

Manor Talk

COMMUNITY

Summer Sunset Festival

A GUIDE TO

Growing your own summer fruits

LIVING EFFICIENTLY

Drought-proof your garden

SUMMER RECIPE

Summer fruit & berry galette



Manor Lakes

ANOTHER DENNIS FAMILY COMMUNITY

Construction update

After taking a break over the festive season, the warmer weather has meant construction teams are back on site and in full swing across all precincts in Manor Lakes.



The Village

Since our Spring 2022 update, construction in The Village continues to progress as scheduled.

Road boxing in Stage 182B is nearing completion and initial road construction layers will commence shortly, to be followed by kerb and channel works.

Across Stages 190, 191 and Stages 196 to 199 various civil works continue to progress well. Stage 194 has now been titled and opened to the public late last year, and streetscape landscape works in Stage 195 have been completed.

The civil works for the upcoming Display Village in Stage 213A, which will showcase homes from leading builders, continue to move forward at a rapid pace. Bulk excavation is nearing completion which means sewer and road boxing works will follow.

Landscaping of the 1.62-hectare District Reserve on Manor Lakes Boulevard is anticipated to commence in April or May. The Reserve will be a fantastic asset to The Village along with the rest of the Manor Lakes community. These exciting additions to the area include a community dog park, playground area, village market stall zone, a landscaped amphitheatre overlooking the reserve, and a fitness and sports zone adjoining the creek path.

Lollipop Hill

Pedestrian bridge works across Lollypop Creek adjacent to Stage 166 commenced late last year and continue to progress as scheduled.

Lakeside

Exciting updates for Lakeside, as works for Stage 53 are nearing completion, with final lot filling, grading, signage, asphalt, and line marking all underway. Concreting of footpaths and crossovers is also underway for Stage 157, with nature strip topsoil and lot filling and grading to follow, signifying the completion of civil works for this Stage.

Civil works were awarded for Stage 160 in late 2022, so site works are expected to commence shortly, beginning with the initial site strip and bulk excavation.

Station Precinct

We are eagerly awaiting the streetlights to be switched on by the electrical authority. Based on the latest advice provided to us, we anticipate the energisation of the streetlights to be completed in February.

Community event— Manor Lakes community joins in family fun under the sun

Manor Lakes residents of all ages came together on January 26 for a beautiful, sunny evening hosted by Dennis Family Corporation under the new Summer Sunset Festival theme.

Held at the park beside the lake, the free annual event was the perfect opportunity to celebrate the long weekend amongst the local community.

Beginning at 5 pm and running until 9 pm, the event featured activities for the whole family to enjoy. Although initially a cloudy day, the sun soon came out over the park for an evening of 23 degrees and sunset skies of orange and pink.

“Our Summer Sunset Festival was well received by residents, and it was great to see so many people from our community

enjoying the music, dancing, and laughing,” says Manor Lakes Marketing Executive, Nicole Kernick.

“We had around 2800 residents join us for a whole range of activities, with the petting zoo and silent disco being the most popular. The Summer Sunset theme was perfectly matched by a stunning sunset and perfect Melbourne weather,” she continues.

The event featured a packed schedule, including a popular silent disco, karaoke lounge, movie zone, laser tag, a bubble and snow zone, and a glitter face painting station. Children and families had a great time dancing to the DJ set of current and classic songs. Another great success – perfect for summer – was the slip n’ slide, which was busy from start to finish. Dining options included a wide selection of food trucks, which the community enjoyed while being entertained by acoustic duo, POP Culture.

As the newest addition to the festival, the bike cabs proved an extremely popular way for guests to get around as patrons enjoyed soaking in the sights of Manor Lakes in a fun and relaxed way with tours along the neighbourhood’s bike baths and walking lanes. The energetic bike staff entertained guests for hours with conversations and lots of laughs.

If you missed the January 26 celebrations, don’t worry — you can join in the always popular Manor Lakes annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday 9 April.

