

Face up to new vision

ALTONA resident Anthony Ang acts on his impulses and the internet.

Mr Ang, originally from Singapore, moved to Australia in 2003 and in 2006 met his online love Linda, who is originally from China.

Only a month after they met Mr Ang flew to China, and two days later they were married.

The family now live in Altona and Mr Ang's strong love for the suburb has led him to create a blog and Facebook page to promote it.

"When I saw Altona, at that time I couldn't afford it, so one day during lunchtime, I was working at the University of Melbourne, so I decided to take a lunchtime trip to Altona to take a look," he said.

"Every Tuesday there is the Altona Beach market, along Pier St and Logan Reserve, so I was very pleasantly surprised because this doesn't feel anything like metropolitan Melbourne, it feels like a coastal village. It has an ambience."

That same day Mr Ang hurriedly went to every real estate agent he could find in the area to say he was interested in buying, and in July 2007 he settled in a home on a sleepy street.

"Never did I realise that my house is



Happy days ... Anthony Ang with wife Linda and children Aaron and Angeline

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Picture: KRISTIAN SCOTT

located three houses away from the person who would be the future Prime Minister of Australia," he said.

Mr Ang said his main reasons for setting up the website was to promote the area, preserve its natural, environmental and cultural heritage and work towards the vision of developing Altona as the most livable suburb in Melbourne's West.

Altona Meadows also has a few admirers, with an I love Altona Meadows Facebook page set up with more than 100 members. The tagline reads, "London,

Paris, Rome, Altona Meadows," with countless entries of residents describing their streets and their love for the suburb.

"For those people who don't know a lot, they have a misconception of this suburb," said Mr Ang.

"That this is the place where the refinery is located, where the heavy industry and the pollution, but I know it's not true. I know it's a very attractive and nice place. And I hope to be able to disappear this prejudice."

- Nicole Precel