
MANOR TALK

SUMMER EDITION 2020



Manor Lakes

ANOTHER DENNIS FAMILY COMMUNITY

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR AT MANOR LAKES SUPPORTS THE STARLIGHT CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

Due to COVID-19, the annual Halloween Spooktacular at Manor Lakes looked a little different this year, but that didn't stop resident organisers Andy and Maria, in partnership with Manor Lakes estate from getting the community involved!

"This has been a year like no other, but we wanted to do something to celebrate Halloween... It has been so lovely seeing the community band together. We have had amazing support from local businesses, ...and we hope everyone had a Spooktacular time," confirmed Andy and Maria.

The Manor Lakes Sales Office was decorated throughout, and the residents got behind the initiative going all out to decorate their homes, families and pets in true Halloween style!

This year, instead of the usual trick or treat spectacular through the streets, there was a range of online competitions to enter. Residents embraced the idea, creatively decorating their homes, dressing up the family, dressing up their pets and participating in a virtual amazing race around Manor Lakes.



And for every Manor Lakes resident that entered the Spooktacular House, Family or Pet Costume Competition, Manor Lakes estate donated \$50 to the Starlight Children's Foundation. Pictures and video from the event are now available on the Manor Lakes website and Facebook page.

"People have really got on board with this year's event and it warms the heart... the community has embraced the competitions... we are very grateful for everyone's support," the couple said.

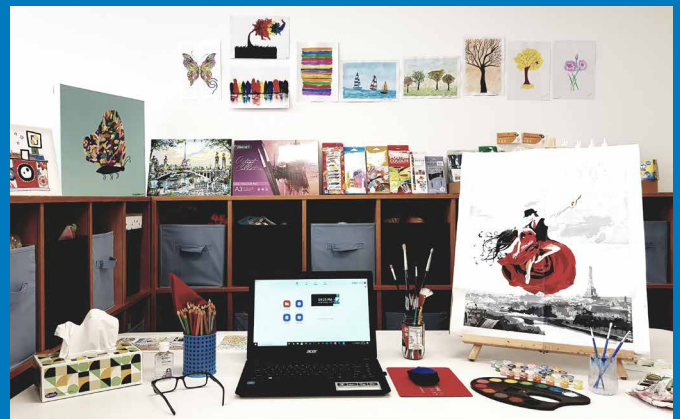
Well done to the Manor Lakes community - between resident donations and the Manor Lakes estate contribution, over \$5,100 was raised for the Starlight Children's Foundation.

MANOR LAKES COMMUNITY FUND

Twenty six not-for-profit groups working across Wyndham will share in \$33,000 to provide services and support to the local community via the Manor Lakes 2020 Community Fund grants, with the successful recipients announced in late November.

Since 2002, Dennis Family Corporation has distributed over \$750,000 to community groups across Victoria and Queensland through the annual Community Fund, with local Wyndham community groups sharing in more than \$300,000 since the Manor Lakes Community Fund was established in 2003.

"Community Funds were introduced as a practical way of giving back to the communities we create. We recognise the vital role not-for-profit groups play in connecting people and fostering a sense of belonging within our estates," said Dennis Family Group Director, Grant Dennis.



Jorge Zaldivia, Project Officer with Encompass Community Services, shares how the Manor Lakes Community Fund has benefitted his clients at the Wyndham Park Community Centre.

How did you hear about the Manor Lakes Community Fund?

Encompass Community Services has actually been providing disability services in Geelong for 35 years and has been providing NDIS services for the past 7 years.

It was through the NDIS that we opened our services at the Wyndham Community Centre which is how I received an email about the Community Fund.

Why did you apply for the grant?

I applied for a \$1,000 grant to support our disability arts program. The grant was used to purchase art and craft materials for our participants to use. Along with cooking, the arts program is one of our most popular programs and usually caters for up to 32 people each week.

How has the grant benefitted your clients?

The benefits of the arts program for participants are twofold – it is creative and it is calming. But this is more than just an ‘activity’. I am passionate about giving our participants a voice and skills they can use. We are developing linkages with Wyndham Community Arts group and links to local artists.

