

Pinewood Village Vibe

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Bambou Celebrates 10 Years of Early Childhood Education



Debbi, Janine, John and Haritsa from the Bambou Early Learning Centre

Bambou Early Learning Centre, Glen Waverley will celebrate 10 years of providing a quality 'play based' curriculum in a nurturing, child-focused aesthetically pleasing environment, in early 2019.

A family owned business, Bambou ELC was founded by Haritsa Xenidis and her husband, John, in early 2009 and is an exceeding rated early childhood centre catering for babies through to five-year-olds. The centre caters for 79 children on a daily basis and operates Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 6.00pm every week except the Christmas-New Year period.

Haritsa has been working within the early childhood sector for over 25 years. She had previously managed an early learning centre and has taught at Holmesglen Institute and prior to opening Bambou worked as a Children Services Adviser at the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

The ambience at Bambou is bright and modern with a variety of learning environments and play spaces.

The architecturally designed centre includes children's rooms filled with natural light and a landscaped natural outdoor playground that provides for endless opportunities of interaction, discovery and learning through play.

The centre was extended two years ago to include an additional two kindergarten rooms.

The centre offers a 'funded' kindergarten program integrated within the long day which provides flexibility for many families and has a high ratio of qualified educators including early childhood teachers in its three kindergarten classes.

Curriculum areas such as literacy, numeracy, music, engagement with nature, arts, STEM (science, technical engineering and mathematics) and a well-being program are incorporated into Bambou's intentional teaching and pedagogical practice.

"Small group sizes are conducive to quality early learning experiences" said Haritsa.

"The children at Bambou are viewed as active learners and the focus of learning is from the children's perspective as we provide opportunities for them to learn through play as they practice life skills, role play, investigate and construct meaning about their community and the wide world".

"Promoting relationships between children and educators that are respectful, positive, constructive and rich are the core of our philosophy".

"We are culturally diverse and value taking part in different cultural celebrations within our Bambou family community and teach the children about diversity, culture and our indigenous and Australian heritage."

Haritsa said that a strong relationship between Bambou families, the local community and the vibrant Pinewood

Shopping Village had been established through the years.

"We have close links with our local Traders including regular visits to Pinewood Quality Nursery, excursions to the Village, weekly visits from a doctor at Waverley Family Healthcare and learning about the important role people in our community have," she said.

Bambou conduct fundraising drives to support causes such as the Biggest Morning Tea, World's Greatest Shave, Jeans for Genes Day and any other causes close to our families' hearts.

"We support our local Bakers Delight by having a Hot Cross Bun fundraiser and raise funds for The Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal each year at Easter.

For further information on the Bambou Early Learning Centre phone 9886 6563 or email info@bambouelc.com.au

Jingle bells... 91 days to Christmas

Our multicultural traders here at Pinewood village are here to lend a helping hand ... we hope this will be a time spent with family and friends spending eats, shopping and cinemas.

Groceries and food glorious food and cafes in Pinewood village. Dry cleaning, banking and groceries all for the Christmas festive season...

We love our customers to feel like family... the extended family that looks after one another... we have sooo much to look forward to...friendly traders, coffee fix...how good do we feel! It's like Christmas every day in our village!

The month of December will bring great interest and activity to put a smile on your faces...lots of love to go around, some warm hugs and welcoming smiles...we are here for you all.

The real spirit of Christmas is to share peace, cherish humankind in our multicultural complex and appreciate one another.

Looking forward to sharing this in December in Pinewood village and love the place we live.

Looking forward to seeing and sharing moments...to us cheers!

Oh My My...so delicious!



Kelly, the owner of My My Vietnamese restaurant

Beautiful décor, a friendly family atmosphere, second-to-none service and the most delicious Vietnamese cuisine at affordable prices.

That's the modus operandi of Pinewood Shopping Village's award-winning Vietnamese licensed restaurant My My.

The restaurant was founded in 2001 by Kelly Banh and her husband, Peter, and carries the name of their 17 year-old daughter, My My. It is one of the oldest established businesses in the renowned Pinewood foody destination.

Prior to opening My My 17 years ago Kelly and Peter operated Saigon Orchid, a Vietnamese restaurant at The Glen shopping centre for two years.

My My's bill of fare offers more than 200 freshly cooked dishes – including beef, chicken, pork, seafood and rice – garnished with all the yummy Eastern flavours.

There's a choice of 24 entrees and five soups, while the selection of mains includes 17 chicken dishes, 12 vegetable dishes, 14 beef, 12 pork, 55 seafood dishes including fish, prawns, scallops and squid, six omelettes, and numerous noodle and rice dishes and chef's specials such as seafood combination and Vietnamese My My Special.

