

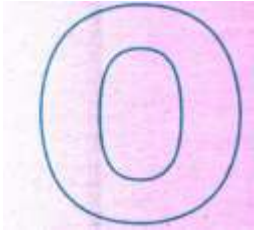


Land



Stand at ease

Words Kammahl Cagdon Photography Chris Groenhout



fficer is a work in progress.

The first time I visited this little dot on the map several years ago, there was just a scattering of homes surrounded by paddocks and rolling hills, with a handful

of shops along the Princes Highway, and the Officer Recreation Reserve, its only significant landmarks.

But it is leaving behind its sleepy country-town feel as emerging new-housing estates propel it into the residential big time with neighbours like Pakenham, Beaconsfield and Berwick.

There are plans for new shopping villages, sporting fields and pavilions, community and medical centres, picturesque parks, walking and cycling paths, wetlands and flora reserves, and even a communal orchard.

But for now, once you've done Arena Park, at the heart

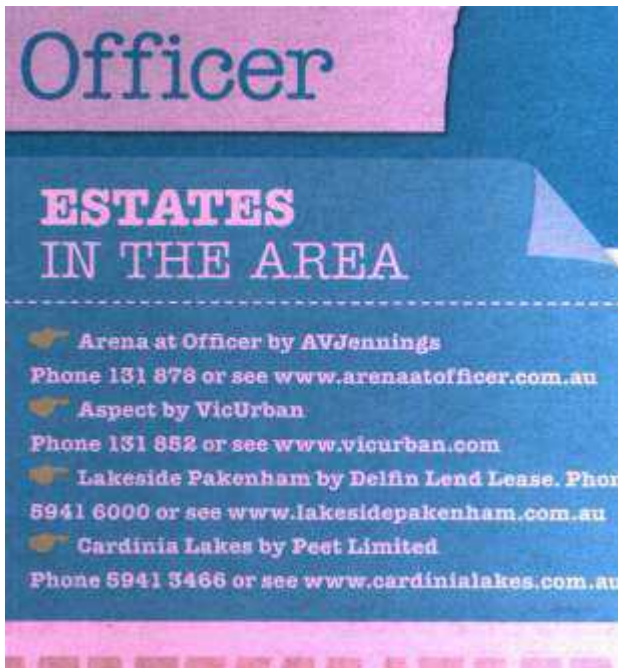
of the Arena at Officer estate, you've pretty much done Officer – at least as far as my young son was concerned.

This park, surrounded by gum trees and other native plants, was a big hit with its timber play equipment.

And the only way Josh would be dragged away was on the promise of more playgrounds just a couple of minutes down the road at Pakenham.

But first we needed to eat, so we took a seat at The Vista Cafe, part of the Cardinia Cultural Centre, in Lakeside Pakenham estate. True to its name, it did have fantastic views across the lake (which is the hub of the estate), and a great-value kids' menu to boot. 🏠

Above Arena Park is at the heart of Officer and a big hit with little ones who flock to the winding paths and its vast timber play equipment



Officer

ESTATES
IN THE AREA

- 📍 Arena at Officer by AVJennings
Phone 131 878 or see www.arenaatofficer.com.au
- 📍 Aspect by VicUrban
Phone 131 852 or see www.vicurban.com
- 📍 Lakeside Pakenham by Delfin Lend Lease. Phone 5941 6000 or see www.lakesidepakenham.com.au
- 📍 Cardinia Lakes by Pest Limited
Phone 5941 3466 or see www.cardinialakes.com.au



viewpoint



Laura Bruce, 27, and Greg Staude, 28, are building a home at Arena at Officer

Q When did you discover Arena at Officer estate?

A **Laura:** It was a couple of years ago when I went there with my mum. We had a look at the land available and then two years later Greg and I decided we'd build there. We knew there was a lot of potential because the estate was quite hilly and we knew the houses would be quite nice there.

BEST-KEPT SECRET

🔒 **D'Angelo Estate Vineyard**
Officer is home to boutique winery D'Angelo Estate Vineyard. It's a pleasant outing with the chance to sample wines from a different region. Visits to the cellar door, at 41 Bayview Rd, are by appointment.