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# MANOR TALK

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SUMMER EDITION 2022



Manor Lakes

ANOTHER DENNIS FAMILY COMMUNITY





## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

### THE VILLAGE

It has been exciting to see our newest precinct, The Village, taking shape, with landscaping commencing on The Village entry and future town centre!

This precinct will be home to the fabulous new Manor Lakes sales office, to be located at the prominent intersection of Manor Lakes Boulevard and Ison Road. We anticipate landscaping of this site will also commence very soon. Stage 182 civil construction work is complete, with Powercor's final electrical audit the only remaining milestone. Landscaping on this Stage will also commence very soon, in line with the opening of Manor Lakes Boulevard in this Stage to the public.

Stage 195 civil works are continuing, with sewer works almost complete and road boxing starting to take shape. Stage 194 is tracking right behind 195, with sewer and drainage now installed.

### LOLLIPOP HILL

Civil construction is progressing well across Stages 178 and 179. Sewer, drainage and water main servicing are complete, with road pavement works nearing completion. Electrical installation works are currently in progress.

Our parks and open spaces are looking ever more beautiful, with landscaping works along Lollypop Creek Stages 168, 169 and 175 now complete and open to the public, and Stage 177 creek landscaping commencing imminently and forecast to open in the second half of 2022. The Stage 168 Wetland, and Stage 175 Park are also both now complete and being enjoyed by local residents.

### LAKESIDE

Civil construction is largely complete at Stage 52, with the project team currently working through final authority auditing and compliance requirements.

Stage 62 & 63 civil works are progressing well. Sewer, drainage and water main servicing are largely complete, with road pavement works recently commencing.

### Ison Road/Ballan Road intersection

Works are progressing well on this important intersection, which will open up the main arterial route into the northern section of Manor Lakes estate on completion.

Ison Road construction works are largely complete, whilst the final section of Ballan Road works is progressing well under traffic management.

### OTHER ROAD WORKS

Internal access roads in the Wyndham Vale Station Precinct are largely complete, with final electrical installation and concrete footpath works in progress. Ballan Road works, which will provide direct access to the station and this precinct via Commuter Boulevard, are also nearing completion.



## WYNDHAM LITTLE BUDDIES TOY LIBRARY



**It takes more than bricks and mortar to establish vibrant healthy communities; it also requires a range of services delivered by community groups and associations which are at the heart of every community. But while the work done by these groups, and the contributions they make to local communities is invaluable, it sometimes goes unrecognised.**

So, we thought we'd take this opportunity to shine a light on a fantastic charity that has been quietly servicing Wyndham families for almost 23 years. Established in 1998, the Wyndham Little Buddies Toy Library is a non-profit, community-owned service operating within the City of Wyndham run by a volunteer committee and supported through a Wyndham City Council Community grant.

Overseeing a collection comprising some 3,000 toys, Little Buddies aims to give families of babies and pre-schoolers affordable access to a varied selection of safe, clean, age-appropriate toys that can help children learn and develop through play.

We took the opportunity to sit down with Little Buddies' indefatigable President, Kristen Marran, to learn a little more about how she became involved with the charity, how it benefits the community and how people can support Little Buddies.

**Kirsten, tell us a little bit about you, when and how you came to be involved in Little Buddies, your role there and what this entails?**

A mother of two young girls, I've lived in Hoppers Crossing for 11 years, and I've been a toy library member since my eldest daughter was just 9 months old! I'd actually heard about the toy library from a friend, and it just made so much sense to borrow toys instead of buying them as I could already see my baby was growing and changing so rapidly. That was eight years ago, and we're still enjoying borrowing toys every week!

Just on four years ago, I joined the Little Buddies committee, which is essentially a group of parents who run the toy library on a voluntary basis, and then three years ago I volunteered to take on the role of president of the committee.

