
MANOR TALK

SPRING EDITION 2020



Manor Lakes

 ANOTHER DENNIS FAMILY COMMUNITY

MANOR LAKES STUDENT FINDING HIS IDENTITY THROUGH ART

Talented young Manor Lakes artist John Mathet recently won the People's Choice Award at the Wyndham Art Prize for the second successive year.

The 19-year-old feels extremely honoured and humbled to have received the \$2,500 prize for the second time as a result of this year's repeat success.

"To receive the first award was amazing but to win it again this year was unbelievable," he says.

John's winning entry this year was a digital painting titled I.D.E.N.T.I.T.Y., a work which drew its inspiration from a story from his childhood in South Sudan as the youngest of a family of seven children.

"Before I left to come to Australia, one of my relatives who was wishing me well and passing on his prayers told me to never forget my identity," he explains.

"It was a very strong and powerful statement but being young and excited I didn't fully understand the meaning of what he was saying until a few years ago when I was much older. I now try to teach younger kids about what it actually means to know your identity, to know your culture, your background."

John's personal story is a truly remarkable one.

At a young age, his large family began to be separated as civil war raged in South Sudan. By the time he was seven John had fled to a refugee camp in Kenya with his grandmother and one of his elder brother Abraham.

After spending four years in the refugee camp, John and Abraham were given the opportunity to find a better future in Australia with an uncle and aunt who had relocated to Perth with their children several years earlier.

John and Abraham joined their relatives in Perth in 2014, undertaking an intensive course in English after their arrival in order to be able to speak and write the language.

The following year, a work transfer brought their uncle to Melbourne. The family moved initially to Geelong and later Werribee, before finding a home in the Lollipop Hill in late 2017.

"It's a very peaceful place in an area that is growing fast and very diverse," he observes.

John was already attending Manor Lakes College before he moved into the estate and is now completing Year 12 in 2020. "The school has always been very encouraging of my art," he comments.

John reveals that his passion for art traces back to his childhood in South Sudan.

"I get to see a lot of passion and talent in working with young kids in my local community and trying to give them opportunities."

– John Mathet



John Mathet with artwork

"I can remember watching one of my older brothers draw film characters and action heroes when I was young. That's how I first started to learn how to draw," he explains.

"When I started watching cartoons like Tom and Jerry on television, I would try to draw them in the sand at school at lunchtime or recess. I would also imitate comics from newspapers. Everything just developed from there."

John's artistic talents have progressed considerably and is equally adept at working in both conventional and digital mediums.

"My art style is based on painting portraits and capturing facial expressions. Before reaching Year 9 at school I was really just drawing for fun, but now I can actually understand my story and put that into my work. I'm trying to make people look at my art and think about the story that is behind each piece," he says.

"The tools that I work with have changed over years. At first, I was sketching with pencils. Now I can also create digital artwork using Adobe Illustrator on a tablet that I purchased with money from a scholarship that I received last year."

John is also very active in his local community, helping others explore their creativity and discover their potential.

"I was involved with programs at the Manor Lakes Community Learning Centre even before moving into the estate, but more recently I've wanted to expand my reach to an even wider area so I'm now teaching art classes and painting murals at the Wyndham CEC in Werribee," he notes.

"I get to see a lot of passion and talent in working with young kids in my local community and trying to give them opportunities." John aims to continue to follow his dreams in art, wherever they may lead.

"Art will always be in my life for sure. It's something I want to turn into a career because there's nothing better than doing what you're passionate about," he suggests.

HOMEBUILDER GRANT

There has never been a better time to live at Manor Lakes.

From distinct and individual neighbourhoods, such as Lollipop Hill and Lakeside, to a community that is warm, engaging, successful and family focused, you'll feel welcome the moment you arrive – so there has never been a more perfect time to join the Manor Lakes community.

With the current \$25k HomeBuilder's Grant available you could be eligible to enjoy substantial savings on titled blocks.

There's a range of blocks available to suit your lifestyle and budget - but demand is high, so you'll need to act quickly as eligible purchasers need to sign a home build contract by 31st December 2020. For more information on the HomeBuilder Scheme visit: www.treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/homebuilder

Within Lollipop Hill there are several stages with titled blocks currently available and some up rebates of up to \$25k. The neighbourhood is popular with young and growing families, with a selection of affordable homesites, each suitable for a range of home designs.

For more information on the titled blocks in Lollipop Hill visit www.manorlakes.com.au/title-land-available

For an overview of the HomeBuilder's grant including guidelines, eligibility criteria and the application process visit: www.sro.vic.gov.au/homebuilder-grant-guidelines

With a current population of around 9,500 people, Manor Lakes is a thriving community that welcomes new residents and encourages them to become active members of the community.

