

B.

BANGHOLME

B.

19th March 2018
JOURNAL

Cash splash into sports

Access to the National Water Sports Centre in Bangholme is getting a \$3 million boost.

Premier Daniel Andrews joined Environment Minister Lily D'Ambrosio, Mordialloc MP Tim Richardson and Carrum MP Sonya Kilkenny at Melbourne Cable Park on Wednesday 14 March to announce the project.

"This is a great area but it could be so much more," Mr Andrews said.

The cash will support sealing the access road, improving the Carrum Lilydale Bike Trail, creating a new walking track under the Mornington Peninsula Freeway and building a new recreational building.

These were key priorities from the Patterson River Concept Plan.

The works might also include removing old buildings and infrastructure, creating new pathways, and better security lighting and signage.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning is going through feedback from more than 900 locals to create a draft plan for developing the area.

"We've been overwhelmed with the response by the community and this will help inform the final plan to be released later this year," Carrum MP Sonya Kilkenny said.

The River End Business Community has been campaigning for upgrades to the area for years.

In June 2016 the group told the Journal that the tax revenue they would generate from new wages alone would more than pay for the roads, public transport connections and footpaths they needed.

The precinct includes Craft and Co Farm,



Melbourne Cable Park's Ian Clark with Premier Daniel Andrews and Mordialloc MP Tim Richardson.

Cornish College, Nine Dragons Horse Club and Melbourne Cable Park.

Spokesman Ian Clark from Melbourne Cable Park said the businesses were privately funded and none were seeking any government assistance with their specific business operations.

Mr Clark said there were no footpaths, public transport links or bicycle access in the area, and drainage was poor.

He said students, tourists and workers could only access the area by car.

"Road safety issues are reaching a point where an accident is almost inevitable because of the failing road surfaces and edges of the road," he said.

"The road is increasingly being used as a shortcut to avoid EastLink tolls. Traffic levels are growing significantly."

High ropes course set to provide excitement and spectacular views...

Hitting the highs

By Casey Neill

A cash boost will help a high ropes course bring 100,000 extra people into Bangholmme each year.

The five-level outdoor tower at the multi-million dollar Melbourne Cable Park is set to open by Christmas and could create 160 new jobs.

It will feature a kinder course for small children, three levels with 90 challenge-based elements, plus a viewing platform offering a 360 degree view of the south-east.

A harness system will connect users to the tower but allow them to move freely between the challenges.

The State and Federal Governments both

chipped in for the \$600,000 Tourism Demand Driver Infrastructure (TDDI) program grant, which was announced on Wednesday 19 July.

The Journal was first to reveal plans for the park, adjacent to the National Watersports Centre (NWSC) on Patterson River, in February 2015.

The company developing the park, Activ, leased a grassed area that the State Government declared surplus to its needs.

The park opened its inflatable aqua fun park in January - which attracted 35,000 visitors - and followed with its cable waterski and wakeboard lakes in April.

The man behind the innovative park, Ian

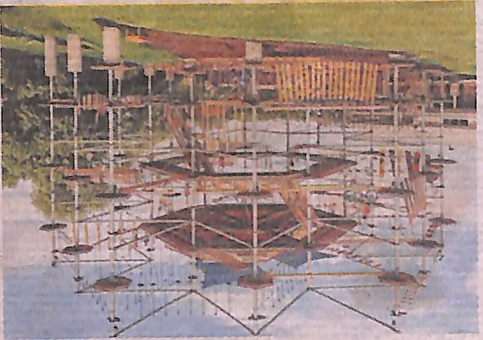
Clark, said he was thrilled to see his vision becoming a reality.

"The satisfaction for us comes from the smiles on the faces of the local kids and parents," he said.

Solar panels power the cable systems on the centres two lakes which each use as much electricity as two washing machines.

Federal Trade, Tourism and Investment Minister Steven Ciofo said the project would continue to drive the region's economy and create local jobs.

Mordialloc MP Tim Richardson said: "The Melbourne Cable Park is already proving to be a popular drawcard for locals and tourists alike, and these ropes will take it to new heights."



Melbourne Cable Park is developing a high ropes course similar to this one in the US.

P1. 24" July 2017 J

BANGHOLME

Cable Park adds ropes attraction

A HUGE adventure park in Melbourne's southeast will add an exciting high ropes attraction.