First and foremost, my role as president involves leading our team of volunteers and making sure we're all working towards the same goals. But I am just happy to roll up my sleeves and do whatever is needed to help the Toy Library, which can entail everything from organising Bunnings sausage sizzles to researching and ordering toys, to supervising photoshoots and running our social media accounts. In fact, as president, I need to be up for pretty much anything, but the diversity that volunteering at the Toy Library offers is definitely what keeps me engaged.

**Tell us about Little Buddies? When was it established, what does it do, what type of toys etc can people borrow, what age groups does the organisation cater to, etc?**

Little Buddies was founded in 1998 by two young mothers who first heard about the concept of a toy library at a playgroup conference and shared the passion and vision to start one in Werribee. It has grown a bit since then!

The Toy Library now services over 500 families right across the City of Wyndham and has amassed a collection of over 3,000 toys suitable for children from 0 – 8 years old, which includes everything from outdoor toys designed to keep kids active through to STEM toys which encourage the exploration of science.

It's important to have lots of variety, so we can cater for different ages and developmental stages. We also have a substantial puzzle and board game collection and love to promote family games nights on the weekends! Plus, there's a huge imaginary play section, which is very popular with toddlers.

**What are the most rewarding things about being involved in Little Buddies?**

There are so many wonderful aspects about being involved with the Toy Library, but one of the most rewarding for me personally is definitely the opportunity to lead such a dynamic and motivated team. I am a passionate believer in the benefits of volunteering because I have directly experienced them myself! Along the way, I've also learnt plenty of new skills, made lots of friends and have really relished the chance to be able to give something back to our wonderful Wyndham community.



**What are the biggest challenges facing the organisation? Is it difficult to source toys and volunteers? Where do you store toys? How often do you need to replace, repair and replenish toys?**

Like many not-for-profits and community groups, undoubtedly the biggest challenge we are facing right now is recovering post the successive lockdowns and COVID. It's no secret that the City of Wyndham has been one of the hardest hit communities over the past 2 years. While the two physical Little Buddies centres were actually forced to close for many months throughout the various lockdowns, we saw an opportunity to pivot and started offering a click and collect service. This proved very popular with members,





but unfortunately, closures mean we simply haven't been able to reach as many people as we would have liked across this period. We would also love to educate and inform more people about Little Buddies as a sustainable way for children to experience toys. At the moment most of our members find out about us via word of mouth, but we'd love it if there was some way to let every family in Wyndham to know about the Toy Library and what we do.

#### What are the most popular toys in the library?

As you would expect, children's toy preferences tend to change over time depending on their interests and level of development. But there are definitely toys that remain consistently popular year on year, including Pony Cycles, Kickbricks and Roller Coasters, largely because they're fairly expensive and unique, which means most families would never buy them for their own homes. Plus, they're just fabulous toys that children love and can happily spend hours and hours playing with!

#### If you were granted one wish for Little Buddies, what would it be?

Easy. I wish that the Toy Library will always have committed volunteers and staff like we have now.

The fact that we have been able to achieve so many great things over the last four years is almost entirely down to the collective efforts of our magnificent team.

Every single one of them plays an important part in sourcing, repairing and caring for toys, not to mention engaging with members and their families and encouraging them to join, and ensuring that the toy library continues to be a wonderful resource for Wyndham families — Little Buddies is truly a labour of love for everyone involved.

#### How can people become involved, donate toys, etc?

Anyone can join Little Buddies and I warmly encourage all readers — and especially those with young families or grandchildren, to visit our website and sign up for membership today. We're also lucky enough to be joined by regular volunteers from the community who help us run sessions. Right now, we'd love to recruit some more volunteers to help meet increased demand now that we're open again. And, of course, the other way people can show support is by following us on Instagram and Facebook.