It can also empower participants to engage in potential pathways for their future. If they have a real flair and enthusiasm

for what they are doing I encourage them to apply to do further training and maybe pursue a career in that field.

Participants would normally come to the Community Centre for the program, but we have had to move to online Zoom sessions just like everyone else this year.

We’ve focused on developing individual skills, keeping people engaged and reducing isolation. We’ve also had to work with materials that are readily available in the home when delivering the arts and craft program online.

What message would you like to share about the grants?

The Manor Lakes Community Fund and Dennis Family Corporation are amazing! In the middle of a pandemic, they are still giving away grants to support the people and organisations who really need it.

They are about so much more than building homes. They are committed to building up real communities – just like us at Encompass Community Services!

For more information about the program visit: www.encompass-cs.org.au

MANOR LAKES CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Major park and wetland beautification set to begin in Lollipop Hill!



We are excited to announce that construction work on the eagerly anticipated park and wetland developments in the Lollipop Hill precinct of Manor Lakes is set to begin in November 2020!

What can you look forward to seeing?

Stage 175 Reserve

Covering an expansive 1.14 hectares between Marmalade Road, Muscatell Crescent and Lollipop Creek, the Stage 175 Reserve development is destined to become the focal point of outdoor activities for young and old alike.

The northern entry point to the reserve features a striking entry arbour nestled amongst flowering indigenous plantings interspaced with the fibrous-flaky bark of Eucalyptus Grey Box trees. Wrapping around an expansive plateau containing seating nodes, it is an idyllic place to gather and admire the sweeping views across the reserve and the restored Lollipop Creek ecosystem.

As you stroll along the network of circulating paths you will discover a meandering dry creek situated amongst native plants and trees, containing locally sourced rocks and logs. Further enhancing the connection to site and its place alongside Lollipop Creek, the dry creek creates an adventurous pathway through the site, encouraging nature-based play as you forage and navigate your way across its undulations and natural features.

There is not a child in Lollipop Hill who won't be pleading to visit the new playground. Sheltered by shade sails and surrounded by large canopy trees, they will delight in dashing between the basket swing, carousel, slide and sensory play panels, all easily accessible via a network of ramps and stairs. For the more adventurous, the modular play structure has climbing ropes, platforms, a hydraulic DropZone elevator and a tube slide.

The reserve also accommodates more formalised sports on the half basketball court with soccer goals, as well as a cycling track for small children around the circulating pathways and large turfed kick about spaces.

When you are not playing with your friends and family in the park, you can watch and relax in the nearby shelter, or take in the sights and sounds of Lollipop Creek.



Stage 168 Wetland

The wetland system stretches across 1.79 hectares between Holyoake Parade and Ricotta Road, with over 16,000 specially selected native aquatic plants filtering stormwater run-off prior to its release into the nearby Lollipop Creek, surrounded by a further 30,000 native plants. Enjoy walking along the network of footpaths or sitting at one of the many viewing areas to experience the tranquility of the space with its plentiful plants, wildlife and open water bodies.

Timelines

With work on the Stage 175 Reserve and Stage 168 Wetland set to commence in November, we anticipate earthworks and footpath construction being completed by January early in 2021. Planting of the 46,000+ native plants is scheduled to commence thereafter.

The Wetland is expected to be open to residents by April mid-2021. We look forward to opening the Reserve space to residents in the second half of 2021.

Life keeps getting sweeter at Lollipop Hill!

LAKESIDE WETLANDS NEARING COMPLETION

The magnificent Lakeside wetland is now in the final stages of completion and we anticipate residents being able to enjoy peaceful sunset strolls, early morning runs and afternoon walks with the kids on their scooters along the extensive boardwalk by the end of 2020.

Covering 2.65 hectares, the wetland will feature over 70,000 plants to create a beautiful, healthy ecosystem and attract abundant birdlife.



MANOR LAKES CENTRAL UPDATE

Manor Lakes Central is abuzz with people and excitement following the recent easing of restrictions. Retailers are now open again and have welcomed the community support with open arms.

Enjoy more! Great retail and food options now open or to be open in the coming weeks.