“This year’s festival was a great success,” concludes Nicole. “As a mainstay on the Manor Lakes community calendar, we can’t wait to see everyone back again for more summer fun next year!”





Lakeside – the perfect orientation!

Patience was the name of the game when it came to finding the ideal block to build a new family home at Manor Lakes for Wilfred and Micah Patriarca.

The young family, who currently live in Werribee and have three children, Zach, Zion and Sadie, have been looking for the perfect spot to call home for some time.

“We were keeping an eye on any releases that had a lakeside frontage over the last three years. I had spoken to David at the Manor Lakes Sales Centre a while back about wanting a block that had a view, as well as a good orientation for sunlight. He contacted me about the expression of interest for the lot and we thought it was perfect,” reports Wilfred.

This will be the second home for the Patriarca family, and whilst Wilfred says although they haven’t decided on a builder as yet, they are keen to maximise the orientation and the view of the lake and the surrounding area in their design.

“We are hoping to build a double storey home with a good balcony and a design that will maximise the view of the lake. We have spoken to several builders but haven’t decided on any yet. We are speaking to a custom builder at the moment as we really want to make the most of the views of the lake and trees, as well as have nice sunlight streaming into the house. We are also looking forward to having more space for the kids with a bigger and newer house.”

Wilfred who has a keen interest in visual effects, and runs a visual effects studio in Collingwood is also an avid tennis player.

“Outside of my visual effects work, which is also my interest, I love tennis and enjoy playing at any local courts and meeting other local players who enjoy a casual hit. The kids have also taken to a bit of tennis and we all love being outdoors, so tennis courts were on the list as key criteria when looking for a new estate to build in, so we look forward to courts being built at Manor Lakes.”

Apart from looking forward to a game of tennis, the family are excited to learn all about and enjoy the benefits and amenities of living at Manor Lakes.

“We didn’t know much about the neighbourhood besides attending the Halloween event last year, so we love the idea of being able to step out of our house and go for a walk or bike ride. Zach also goes to school at Wyndham Christian College, so it is a good distance to school. As a young family the shops, cafes, walking tracks, playgrounds and sports fields are important to us, and we were attracted by Manor Lakes Central and its potential to be bigger and have more shops and food options,” confirms Wilfred.

We look forward to welcoming the Patriarca family not only to the Lakeside neighbourhood but also to the broader Manor Lakes community.

Tips for growing your own summer fruits

Fruit and summer go hand-in-hand. There's nothing better than a fruit salad or a delicious smoothie on a hot day. You could attend your local market or grocery store and find a wide selection, but nothing compares to the satisfaction of harvesting your own crop.

Make the most of great weather and long summers with our tips for planting and enjoying the benefits of your fresh summer fruits, while also reaping the rewards long after summer has gone, with options such as freezing, preserving and making jams and condiments.



Choosing the right fruit

Do you often find yourself craving a particular fruit that's hard to find at the supermarket? Growing your own fruit is a simple way to keep costs down and ensure there's always enough for you and your family.

Deciding what fruit to plant in your garden can be subject to several factors, including taste, space, weather conditions and adequate lighting.

Many citrus and stone fruit trees require at least 6 hours of uninterrupted sunlight throughout the day, whereas raspberries, bananas, mandarins, and oranges are more adequately suited to partial shade.

Investing in fruit trees

Fruit trees provide flowers, fruit, and beneficial shade during the hot, Australian summer. Almost all fruit trees benefit from full sun, good soil drainage, and enough room to thrive.

Plant your trees with enough space in between, keeping them away from other plants, fences, and infrastructure. Plan your garden according to the size of the mature plant. Maintain adequate drainage by adding organic matter, including kitchen compost, garden compost, and well-rotted manure to your soil.

Save on citrus and stone fruit trees by purchasing bare-rooted varieties during winter. Soak the tree in a large container of water before planting it in a hole large enough for the tree roots and any organic soil. Water your tree well. Citrus and stone fruit trees are self-fertile, which means they will produce fruit even if they are grown in solitary conditions (away from other trees).