With a selection of established amenities, there's no waiting for life's essentials such as:

- The choice of government & non-government schools
- Public transport options, including a train station and bus interchange
- Manor Lakes Central Shopping Centre
- A Community Centre
- Library
- Kindergartens and childcare facilities
- Playgrounds suitable for all ages
- Walking, bike trails and fitness stations

We look forward to welcoming you to Manor Lakes. If you'd like further information or to organise an appointment, please feel free to call **1300 334 524** or email info@manorlakes.com.au

INTRODUCING DAVID HUTCHINSON, SALES CONSULTANT, MANOR LAKES

With a passion for property that extends to his personal life, David Hutchinson is well informed about all aspects of buying land and building and has in-depth knowledge of the local area.

"In addition to working across the house and land industry for 11 years, I have bought, built & sold properties myself so I have a complete understanding of applying for finance, buying land & building in estates," David explains.

"I was born and raised in Geelong and built my first home in a Wyndham Vale estate in 2012" he continues. "I really admired the estate and loved the palm trees lining the entrance. To now be working at Manor Lakes, I feel as though I have now come full circle."

"Manor Lakes has everything a customer could possibly want – access to public transport, terrific schools, consistent open space & parks, so many shops and food outlets at Manor Lakes Central, and a great range of amenities for families of all ages."

"It also offers an amazing selection of property at different price points and land sizes, so there is something for every type of buyer" David cites attitude, humour and action as his top three priorities when helping customers to work out exactly what type of property they are after, and he also prides himself on his after-sales service.

"Having a positive attitude is all about trying to help them, just as a friend would, and establishing that relationship," he continues. "Humour brings levity to the situation. Buying a



home is a relatively simple process but going through that process can seem daunting when really it should be fun and exciting! Action speaks for itself - it is being proactive, providing answers and guiding them through every step of the way. I also really enjoy staying in touch with clients and watching their build progress."

In addition to his passion for property, David has travelled extensively (hiking up Northern Africa's highest mountain – Mt Toubkal in Morocco – was a highlight) and enjoys exercise and sport (he is a Geelong Cats supporter).

"I'm looking forward to interacting with the residents, don't be surprised if you see me using the outdoor exercise equipment and running laps around the glorious parks & wetlands at Manor Lakes," he concludes.

You can contact David by phoning 0419 369 382 to arrange an online or phone appointment, or pop by the sales office to say hello when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.



MANOR LAKES CENTRAL MURAL DEPICTS NATIVE BACKDROP

A beautiful mural depicting the native fauna and flora of Manor Lakes has been unveiled on the new wall of the Manor Lakes Central extension.

The stunning mural designed by local artist Carissa will the soon be the backdrop to the outdoor playground and rock climbing wall now under construction. The Manor Lakes P-12 College graduate who now studies Interior Design at RMIT, used native flora and fauna to tell the tale of her upbringing in Manor Lakes. She shares her story below.

“Thoughts I kept coming back to while making this were memories of what Manor Lakes looked like in 2008 versus 2020.

Growing up directly in front of the undeveloped areas, I was used to seeing the kangaroos on the other side of the river – one even ended up in my backyard! Hence the featured Kangaroo.

Driving in and out of Manor Lakes, the cockatoo was another native animal I always saw on a sunny day on Ballan road. The placement of the cockatoo is also there to challenge the children to be active by climbing further up the rock wall; at the same time, invite parents into the external playground area and take photos of their children.

When I think of a mural, I imagine fully covered walls with graffiti-styled art with a political message or art featuring a visually overwhelming palette of colours. In my mural, I wanted to capture the simplicity of living in this western suburb, along with its comfortable lifestyle and radiant familial energy.”

The artwork is such a beautiful addition to Manor Lakes Central and will be the showpiece once it is unveiled alongside the new playground for the whole community to enjoy.

MANOR LAKES CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction under a COVID-Safe Plan has been able to continue at Manor Lakes with construction services deemed an essential service.

Around the Lakeside precinct, the Wetlands beautification project has been progressing at a swift pace, with the boardwalk taking shape and coming to life around the lake’s edge. With work continuing to progress at the current pace it is anticipated that the Wetlands will be completed by the end of the year.

The reserve situated in Stage 47, also known as Rondo Drive Reserve, was completed in July and is now open to the public for use within the current COVID-19 restrictions. This community reserve includes a playground, barbeque area accompanied by a shelter and a generous grassed kickabout area.