  @LittleBuddiesToyLibrary [littlebuddiestoylibrary.com.au](http://littlebuddiestoylibrary.com.au)

## ALL SYSTEMS GO FOR A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL AT MANOR LAKES

**We know an important factor for many families deciding where to build their forever home, is the ability to access great schools in their local area.**

As part of the Victorian Government's commitment to delivering 100 new schools by 2026, Manor Lakes will be adding a brand new Primary School to the community, which is currently named Holyoake Parade Primary School, and forecast to open in 2023

The addition of a Primary School within Manor Lakes estate will help meet the needs of the growing population and ensure that families will be comprehensively catered for when it comes to their education needs — right in their own neighbourhood. Once complete the school will accommodate 650 local students and will open for enrolments for students in Prep to Grade 6.

Included in the list of facilities will be:

- An administration building with a library, staff offices and amenities
- Three learning neighbourhood buildings with general-purpose classrooms, and flexible and collaborative teaching spaces
- A specialist learning neighbourhood for subjects such as food technology and science
- A community hub with a competition-grade gymnasium, canteen, music and drama space.
- Two outdoor hardcourts
- A sports field and a bike shed.

It is hoped a principal will be appointed in April and begin work at the new school in Term 2. This will enable them to build strong foundations with families due to commence at the school, along with establishing a sense of community spirit and connections within the broader community.

The principal will also be appointing staff and teachers as soon as possible, along with working closely alongside the architects and builders to ensure the right environment is available for students to achieve their best.

The 2023 enrolment boundaries will be published online at [findmyschool.vic.gov.au](http://findmyschool.vic.gov.au) and when available details on how to enrol your child.

We will be sure to keep you updated regarding the status of a school name, designs and construction schedule.



## COMING HOME! MANOR LAKES TOWNHOME LIVING



### To Amanda and Daniel Manor Lakes has always felt like home!

After growing up in Manor Lakes and then moving closer to the city for a short time, when it came time to think about buying their first home, Amanda and Daniel knew Manor Lakes was a great option.

With family and friends already in the area, and knowing the abundance of established facilities readily available right at their doorstep, Manor Lakes ticked all the boxes.

So, after careful research and weighing up all the factors involved the couple decided a new build was the best option. With the challenges of trying to find suitable land during the 2020 lockdown, the couple were introduced to the idea of Townhome Living at Manor Lakes and quickly grew to love the concept.

We chat with Amanda and Daniel about the process and why Manor Lakes feels even more like home now!

**The sales process can sometimes be overwhelming. What were your biggest challenges when purchasing? And how have the Manor Lakes Sales Team helped you and supported you along the way?**

Our biggest challenge was trying to buy a house during Melbourne's 2020 lockdowns. It was difficult to view display homes and find agents to talk to, given the demand on the industry from the Homebuilder scheme.

Being first home buyers there were a lot of challenges around processes and procedures but the Sales team, along with our broker/conveyancer helped guide us through the process quite smoothly.

Having an off the plan turn-key price was also fantastic. It took a lot of the complications out of the building process.

**How did you come across the Townhome Living product at Manor Lakes, and what made you decide that it was the right home for you?**

It was introduced to us by our mortgage broker who has a good working relationship with the Manor Lakes sales team. We originally weren't sold on the idea of a townhome as we visualised a block of double story houses in our heads and we really wanted our own space. Annetha from the Manor Lakes sales team kindly invited us out to look through a newly built townhome and we were impressed! We loved that it was a single story and that we don't feel like we're attached to another house.

The house was a perfect size for us — and as we had purchased a corner home it came with two outdoor areas, which was an extra bonus!

**When did you move into your home? and what was the first thing you did when you were given the keys!**

We moved in towards the end of April 2021. The first thing we did was take some photos for family and friends who were eager to see the house!

**What do you love most about the Townhome Living home that you have built?**

We love the living/dining area as it feels spacious. One feature that surprised us when we first viewed the townhome was the storage. Each bedroom has generous cupboards and we love the massive closets in the hallway and garage.

Since moving out of home a few years ago we've been living in apartments so having that extra bedroom, garage space, and outdoor courtyard is great too.

