

# MANOR TALK

AUTUMN EDITION 2021



Manor Lakes



ANOTHER DENNIS FAMILY COMMUNITY

MANOR LAKES

# EASTER EGG HUNT



## IT'S EASTER TIME AT LOLLIPOP HILL!

**Thank you to everyone that registered for our Easter Hunt. We had an overwhelming response and the event has now sold out.**

There will be something to do for all ages with 5 Easter egg hunts throughout the day and chocolate treats for the whole family. A coffee van will also be onsite for a warm drink and there will be a special visit from the Easter Bunny, too!

This is a Covid safe event and participants did need to register.

## MEET OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS

**Behind Manor Lakes' meticulously considered masterplan is a dedicated project team tasked with every aspect of transforming the concept into reality!**

Meet the two newest members of our project team, Michael Gekas and Steve Pollard, who recently commenced as Project Managers for Manor Lakes.



### Michael Gekas

Michael previously worked for Lendlease on the Harpley estate in Werribee and Aurora in Epping North, delivering 20+ stages as well as arterial roads, branch sewers and a community centre.

Away from work, Michael loves watching sport - particularly Collingwood in the AFL and Chelsea in the EPL - and working on his fitness. Like most of us, he also enjoys travelling the world (when possible).

During the lockdown, Michael's girlfriend bought him a skateboard to keep him occupied. He regrettably admits that his skating ability is still terrible despite the practice over recent months, but he is determined to improve.

"If you see me around Manor Lakes in a sling you will know why!" he says.



### Steve Pollard

Steve previously worked at State Government agency Development Victoria, where his involvement spanned Acquisitions, Residential Communities and Commercial Development.

He gained valuable greenfield experience across the Riverwalk and Aurora estates, as well as experience working with a number of different municipal councils.

Travel has also been a major part of Steve's life, with his journeys to date taking him through South America, the USA and Asia.

A huge fan of the Western Bulldogs in the AFL and Miami Heat in the NBA, Steve is also a keen runner. You may well see him pounding the pavement around Manor Lakes as he trains for his first ever Olympic Triathlon this year.

We are delighted to have both Michael and Steve on our team and look forward to their contribution to the ongoing success of Manor Lakes.



## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

**As reported in our Summer newsletter, eagerly anticipated park and wetland beautification works throughout Manor Lakes will become an exciting reality in 2021!**

Recent visitors to the Manor Lakes sales office have been delighted to discover the magnificent Lakeside wetland is nearing completion. Featuring extensive boardwalks and over 70,000 plants, this beautiful ecosystem is rapidly becoming a haven for abundant birdlife and will open for public use in April 2021.

Work is well underway on Lollipop Hill's Stage 175 Reserve, located between Marmalade Road, Muscatell Crescent and Lollypop Creek. With completion anticipated by early winter, the many eager observers watching progress don't have long to wait to enjoy the playground, half basketball court and pathways meandering alongside the picturesque Lollypop Creek.

The wetland system between Holyoake Parade and Ricotta Road, featuring over 16,000 specially selected native aquatic plants to filter stormwater run-off and surrounded by a further 30,000 native plants, is also scheduled for completion in early winter. The network of footpaths and viewing areas will create tranquil spaces for enjoying the abundant wildlife attracted by the open water bodies.

Lollypop Creek rehabilitation works are expected to continue until the end of August, while rectification and rehabilitation works on Botanica Park have commenced, and works in Town Lake Park will follow.

Civil construction works are progressing on Stage 177 - the continuation of Maracana Blvd in Lollypop Hill - with drainage and sewer works nearing completion and watermain installation commencing shortly.

And in exciting news, civil construction works are progressing on Stage 182, the first stage of a new precinct that will be launching later this year. Watch this space!



The magnificent Lakeside wetland is nearing completion.



It might look like a giant sandpit at the moment, but the Lollipop Hill reserve will soon be a favourite destination for local residents!

## MANOR LAKES CENTRAL UPDATE

**The indoor Children's playground is now open and a great spot to take a break and expel some of that energy for the little kids.**

Located between Best & Less and Kmart, the playground comes to life in a vibrant display of interactive play activities. The area is surrounded by a colourful picket fence and within the space children can jump, run, climb and squeal with delight enjoying the various



degrees of oversized flowers, jumping pads and tunnels. There is also a seating space for parents, with phone charger access.