- Liquorland (now open)
- Aesthetics Parlour (opening December)
- Feast on Asian Grocer (now open)
- Sportsco (now open)
- The Jolly Miller (now open)
- Ferguson Plarre (now open)
- Mikado Sushi (opening December)
- Myfone (opening December)

And with extended trading hours for many stores in the lead up to Christmas, there is no better time to shop locally and visit Manor Lakes Central for all those festive and gift giving needs.

Another exciting piece of news that has put a smile on the faces of many, was the opening of the outdoor playground recently. With the

stunning mural designed by local resident Clarissa as its backdrop, the playground has two covered sandpits, swings, slides, tunnels, interactive play panels and a sensory cubby and adventure obstacles.

Designed to be a fun and inclusive play space for all, the playground also features an all ability swing ensuring safe, enjoyable access for all children, plus a picnic area and shade umbrellas so the whole family can enjoy the area.

And what's Christmas without a competition! Visit Manor Lakes Central from 30 November to 20 December 2020 and scan the competition QR code available throughout the centre for a chance to win a \$20 Manor Lakes Central Eftpos cards instantly. All entries will also go in the draw for a major prize of a \$1,000 Manor Lakes Central Eftpos card.*

Follow the Manor Lakes Central on Facebook to get all the new store opening times, Christmas trading hours and the latest centre news.



*See Terms and Conditions in store for full details.
(QR code only available in centre)

GET READY FOR SUMMER ENTERTAINING HOUSEHOLD TIPS

After many months stuck indoors, it's time to open the doors and windows and let the fresh air and sun in, spruce up the house and get it back in order in readiness for summer entertainment.

In summer you naturally spend more time outdoors, so to make the most of the warm months and create a pleasant space to relax for all, here are some tips to help you kick start your home entertaining plans.



Tidy up your backyard

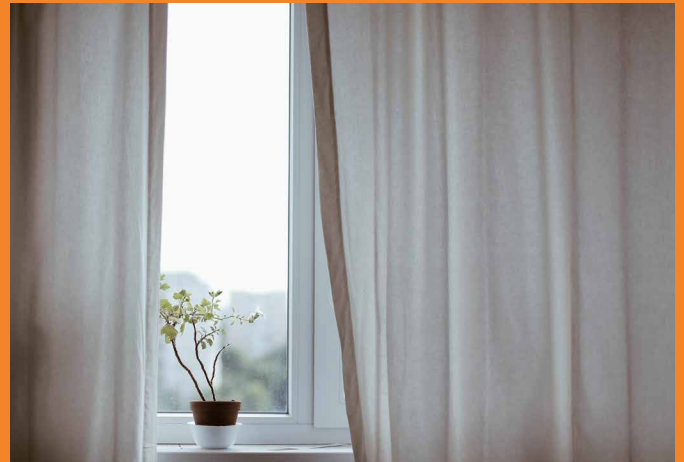
After cooler months spent indoors, your backyard will need some love. Clean any outdoor furniture and cushions with a good wash and clean down any surfaces such as tables and benchtops. Replace worn cushions or give the space a quick update with some new low-cost pops of colour.

Wash down the sides of the house with a high-pressure hose and whilst you are there, check your outdoor lighting and replace as needed. Attend to any fence or deck maintenance as well with a clean or a fresh coat of paint or stain.

Make sure your plants are ready for the heat, giving them a prune and some fertiliser to keep them in shape. Attend to the lawn and edges and top up any garden beds so the garden is looking refreshed.

Get the house ready

Summer calls for utilising both indoor and outdoor spaces. With a few simple steps, you can get the spaces in your house ready for the long days of summer. In the living room, dust or wipe down all the hard surfaces and wash your cushions and throws. Bring the garden inside with the use of some leaves or flowers, or cheat and add a faux plant to your styling. Other ideas like swapping out floor rugs and even artwork will refresh your space. There are lots of great ideas online for further styling inspirations.



Clean your windows and curtains

You don't want to miss out on making your outside view special, so give the outsides of your windows a spotless clean. All you need is soap, water and a clean cloth. Try to clean windows on an overcast day to prevent soap and water streaks. Don't forget to clean the fly screens. This can be easily done by vacuuming the screen from the inside. Vacuum or wash down the curtains and you'll have the house sparkling again.