Melbourne Cable Park received a \$600,000 grant to build the facility at the Bangholme park which already has cable water sports including water skiing, wakeboarding, stand-up paddle

boarding, canoeing and kayaking.

The works are jointly funded by the Victorian and Commonwealth governments as part of round two of the Tourism Demand Driver Infrastructure Program.

The park is set to attract more than 100,000 visitors to the region each year, gener-

ating \$60 million in economic benefit in its first year of operation. When completed, the park will have two full lake cable systems, two tower systems – one of which will be on a dedicated beginner lake, High Ropes Adventure Challenge with more than 90 graded challenge activities and the Aqua Fun Park.

BANGHOLME
THEME PARK P3

23rd JANUARY 2017 JOURNAL

Big dip for theme park

By Casey Neill

Bangholme's Chinese theme park ride has come to an end and what's now happening with the 43-hectare site is up in the air.

The Journal has tried unsuccessfully to contact C M Innovation and Randc Developments, which bought the paddock at 616 Frankston-Dandenong Road from Chinese theme park company Meixin Australia in August last year for \$9.9 million.

Greater Dandenong Council's city planning, design and amenity director Jody Bosman confirmed that a planning application had been submitted seeking "to undertake bulk earthworks throughout the site, which will include some top-soil stockpiling".

"It is also proposed to alter the access from Frankston-Dandenong Road," he said.

"Council is aware that works may have commenced.

"Council officers have subsequently directed that all earthworks cease until a decision is made



The future of the site is now up in the air.

on the planning application." The application set the cost of the proposed works at \$4.85 million and is listed as "in progress" on the council's planning register.

Defenders of the South East Green Wedge secretary Barry Ross said the group did not have

any details of what the new planning application involved.

"We hope it is for something that is appropriate for the green wedge but if it will result in damage to the rural landscape or openness of the area then we will be lodging a strong objection," he said.

In October 2014 the Journal reported that Meixin Australia bought the site for \$5.335 million and intended to build a theme park.

The idea drew excited praise from councillor and now-Mayor Jim Memeti who said it would be a drawcard for the area.

But the green wedge site was in the flood-prone Carrum Swamp and within an exclusionary buffer zone from Melbourne Water's Eastern Treatment Plant which is designed to ward off crowds of people due to the offensive odours wafting from the sewerage plant.

The Journal has been unable to contact Meixin to find out why it sold the site.

JOURNAL DANDENONG
2017
30 JANUARY
P5



Sophia and Jess have fun in the water. 163984

Picture: GARY SISSONS

Soft opening for inflatable aqua

Kids and the young at heart are cooling off in Bangholme's new aqua playground.

The Melbourne Cable Park held a soft opening for the inflatable course on Sunday 8 January and is now running 50-minute sessions every hour from 9am to 5pm every day.

Once complete, the Riverend Road water park will also be home to Melbourne's first full-sized cable water-ski system, a high ropes course and lake space for canoeing, kayaking and stand-up paddle boarding.

The Journal revealed plans for the park, adjacent to the National Watersports Centre (NWSC) on Patterson River, in February 2015.

The company developing the park, Activ,

leased a grassed area that the State Government declared surplus to its needs.

Activ managing director Ian Clark said tracks would tow users around the lakes and over obstacles in the same way a boat would, but solar panels would power the cable systems, which each used as much electricity as two washing machines.

Greater Dandenong Council approved the project in August 2015, and endorsed plans for a building permit in May last year.

The underlying water table challenged the Melbourne Cable Park's progress.

The park could attract 90,000 people to Bangholme each year, Mr Clark told the Journal, and would average about 250 visitors each day.



Water skiing is on the way

By Casey Neill

Bangholme's cable water-ski centre could be open by Christmas.

An update on the Facebook page for the \$5 million project said opening dates had not yet been set, but mid-December was the best case scenario.

"Worst case is late April - most likely somewhere in between," the post said.

The Journal revealed plans for the park on Riverend Road, adjacent to the National Watersports Centre (NWSC) on Patterson River, in February last year.

The company developing the park, Activ, leased a grassed area the State Government declared surplus to its needs.