The long-awaited Stage 42 Reserve is now completed with Council recently approving the viewing platform, waterplay and playground. The reserve includes an expansive playground and complimented with a fun, interactive waterplay area that’s sure to keep the kids amused as the weather warms up.

Construction is continuing well along Ison Road (Manor Lakes Boulevard towards Greens Road) with the road due to open by the end of 2020. The Spearmint Boulevard to Ballan Road intersection is now operational to traffic.

MANOR LAKES CENTRAL ALIVE WITH ART AND PLAYGROUNDS

Whilst current restrictions are in place throughout the centre, construction, which is deemed an essential service has been allowed to continue around Manor Lakes Central under a strict COVID-19 plan.

This has meant that both the internal and external play areas have been moving ahead in leaps and bounds and will be ready for community use in the near future, and once final Council approvals are granted, and restrictions have eased.

Many would have seen the beautiful mural designed by local resident Carissa coming to life on an external wall on the new extension. This mural, depicting Manor Lakes through the eyes of Clarissa as she grew up has now had a climbing wall incorporated. The area has been further enhanced by the creation of an external playground which sits alongside and featuring two covered sandpits, swings, slides, tunnels, interactive play panels and a sensory cubby and adventure obstacles.



The playground has been designed as a nature play environment, with the need to create a fun and inclusive play space for all.

The area has been constructed predominantly from locally sourced and environmentally friendly cypress pine and includes soft fall mulch finish with rubber matting to the base of the slides and swings. Also featuring within the playground is an all ability swing ensuring safe enjoyable access for all children within the community, plus a picnic area and shade umbrellas.

Inside the centre located in the mall near Kmart, the internal playground features a colourful array of interactive pieces for smaller aged children. The area is surrounded by a colourful picket fence and within the space children will enjoy various degrees of oversized flowers, jumping pads, tunnels, and a climbing and seating space.



Also on offer within the centre is the Community Room, which can be accessed by not for profit and local community organisations.

The Community Room is located near centre management and features a kitchenette, tables, chairs, whiteboard and is a warm and inviting space to hold meetings or small social gatherings such as a support group or playgroup.

Due to current restrictions, the centre has been unable to officially open the room for use, however once restrictions are lifted bookings will be taken through centre management. Please keep an eye out on the Manor Lakes Central Facebook page or the Manor Lakes Central website regarding the opening of the Community Room.

Located in the main corridor to the amenities and centre management is the addition of a historical timeline community mural. This stunning and highly detailed mural showcases many of the important features, people and landmarks of the Manor Lakes and the surrounds community. It is certain to attract and be the discussion of many local and surrounding residents.



SAVE THE DATE – MANOR LAKES HALLOWEEN MAYHEM 2020!

Saturday 31 October. Despite what COVID-19 throws our way, the show must go on!

Continuing the success of the annual Halloween event, in which over \$5,000 was donated to the Starlight Children's Foundation in 2019, organisers have already begun planning for that fabulously gruesome day in October – even with restrictions afoot.

The initiative was started by local Manor Lakes couple Andrew and Maria Price, who moved into their home in Dalrymple Boulevard in late 2011 after emigrating from Canada two years earlier.

“Our first Halloween here at Manor Lakes was in 2012,” Andrew recalls. “Halloween at Manor Lakes is something we enjoy doing. A lot of work and effort goes into it each year, but it’s the community response that makes it all worthwhile.”

This year the event will be centred more around resident homes and streets, but nevertheless it will be just as much fun. Keep an eye out for more details coming soon on the Manor Lakes Halloween Facebook page and the Manor Lakes Facebook page.



MANOR LAKES COMMUNITY FUND GRANTS NOW OPEN

The 2020 Manor Lakes Community Fund will be open until the 3rd of November to eligible local not-for-profit groups to apply for a financial grant of \$1,500 to support their local community project.

Previous recipients have included local sporting, support and environmental groups, schools and emergency services.

Since its inception in 2003 the Manor Lakes Community Fund, an annual initiative by Dennis Family Corporation, has distributed more than \$300,000 to local community groups in the Wyndham area.

“During that time, the fund has assisted a broad cross-section of the Wyndham community to help make hundreds of programs and projects possible. We proud to continue to support local communities by providing financial assistance in areas where we operate our business, and our Community Fund presentation nights have become an annual highlight for us and the many not-for-profit groups that we assist,” said Dennis Family Group Director, Grant Dennis.

Applications are now open. To be considered for a grant, groups must meet the eligibility criteria and complete the online application form at:

www.manorlakes.com.au/manor-lakes-community-fund