Make the pantry and fridge entertaining ready

Get a handle on your kitchen pantry and fridge by sorting out the contents and cleaning the shelves and binning any out-of-date food. After that, you can take stock of what you have and replenish your summer basics ready for entertaining or when friends drop by unexpectedly. Don't forget to add some extra drinks and freezer ready treats for the perfect cool down, or even better invest in a SodaStream to make your own low-cost drinks. Buy some fun, paper cups and kitchenware for no-fuss entertaining.





Neighbourhood Watch

Let's watch out for each other

MANOR LAKES NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH GROUP

According to Lollipop Hill resident, Chakri Chayanam, "All you need is one person to make a difference".

As the driving force behind great collaboration among the community members to establish the new Manor Lakes Neighbourhood Watch Group (NHW), Chakri is now proud to be that person making a difference in Manor Lakes!

The group was formalised on October 31 following an enormously successful preliminary meeting, hosted via Zoom on October 17.

"It was fantastic," said Chakri. "We had nearly 100 people log into the meeting and 120 people have already joined the group."

"The meeting was scheduled for one hour but lasted nearly two hours. As well as improving communication with local police and boosting the community's trust in the police, it resulted in much closer contact with our neighbours. We all have young families so we all share similar concerns."

While currently the majority of members are Lollipop Hill residents, Chakri anticipates the Manor Lakes NHW will consist of subgroups for each of the precincts – Lollipop Hill, Lakeside, Botanica and the rest of Manor Lakes – with five Area Representatives elected for each subgroup. He encourages residents in each precinct to take the lead in establishing the subgroup for their area.

Chakri commends the support of local police and the Neighbourhood Watch administrative team in helping to establish the group in Manor Lakes.

"Neighbourhood Watch has been very helpful with setting up the group and offering to assist with events in the future. We plan to hold two 'get to know your neighbour' events each year and issue fortnightly updates."

Chakri cites three reasons for establishing the Neighbourhood Watch group:

1. To get to know our neighbours and build a stronger community, which makes it much easier for new families and residents to feel connected when they move into the area.
2. To educate residents about the key features they should include on their home to reduce the risk of crime and highlight the common mistakes people make.
3. Having the easily identifiable 'Neighbourhood Watch' signs displayed throughout the estate to raise awareness of the group and send a clear message that Manor Lakes is a proactive, welcoming and connected community.

He also expressed his gratitude to Dennis Family Corporation for their support for the initiative and assistance with developing digital and printed promotional material which will soon be seen around the estate and online.

Chakri plans to hold an information session for Lakeside residents in December, while the Lollipop Hill group will meet again early in the new year.

"I will put my hand up whenever my community needs it!" he shares.

Thank you, Chakri, for helping to make Manor Lakes a better community for everyone.

For more information and to stay up to date with forthcoming Manor Lakes Neighbourhood Watch Group events, email [NHW. manorlakes@gmail.com](mailto:manorlakes@gmail.com) or follow the 'Neighbourhood Watch Manor Lakes' Facebook group.



WERRIBEE ZOO UPGRADE

The State Government's announcement of an \$84 million upgrade for Werribee Open Range Zoo is great news for residents of Manor Lakes.



Along with the excitement of having elephants on our doorstep, the upgrade will boost employment and tourism in the area.

According to the Premier's media release, "the expansion will create almost 350 local jobs – including 90 direct jobs looking after animals and visitors once the exhibits are up and running – as well as increasing the number of visitors and tourists through the gates from more than 680,000 in 2018/19 to one million visitors annually".



The upgrade is also good news for the elephants, who will be relocating from Melbourne Zoo to be free to roam in a magnificent new 22-hectare elephant sanctuary.



SEASON'S GREETINGS AND HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The Manor Lakes Land Sales Office will close at 5pm on Wednesday, 23rd December 2020 and reopen on Monday, 4th January 2021.

We wish all of our residents a very happy, safe Christmas and holiday season and a prosperous, healthy new year!