Apple, pear, cherry, and plum trees require a cross-pollinator to bear fruit. Cross-pollinating includes transferring pollen from the flowers of one plant to another. These trees are best suited when planted among other flowering fruit trees, as the proximity is ideal for the wind and other cross-pollinating sources. Bees are expert cross-pollinators. Invite bees into your garden by planting plenty of native Australian flowers and abstaining from insecticides.

A berry good choice

Summer berries include blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, and strawberries. All summer berries thrive whether they are planted in the garden or plant pots. Ensure your berries are planted in direct sunlight. Raspberries are the only berries that require partial shade. To ensure healthy, fruiting plants, maintain nutrient-dense, freely draining soil.

Growing olives

Did you know olives are regarded as fruit? These European diet staples are packed full of Vitamin E and antioxidants beneficial for heart health. Olives thrive in long, hot climates just like their native Mediterranean conditions. Plant your olive trees in full sun, where the fruits find at least 6 hours of light. Keep protected from strong winds with a stake as support or by planting among other tall plants.

Caring for your trees

Lightly prune your fruit trees right after you've collected your summer crop. Only prune where necessary though, as severe pruning during summer may weaken the trees. Keep significant pruning to winter to fix any issues, including dead wood and broken or tangled branches.

Summer recipe— Fruit & berry galette

This French-inspired dessert is quick and easy to make, it's similar to a tart or pie but a little more rustic, free-form and effortless. Ready in just 40 minutes, and packed with fresh summer seasonal fruits, this galette is sure to impress.

Ingredients

1/2 cup pistachios,
finely chopped (optional)
1/4 cup (55g) caster sugar
30g butter, chopped
1 tsp vanilla bean paste
3 Tbsp of any jam
2 tbsp plain flour
1 egg, lightly whisked
1 sheet frozen puff pastry,
just thawed
1 cup blueberries
1 cup raspberries
3 large stone fruit such as plums,
apricots, nectarines, cherries or peaches,
pitted and cut into rough 2-cm thick slices
Honey to serve
Vanilla ice cream or lightly sweetened
whipped cream to serve (optional)

Method

Preheat oven to 200°C. Line a large baking tray with baking paper. Place finely chopped pistachios (optional) caster sugar, butter, jam and vanilla in a food processor and process until combined. Transfer to a bowl. Add the flour and use your fingertips to combine. Lightly whisk egg and set aside 2 tsp. Add the remaining egg to the mixture and stir to combine.

Place the pastry on the baking tray. Use a small sharp knife to score a 2cm border around the edge of the pastry (don't cut all the way through). Use a fork to prick the pastry all over the inside the border.

Spread mixture onto pastry inside the border. Arrange and layer stone fruits and berries till the mixture is covered. Brush the pastry border with the reserved egg.

Form the galette by folding, overlapping and pleating the edges of the dough over the pastry filling to enclose. Brush the crust with egg wash and sprinkle it with sugar. Transfer to the fridge or freezer to chill until firm — this will help it retain its shape during baking and prevent any fruit juices from seeping out.

Bake for 20 mins or until the pastry is crisp and golden brown and the fruit filling is cooked and bubbling. Remove from the oven and allow to cool at room temperature. Drizzle with honey and serve with a generous scoop of vanilla ice cream or lightly sweetened whipped cream.



Drought-proof your garden this summer

After a damp and chilly spring, who isn't looking forward to a little sunny weather this summer? Depending on where you live, keeping your garden going during the hotter months can be challenging.

Here are some simple water-wise ways that you can adopt to give your place some love in the warmer months and make sure that it doesn't just survive but thrives.

Fertilising

The start of summer is a great time to give your garden beds and pot plants a feed. Use a liquid fertiliser to correct any nutrient deficiencies and to promote flowering and fruiting. Seaweed powder mixed with water helps plants in times of stress.