**What is your favourite thing about the community at Manor Lakes?**

We live right next to Lollipop Hill Park and it's been great to have a place so close by to walk every day.

There's a real sense of community given the number of young families, which creates a happy and safe environment, and it's good to see all the estate's features being utilised.

**Would you recommend Manor Lakes to your friends and family, and what would you tell them?**

Definitely! Whenever we've spoken to friends/family about Manor Lakes we often say that it isn't as far away from the city as you'd expect. Having a V/Line station so close by means that commuting isn't bad at all.

On top of that — basically any facility you need is available within the community which is awesome too. It's also really encouraging to see the investment in infrastructure projects like extending Ison Road.

**Would you recommend Townhome Living to your friends and family?**

Absolutely. We've recommended it to friends already. They're great for singles, couples and young families and they feel very reasonably priced given the features and inclusions.



## MILESTONES AND AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS AT MANOR LAKES

**With such a vibrant and engaging community at Manor Lakes, you can always be guaranteed a wonderful turnout to celebrate Australia Day.**

And this year was no exception, with over 5000 people across the Manor Lakes community coming together to celebrate! This year is an extra special time for Manor Lakes as we celebrate 20 years of the estate, so it was double the celebrations for everyone!

**Don't worry for those who didn't make it — there will be lots of 20-year celebrations across the year.**

The days started with beautiful sunny skies as residents enjoyed an array of activities and food options. There were carnival rides for all ages from cup and saucer to the heart pumping rotating spinning ride, and face painting, pony rides and a petting zoo — much to the delight of the children who were all smiles as they enjoyed the festivities with family. The butterfly wings giveaway were also a huge success with the tiny tots amongst the crowd, and even a pet or two!

Bollywood dances, the Lion King Show, Samba dances and giant butterfly roving performers also entertained the crowds as they watched from tables and picnic spots surrounding the grassed areas along Lakeside.

Many people in the crowd also enjoyed getting involved as they danced along with the entertainers.

Also available to enjoy across all age groups was ultimate laser and frisbee games which are always popular with any age group, and frisbee participants also got to take home a commemorative 20 years of Manor Lakes frisbee.

Food trucks were in attendance for community members to enjoy an array of cuisines, as was the Wyndham Rotary Club who did an amazing job on the BBQ, cooking an abundance of sausages on the day! 1000 cups cakes celebrating 20 years were given out to the community to celebrate.

Unfortunately, the weather changed late in the day and the planned laser show could not take place, however the rehearsal the night before saw over 300 people enjoy the amazing light show.

**Thank you to everyone who participated in what was a fantastic community day.** Stay tuned via our newsletters, socials and the website for more celebration events planned throughout the year.







## HOW TO PACK THE PERFECT SUMMERTIME PICNIC

**Whether you're enjoying a casual laid back picnic in the park or an alfresco feast with friends outside, eating outdoors during the warmer months requires some careful planning.**

Here are some tips for a delicious spread and how to prep and pack the perfect hamper to ensure freshness and the perfect adventure out.

### PACKING YOUR HAMPER

You don't need a fancy picnic basket to still enjoy a great picnic. A large beach bag or basket will do the trick, as long as food and essentials for your spread are well supported so there are no accidental leaks.

Preparation is the key to a successful picnic so you can simply unpack, relax and enjoy feasting and chatting with friends and loved ones.

As well as choosing what to eat, your equipment and carriers will need the once over to ensure a stress free experience. Check that your carriers close tightly and are leak free. Lightweight plastic or paper cups, bottles and plates are best to avoid breakages and can be easily bagged up at the end for washing at home. A small sturdy tray or board can make a good stand for drinks and bottles, and name tags are another great idea. Don't forget to add some napkins, tea towels and wipes, and some plastic bags for easy cleaning up at the end.

