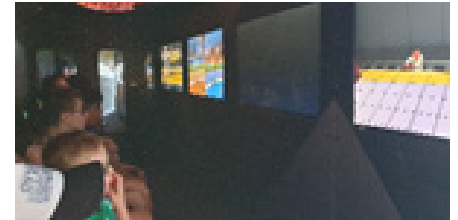
The event started to build just before 4.00pm when the first of our visitors started arriving with curiosity and excitement. By 5.30pm the word had spread far and wide – car parks were full, crowds were milling around the stalls and people were chatting to friends while the kids enjoyed the various activities.



Swan Valley Cuddly Animal Farm



Facepainting



The Vortex - Gaming Bus

It was wonderful to see families set up early to get a good spot in the shade in readiness for the family movie, and judging by the crowd the movie was well received with lots of positive feedback about the movie itself, location, viewing and sound quality given.



Family Movie:
A Boy Called Christmas



Stall Holders ready for the
Crowd



Friends of The Vines
Environmental Work

Our event was brought to life by the Ellenbrook Youth Choir who entertained families with their Christmas Carols throughout the afternoon. We would also like to acknowledge 88.5FM our local radio station – who attended for the first time to entertain the crowd with music while they shopped or waited for the littlies by the Gymbus.

More about Christmas in The Vines



Ellenbrook Youth Chior



Gymbus

Santa was a big hit with the kids, and we're sure he will be kept busy right up to Christmas preparing all those gifts on his wish list.



The absence of food vans was noted – so next year we will book early to ensure we have food vans who are committed to the event – we might even set up a sausage sizzle as a back-up. We were disappointed to say the least, when those that had booked in were unable to attend at the last minute. While we are on things that were a bit of a bug bear (pardon the pun) the ants proved a challenge for some – thank goodness for St Johns! This is something we have approached the City of Swan about and they have taken immediate action. We will keep this issue in mind for the next event... so watch this space....

Our team at the VRRRA would like to acknowledge the work and dedication from those volunteers who supported us with traffic management and setting up the various infrastructure (lights, toilets, generators, signs, bins etc.) on the day to help make the event run smoothly.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the City of Swan for their support by way of a local government grant which, coupled with the funds raised throughout the year at events like the Bunnings Sausage Sizzles, provided the funds to run our event this year.

Feedback Opportunity

If you have any feedback for us both positive or negative and/or constructive – we'd love to hear from you. Please feel free to email us with your feedback at vinesresidentsassociation@gmail.com

Friends of The Vines Bushland

This year has seen the successful launch of “The Friends of The Vines Bushland”.

We are a group of volunteers, working with landowners (primarily the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and the City of Swan Council (CoS)) to improve and enhance the quality of native vegetation, flora and fauna throughout The Vines.

This year we’ve cleared kilometers of paths and firebreaks, weeded, removed rubbish and litter, improved paths, removed poaching materials (arrows and traps!) and prepared ground for replanting in the cooler months.

The organisations that we work with have also responded enthusiastically. For example, the DBCA has improved paths, cleared firebreaks, added gates for residents and emergency vehicles. The CoS Council have planted additional native plants in Classic Brut Park, and we are in discussion about improvements for residents with facilities such as additional seating, paths and the like throughout The Vines.



This is exciting work – preserving existing wildlife and encouraging new species, boosting populations of rare and endangered creatures that call The Vines home. We encourage all residents to join us on our working days, and if they can’t do that, to enjoy the quiet and beauty of the parks and reserves that make our home so special.

Next year, we will continue to expand our activities – and in January, we will have some truly exciting news to share, with new environmental conservation updates that will showcase The Vines as a place to visit for residents and tourists alike.

Thank you so much to all of the residents that have become involved already – you are what makes the community and living here so special.

Plannning Application!

Unfortunately, The Vines Resort is once again seeking to amend the Local Planning Scheme to put Telecommunications Infrastructure (for example, towers and/or underground cabling) on the golf course and surrounds.

This is the same application that was made in 2020 and which was rejected in April 2021 by the City of Swan. It was rejected on the grounds that “The proposed rezoning for Telecommunications Infrastructure is in an inappropriate location and inconsistent with the character of the rural residential locality of The Vines.”

Specifically, all of Lot 1003 was, and still is, deemed an inappropriate location.

Nothing about that position has changed. Of course, we all support better mobile phone infrastructure and improved reception, but there are far more appropriate, lower impact, alternative locations within The Vines suburb that do not involve defacing the Vines Golf Course.