Compost

Healthy and well-prepared soil goes a long way to making your plants drought-tolerant. The slow release of nutrients as the organic matter disintegrates produces healthier specimens of all your plants, allowing them to better resist disease, infestations of pests and lack of water in dry periods. Soil that contains a lot of organic matter can hold more moisture. Add concentrated sources of organic matter into your soil like compost, organic soil improvers or worm castings to top up garden beds, veggie patches and pot plants.

Mulching

Fresh mulch holds moisture in the soil and helps to maintain a constant soil temperature that prevents heat stress in plants. It also helps to suppress weeds and supplies nutrients to the soil as it breaks down, providing an environment for beneficial organisms.

Water your soil thoroughly before mulching. A five-centimetre layer of chipped bark, untreated wood chips or sugar cane mulch will greatly improve moisture retention on hot days. But don't overdo it; too much mulch will prevent water from getting in and may restrict airflow to the soil, suffocating your plants. Keep mulch away from the stems and trunks of your plants to prevent them from rotting.

Be water wise

There are many practical steps you can take around the garden to help your plants survive without turning on the hose unnecessarily. Make sure you water in the early morning, as the cooler temperature helps to hydrate and prepare plants for the heat of the day. Water your plants heavily once or twice a week rather than lightly every day. Watering less frequently encourages plants to send roots deeper into the soil where it's cool. It also prevents weeds and creates more resilient plants. Going on holiday? Heavily water everything before you leave and move smaller pots out of the sun, and indoor plants outside where they may get some rain.

Collect greywater in a bucket from an area where there is no contamination risk, like your shower. While you can't use this water in food gardens, it's great to tip onto non-edible plants or your lawn within 24 hours.



Don't forget your pot plants

On hot days, temporarily moving pots to shady spots can prolong their life. Place them on soil or garden borders as the heat from pavements, concrete and patios can be detrimental. Place deep saucers, bowls or buckets under pots to catch any water run-off. Take down hanging baskets once a week and place them in a bucket of water for a thorough soaking.

Choose your plants wisely

Plants originating from low rainfall areas, such as parts of South Africa and the Mediterranean, are better suited to survival in hot Australian summers. Look for Rosemary, Sage, Thyme, Lavender, Fairy Iris, and African Daisies. Many Australian natives are also drought-tolerant, including Corokia, Coprosma, Kapuka, and Buchanan's sedge. Other drought-tolerant plants include geraniums, lamb's ear and silverbush, while hardy tree varieties include Ginko, Pine Trees, Eucalyptus and Robinia.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE A SNAKE

Snakes like summer too. With the hot days of summer in full swing, snakes do become more active in the area.

Anyone who encounters a snake is advised to:

- Be aware, stay calm and do not approach a snake.
- Safely remove any people or pets from the area where the snake was sighted.
- Do not try to capture the snake. Wyndham City Council has a free professional snake removal service available by calling 1300 023 411.
- Apply first aid and seek medical help immediately, if anyone is bitten.

More information can be found at
www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/pets-animals/animal-complaints-pests/snakes



Family and Friend Referral

If you thought you'd missed out on Manor Lake's fantastic Family and Friends Referral program, don't panic!

By popular demand, it's been extended until 31 March 2023!

This fantastic incentive is available to all existing Manor Lakes purchasers and residents to encourage their friends and family to join them in calling Manor Lakes home. And it couldn't be easier!

All you have to do is refer your friends and family to the Manor Lakes Sales Team and if they buy land, you'll each receive a \$1,000 debit card.

It's our way of saying thanks and welcome to the community.

To be eligible, anyone referred by you just needs to sign a contract for the purchase of land before the promotion finishes on 31 March 2023.

**Anyone interested should drop into the Manor Lakes Sales Centre:
218 Manor Lakes Boulevard, Manor Lakes,
open from 10am – 5pm daily, telephone 1300 334 524
or visit manorlakes.com.au**