### FOOD IDEAS

Whether you are going gourmet, casual or planning a theme based event, food items that can be pre-prepared and are easy to handle and fuss free are perfect options. Packing items in small containers for easy eating and wrapping sandwiches, slices and individual items will make for an easy picnic.

Here is a list of easy to prepare and grab items sure to put a smile on everyone's face.

#### Savoury:

- Individual pasta, potato, noodle rice and green salads in jars or small containers.
- Pre-filled sandwiches, rolls, baguettes and wraps.
- Savoury muffins, pull parts and scrolls.
- Mini quiches, slices such as zucchini, sausage rolls, pies or frittatas.
- Dips, cheeses, and grazing platters — easily prepared in a Tupperware or flat container.

#### Something sweet:

- Individual servings of slices, muffins and cupcakes.
- Fruit and chocolate grazing platters.
- Cookies and scones.
- Sweet buns and scrolls.
- Puddings
- A thermos of coffee and hot chocolate.

### FOOD SAFETY

When preparing for a picnic, food safety is key — the last thing anyone wants to risk is an upset stomach if food is not stored well and kept cool during transit and at your picnic. An Esky or ice packs are an easy solution for keeping fridge based items like meats, dairy or salads fresh and in tip top shape till you reach your picnic destination and throughout the day as needed. If you are using a simple bag or basket for carrying, you can use bags or towels around your food to keep everything in place.

Making your own inexpensive ice packs is super easy and quick. Simply fill zip lock bags with water and freeze. Make sure you pack them around your food items well to ensure a consistent temperature.

### OTHER BITS AND PIECES

Don't forget a mat, some cushions, a sun umbrella or hats, sunscreen and insect repellent so you are comfortable throughout the whole day.

## MANOR LAKES CENTRAL UPDATE

### NEW RETAILERS

Manor Lakes Central continues to attract an ever growing number of popular and well known retailers, supporting an array of community needs.

New to the centre we welcome the popular Boost Juice for all your juice and smoothie needs, as well as Sons of Man — a fantastic restaurant and bar open for breakfast, lunch and in the future dinner, guaranteed to delight your taste buds for a scrumptious breakfast to start the day, a quick refuel whilst shopping, or a leisurely lunch option for the whole family.



Also opening mid-February and covering your fresh, baked daily on the premises sweet and savoury bread needs is a crowd favourite Bakers Delight. Be sure to stop by for some opening specials.

And for those wanting a convenient and tasty option, Hungry Jacks and KFC are now open in the carpark with both dine in and drive through available.



The Love Local kiosk, selling a beautiful selection of giftware and jewellery with everything sourced locally and all Australian made, or Pippala Homewares, selling homewares and décor items through to kitchenware is a must visit for all your gift giving and decorating needs.



You will find all your printing needs, especially as the kids go back to school at Inkcart kiosk, supplying high quality ink and toner cartridges for all brands of printers.

And finally, a popular addition to the Manor Lakes Centre community is Wellbeing Chiropractic. Don't forget to pop in and say hi to the team when you are next in to discuss how they can support your back care needs.

### COMMUNITY ROOM UPDATE

The Community Room located near Centre Management is now open and taking bookings for Not for Profit Community Groups to use. For more information, availability and to book please see the website:

<http://www.manorlakescentral.com.au/news/manor-lakes-central-community-room-now-open>.

### HQ MANOR LAKES CENTRAL

Be sure to check out the latest and greatest exclusive deals from the Manor Lakes Central retailers plus have some fun with live trivia and games, download Spotify playlists and win prizes — changes daily.

Scan the QR codes when you are next in the centre or join via <https://hq.manorlakescentral.com.au/>



### KING SWIM IS ON THE WAY

With a history spanning 30 years and a network of 21 swim schools around the country, Manor Lakes Central is looking forward to welcoming Kingswim in 2022.

The new purpose built swim school will offer 100's of swim classes for the local community in a state of the art facility. More updates soon!