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 and a 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 ([manorlakescentral.com.au](http://manorlakescentral.com.au)) regarding the opening of the Community Room.

The list of retailers continues to grow at Manor Lakes Central with an array of new stores now open or soon to be open:

- Mikado Sushi is now open for delicious Japanese takeaway and catering needs.
- Myfone mobile is now open, offering Mobile Plans, sim only plans, NBN plans, a large range of accessories for your phone and tablet and repairs.
- Reliance Sales Real Estate will be opening during March.
- Opening April and offering beautiful Thai cuisine is the Bangkok Thai restaurant.
- Opening mid-year is Boost Juice.

## LOCAL BUSINESS PROFILE – SMUDGE SCENTS

**Well-known local business couple Jason and Michelle Penpraze, who established Smudge Dog Grooming after they moved to Manor Lakes in 2010, have added a new addition to their already thriving business with the launch of Smudge Scents, just over a year ago.**

“We absolutely fell in love with the community spirit and people of Manor Lakes. We find there’s a real country love mentality and there’s always something going on in and around the community. We are so lucky to meet so many local people via our businesses,” explains Michelle.

“At Smudge Dog Grooming we ensure the dogs smell fresh and clean when they are groomed, and our customers always comment on how lovely our salon smells. We were looking at a secondary business to start and it made sense to start producing our own great fragrance solutions. Not only are we keeping our customers’ pooches fresh and smelling great, but now we can extend that to their entire home with Smudge Scents.”

The couple design, wick, label and pour all the products themselves in their home-based business.

“We sell luxury scented soy candles in various styles, reed and car diffusers, soy wax melts, novelty candles, carpet fresh sprinkle, room/linen sprays, wax warmers, sonic diffusers, fragrance oils and accessories. We also personalise candles for events such as weddings and run candle parties.”



“Our most popular have always been our staples which are our large clear and black candles. With our signature luxe rose gold labels and rose gold lids, these look divine in your space and come in a choice of over 60 fragrances. Lately, however, our bling rose gold candles have been stealing the show, we’re having trouble keeping up with them! They’re absolutely stunning - and my personal favourite!” announces Michelle.

“Our novelty line of melts and candles are extremely popular and are so much fun to make. I love that they’re so unique as well, in a saturated market you really need something to make yourself stand out from the others. I will often think of new ideas whilst I’m grooming.”

Whilst we all appreciate the beautiful scent and sense of calm a candle provides, few appreciate the hours that go into the candle making process.

“There’s many, many hours spent testing and trialling before anything is even made. It’s not just a matter of melting some wax, throwing some fragrance in and waiting for it to set. It’s very involved and to give you an idea of the process, it’s printing our logo, hand picking and sticking it to the vessel, wicking the vessel, melting the wax, adding the fragrance, mixing, pouring, assembling and labelling the packaging. It starts to give you a new appreciation of why it costs what it does to purchase a quality candle.”

And Michelle’s favourite things about the candle making process?

“I’d have to say our favourite thing about the candle making process is standing back at the completion of every product and feeling really proud of what we have made. We literally take pride in every individual thing we make, and it is so rewarding hearing the delight from a customer- it truly makes it worthwhile.”

With so many fragrance options to choose from, Michelle explains that best sellers often change with the seasons.

“During Autumn and Winter, some of our more robust fragrances like Bohemian Dream, Moon Lake Musk and Peppermint and Eucalyptus are popular. Spring will entice more florals and fresh range like Japanese Cherry blossom and White Linen Breeze.”

[www.smudgescents.com.au](http://www.smudgescents.com.au)

## MANOR LAKES SUPPORTS LOCAL!

**We’re proud to support our fabulous local businesses in Manor Lakes!**

If you know a terrific local business that deserves a shout out on the Manor Lakes blog or social media, please email their details and a brief description to [info@manorlakes.com.au](mailto:info@manorlakes.com.au). Let’s all support local!





## LIVING THE 'IMPOSSIBLE' DREAM

**Owning your own home – it's the quintessential Australian dream. But it is a dream regardless of where you may have started from.**

"I moved to Australia in 2012 – I came as a refugee to form a new life," Nestor illuminates. "I was born in Burundi but I had been living in Uganda for eight years. It was a very difficult time."

Nestor fled Uganda with his younger brother, Jonathan Nsanzumukiza, and they felt incredibly fortunate to make their new home in Queensland.

"Australia is beautiful. I was able to attend high school here – I had only been able to complete a primary education in Uganda. After high school I went to college and studied IT."



"When I came to Australia, my brother and I lived in a very small share house with people from all different nationalities. I prayed that when I finished my study I could work to save enough money to build a home that was big enough to invite my friends to stay over. It's taken time but I'm doing it!"

Having purchased land in the Lollipop Hill precinct of Manor Lakes late in 2020, construction is set to commence on Nestor's dream home in February 2021.

"I have been working so hard to get this and have been waiting and saving for a very, very long time. I can't wait for the building to start!" he beams.

It was the pursuit of his dream that led Nestor to relocate to Melbourne in August 2019 and discover Manor Lakes.

"I was driving delivery trucks for a company in Queensland and they offered me a transfer to Melbourne. The new job was better paid so I took the chance."

"I had a few friends living in Sunshine but managed to find cheaper rental accommodation in Werribee. I discovered Manor Lakes when I was doing deliveries in the area and thought it



would be the perfect place to build. I wanted a fresh, new area and the shopping centre, trains, parks and everything else I need is very close."

But while Nestor is thrilled at the prospect of moving into his own home this year, he concedes that working hard and saving was not the only challenge he faced when pursuing his dream.

"I found the processes involved with the bank very difficult and I didn't know much about purchasing property."

He credits David Hutchinson, Manor Lakes Sales Consultant, for his dedicated patience and support throughout.

"David has been so helpful. If I didn't have his help, I wouldn't be where I am at the moment or where I hope to be in the future."

"He showed me the land that was available and how the house I wanted would fit on different pieces of land. I hadn't chosen the exact house, but I knew I wanted four or five bedrooms and he advised what size block I would need. I then spoke to different builders and described the house of my dreams to them."

"David also helped me to find a new broker, Sean Curtin from Mortgage Domayne, who was able to restart the loan process from the beginning with me. It took about one month but in the end we won!"

After Nestor moves into his new home in late July/early August 2021, his next wish is to bring his mum to Australia.

"I can't forget where I came from. I keep in regular contact with my mum by calling her every week. She still lives in the village where I was born in Burundi. When my home is completed I will put in an application for her to come and join me."

"Mum will be very happy here. She likes a fairly quiet area, without too much noise and traffic, so Manor Lakes will be perfect."

And he had another reason for choosing to build a large home.

"One day in the future I hope to have my own family. I would love to have children. With five bedrooms, my house is big enough to have four children - that would be a good number!" He laughs.

And Nestor's new home includes one more special feature.

"To have a cinema room in my house was my dream! My family will have everything we need nearby in Manor Lakes and we won't even have to go far to watch the cinema!"

## PARKLIFE COMES TO LOLLIPOP HILL PARK

Parklife is a free series of events run by Wyndham City Council, and the Parklife roadshow will feature across local parks in the City of Wyndham during March and April. On Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 March the roadshow arrives in Lollipop Hill.

You do not require a ticket to attend Parklife, but you must comply with the Conditions of Entry so that everyone can enjoy Parklife in safety and comfort. For further information visit [www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/parklife](http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/parklife)

Saturdays will feature music and theatre with The Mik Maks, The Kazoos, The Mexican Music Man and The Bandicoots Show, and Sundays will include a movie and popcorn event.

### SAT 27 MARCH

Lollipop Hill Park, Bertie Street Manor Lakes, featuring Kazoos, The Bandicoots, Mexican Music Man

### SUN 28 MARCH

Lollipop Hill Park, Bertie Street Manor Lakes, featuring the movie Sing.



Bring the family, bring a picnic, or buy a treat from the food truck on site!



**Neighbourhood Watch**  
Let's watch out for each other

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

**Did you know that joining the Manor Lakes Neighbourhood Watch group is a great way to support your community?**

Neighbourhood Watch is a community-based crime prevention program which aims to improve the quality of life within a neighbourhood by minimising preventable crime and promoting closer community ties.

For more information or to register your interest and get involved, email [nhw.manorlakes@gmail.com](mailto:nhw.manorlakes@gmail.com) or follow the 'Neighbourhood Watch Manor Lakes' Facebook group.