Activ managing director Ian Clark said the site would become home to lakes for water-skiing, wakeboarding, kayaking and stand-up paddle boarding.

They'll feature skate park-like obstacles and tracks to tow users in the same way a boat would.

Greater Dandenong Council approved the project in August last year, and endorsed plans for a building permit in May.

Construction started in July and the site is now cleared, ready for heavy earth moving equipment to arrive and lake construction to start in the first week of October.

"The site is now completely fenced and nearly all of the trees have been removed," a Melbourne Cable Park Facebook page post said on Tuesday 27 September.

"The lake construction will happen pretty quickly using a combination of scrapers and excavators.

"The cable systems ship from Germany this week, and if things stay on track we should have the cables up this side of Christmas. The obstacles are due to arrive early December."

The underlying water table challenged the Melbourne Cable Park's progress.

"The site was built from imported material in the 1980s for Melbourne's bid for the 1996 Olympic Games, and there is very little documentation around the underlying condition of the clay beneath the surface," the post said.

"The geotechnical testing showed positive results and the geotechnical guys are optimistic, but until they start the dig they will not know for sure."

Next will be an upgrade to the power in the street feeding the site, followed by new connections to the site for power, water and sewerage.

"All of these will be happening while the earthworks are happening," the post said.

"While we have questioned our sanity many times during this project, the light at the end of the tunnel is getting much closer, and we are doing everything possible to get everyone on the water as soon as possible.

"Good things come to those who wait and the wait will be worth it."

The Journal reported in February last year that the park could attract 90,000 people to Bangholme each year.

Mr Clark said solar panels would power the cable systems, which each used as much electricity as two washing machines.

He said it was an environmentally sustainable way to water-ski and would open the sport to people who had previously been excluded by the need for a boat.

Mr Clark said the park would average about 250 visitors per day, and the council had restricted numbers on the site to 370 at any one time. He said the centre would be open seven days a week and would also feature a high ropes adventure challenge, cafe and inflatable aqua fun park.

A council officer's report said the site design respected the surrounding environment and amenity.

"The proposed facility is envisaged to host local, national and international water sports events, providing a significant direct and indirect contribution to the local economy," it said.

BANGHOLME

■ Fact finding trip to investigate Asian developer's plans for mega fun park...

Chinese cheer

By CAM LUCADOU-WELLS

BANGHOLME'S paddocks could be home to a giant theme park under a proposal from a China-based developer.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Jim Memeti said Chongqing Mexin (Group) Industry Pty Ltd could possibly create either a Chinese or Gold Coast-type theme park.

"We're really excited about securing something like this," Cr Memeti said.

The company has proposed building the theme park within a 43-hectare

paddock at 616 Frankston-Dandenong Road.

The site is in a green-wedge zone which is close to Eastlink.

Cr Memeti and the council's Greater Dandenong Business group manager Paul Kearsley will visit the city of Chongqing on 23 October as part of a council-paid business trip to a Chinese trade fair this month.

Mr Kearsley said they would visit several factories as well as the proponent's Changjiang Scenic Spot theme park.

"The purpose of this part of the trip to China is to visit the theme park to see its size, type of operation etc... to get an idea of what might be proposed for the site on Frankston-Dandenong Road," Mr Kearsley said.

Mr Kearsley said Chongqing Mexin's owner had indicated he could provide government and chamber of commerce contacts in the city - which may provide opportunities for Greater Dandenong businesses.

In August, a \$500 million Chinese theme park was unveiled by a differ-

ent consortium for a 15-hectare site in Wyong shire, NSW.

Talked up as a tourist attraction to rival the Sydney Opera House, the Chappypie China Time theme park is expected to open in stages from 2016 and attract a growing Chinese tourism market.

Mr Kearsley said it couldn't be assumed that the Bangholme proposal would be similar in style.

"I'll be going (to Chongqing) with an open mind, looking to see if the park fits in from a business point of

view - its business model, what jobs it might create, whether it would include a hotel and conference centre.

"We want to see if, as an investment, it's a good thing for Dandenong."

Grant Hailes, who is managing director of development consultants Beveridge Williams, said preliminary investigations into potential markets were in train to determine the "right sort" of development for the site.

For more on the council's mission to China, see page 51.

P.P. JOURNAL
2014
13th October