"Some of our most popular dishes are Vietnamese salty squid, traditional curried chicken, Vietnamese beef, lemongrass chicken and pho noodle soup. Our pork soup is very popular in the winter," Kelly said.

The special My My seven-course banquet featuring two entrees, three main courses, a dessert and coffee/tea is a real favourite with customers. The restaurant also has a special luncheon menu and meals tailored for children and pensioners.

"We cater for weddings, parties, corporate functions and special occasions," she said.

Takeaway customers can book on-line and have meals delivered to their home by logging onto mymy-online.com.au or phone 9886 3319.

The 68 seat restaurant captured the City of Monash Golden Plate Award for providing a high standard of food safety in 2017.

Community-minded, My My donate to several charities benefitting the Vietnamese community, church and temple.

"Every year I go to Vietnam for three days and donate rice to the poor. We work hard at My My but we do give away to help other people," Kelly said.

Kelly stated that her family and staff really love their involvement with Pinewood.

"I wish to thank all the loyal customers who have been supporting us for the last 17 years," she said.

My My is open from Tuesday to Friday from 11am to 4.30pm and every night from 4.30 to 11pm.

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Damien's a travelling man

'We come to you...let us book your next holiday experience'

That 's the catchcry of young Eastern Suburbs-based travel consultant Damien Rullo, the owner of Worldwide Traveller.

A former Wesley collegian, Damien founded Worldwide Traveller only two years ago but has a wealth of experience in the travel industry spanning 16 years.

He has toured 10 different countries and many of the world's biggest cities and lived in Los Angeles for two years. He was also employed by Dnata Airport Services with the Qatar account at Tullamarine Airport.

"I've worked for all the major travel agencies and I just wanted to take the best out of them and put them into my own company," Damien said.

Damien first became interested in travel through conversations with relatives and friends.

"Their job was talking about travel every day and I thought that is what I would love to do. They really encouraged me to get involved in the industry," he said.

Worldwide Traveller is a completely independent company with no ties to the multi-nationals.

The company embraces the full spectrum of services relating to the travel industry.

They include international and domestic airfares, hotels, tailor-made holidays, escorted tours, independent travel, travel insurance, ocean and river cruises, lay-by holidays, honeymoons, weddings and group travel.

"I work with any sized budget," Damien stated. "I can arrange travel loans for clients with HSBC and travel insurance with the Cover-More group which has a 'cancellation for any reason policy.'"

Damien really enjoys working in travel.

"I love that the job's so different and I meet people that want different things out of holidays. That makes my job really enjoyable.

"I love the different experiences you get from other countries. I love to know that no day's ever the same. I might be working on Africa one day, South



America the next, Europe the next, and USA the day after. No day's ever the same."

Damien's favourite destination is Zurich in Switzerland

"I love Europe as a whole. I also love Los Angeles and the US. I'm in travel so I love every country that I go to. I find something I like about every country."

Community minded, Worldwide Travel donates to the Cancer Council of Victoria a portion of each holiday booked by the company.

Besides his full-time job, Damien has a weekly segment on the FM Radio station JOY 94.9. He is also a trained actor and has worked in television, film, theatre and TV commercials. Among his credits are Neighbours, Blue Heelers and MDA and the American TV mini-series The Pacific.

Damien can be contacted on phone 1300 056 284 at any time, email info@worldwidetraveller.com.au or visiting the website www.worldwidetraveller.com.au

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President's Message



Hi everyone!! This is our third newsletter of 2018.

And we are in our final trimester before Christmas.

We have been working behind the scenes...progressing with the Council and the traders of our village. I'm feeling very confident and happy that we can bring more into the complex.

Our latest news is Cafe Connections is closing...watch this space...for more exciting things ahead.

Welcome to Jackman Eatery...where the old JT bakery was...great transformation. Good luck guys...keep up the good work.

The Spring Carnival is upon us with school holidays and Christmas just around the corner.

Newsletter highlights in this edition is children; the new generation.

Travel....who doesn't like a change of scenery and food...give me more yummy!

The diversity of our shopping village is amazing and we are a little gem.

I'm proud to be affiliated with Pinewood and it's people who are truly interested in supporting our businesses.

There will be one more newsletter to finalise the end of the year 2018.

So far I'm happy that we have the community smiles and chats...and progress for our future here.

Evvie Makris

President, Pinewood Chamber of Commerce

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