The recommended principal when determining the location of Telecommunications Infrastructure is that it should be sited to have *minimal impact on the environment and visual landscape; to be located away from scenic routes and recreational sites and to avoid detracting from vistas*. On this basis The Vines Golf Course is clearly not an appropriate location for this type of infrastructure.

We must emphasise that the current application only provides an “indicative location” for the telecom infrastructure. The Vines Resort on Lot 1003 has an area of 177 hectares (442 acres) which includes all of the green open golf area. Tower(s) could subsequently be proposed **anywhere** on this site!

In practice, this means that approval of this application opens residents up to the risk of multiple towers in any location on The Vines Resort and Golf Course land.

Whilst final approval for these towers would be subject to further development applications, we know all too well that once the precedent is created, it is extremely difficult to prevent inappropriate tower locations.

The VRRRA urges you to make your submission on this application, as the number of objections is critical to achieving the correct decision again.

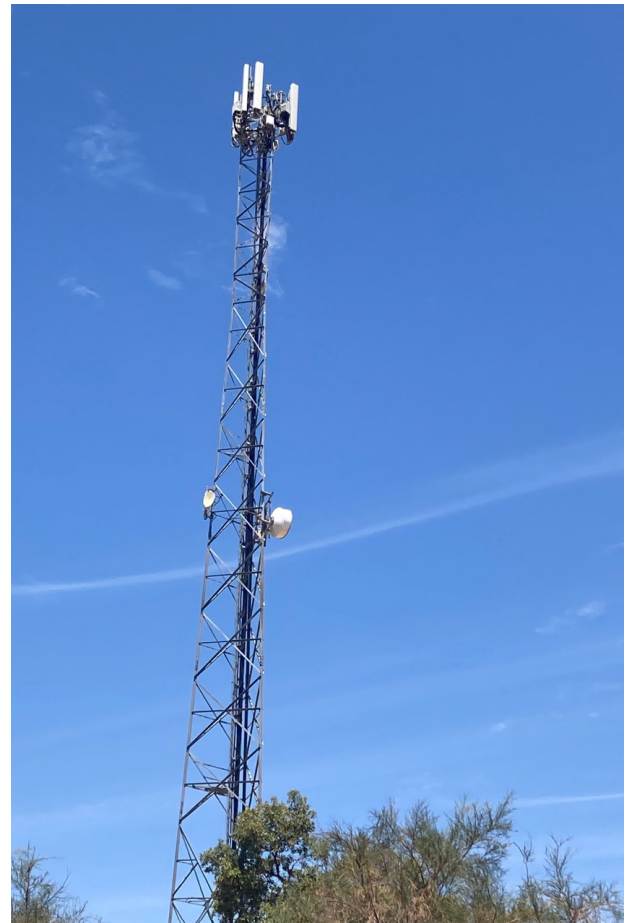
To assist, the link is on Facebook, or you can go to "<https://swanengage.swan.wa.gov.au/>" and look up the application there.

When in the application, at the bottom of the page, click on “Opportunity for public comment”

Please consider including the points when making your submission:

1. The proposed amendment for Telecommunications Infrastructure is in an inappropriate location and inconsistent with the character of the rural residential locality of The Vines.
2. This proposed location (lot 1003) is entirely unsuitable and better locations are available within the suburb to provide the desired services.

It is imperative that we get these responses in as soon as possible. The January 29th deadline will come very quickly, with the distractions of the festive season!



Containers for Change

The VVRA is grateful to everyone who drops off their eligible containers so we can collect the 10c refund towards our 'fighting fund' - this has assisted us to engage experts in our fight against the redevelopment.

If you would like to help us, details are below.

The VVRA are delighted to be a registered beneficiary of the Containers for Change recycling scheme in Western Australia.

THE VVRA Scheme ID is C10534672

For each eligible recycled container, The VVRA will receive 10 cents. Most aluminium, glass, plastic, steel and liquid paperboard drink containers between 150ml and 3L are eligible. Please check for the 10c mark on drink containers to ensure they are recyclable. Please remove lids from bottles (lids are also recyclable)



Recyclable containers must be bagged up or taped up in cardboard boxes and placed in the trailer/compound area at the drop off point below:

19 Pinot Terrace, The Vines

As this is a Resident's home address, we ask that you follow the rules above and ensure the area is left clean and tidy. Alternatively, containers can be dropped at other Containers for Change locations, quoting The VVRA ID number above

Renew or Donate: Payment Details

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)

You can use your credit card via The VVRA website:

<https://thevinesra.com.au/become-a-member/>

Or, renew via this QR code:



If you would like to donate towards our 'fighting fund', please use the following account:

LEGAL 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)

Or, donate via this QR code:

