Child friendly creative art

By Elle Cecil

As an art hub in south eastern Victoria, Paint a Pot Studios is kid friendly by day and adult friendly by night.

Creating art with family and friends in a child friendly studio during the day, all ages are welcome to attend. Starting from small figurines, party animals and trinket bowls, to plates, platters and mugs, Paint a Pot will have you entertained for hours. If you're hungry, thirsty or need to keep the kids occupied, there is an onsite cafe and play centre at the studio!

With no skill required, your imagination can go as far and wide as you wish! Pottery painting is a perfect activity for kids, teens and adults alike, with the option to hold birthday parties at the studio for your child and their friends!

After dark, grown ups come out to play with adult art classes and activities. From resin art workshops to sip and paint sessions, Paint a Pot Studio's private events are perfect for hen's nights, birthday parties and corporate team building activities.

July and August evening adult workshops are now available to book. Try Clay and Cocktails for just $70 - learn how to paint using underglaze paints on earthenware and sip on a cocktail!

Owned and operated by born and bred locals Rami and Dolly Gill, it was the perfect career move for the couple to cater for flexibility to be with their two young children and also to stay close to home. Having purchased the business three years ago with no experience but a deep passion for pottery and painting, Rami and Dolly are aiming to grow their business and ultimately have Paint a Pot Studios all around the state!

Rami, Dolly and their children. 290283

Speak to the team at Paint a Pot Studios today to put together the perfect party package for your needs and budget.

Paint a Pot Studios is located in the heart of Narre Warren, opposite the iconic Bunjil Place and Fountain Gate Shopping Centre, at 4/1 Vesper Drive, Narre Warren.

For more information, phone (03) 8794 9997, email info@paintapot.com.au or visit www.paintapot.com.au.

Go fishing for a new pet

Located at the top of Victor Crescent, Lots of Fins is the biggest Aquarium in Melbourne, recently expanding 40% bigger when acquiring the factory next door. Now Offering a huge 550square metres of showroom and a range of products, from small tanks ideal for families and children, through to bigger aquariums for enthusiasts.

Owner Paul Furlong said the shop offers many breeds of rare fish and underwater plants.

"Without a shadow of a doubt, we have the biggest range of fish in Melbourne - over 300 species. We have a big range of aquatic live plants including lots of rare and unusual species. Plus Lots of Fins have their very own cafe in store for you to enjoy a gourmet menu or just pop in for a delicious coffee, thick shake or Smoothie. " Paul said.

There are over 20 display tanks for customers to marvel at while they make their decisions.

As a family Paul runs the business with his wife and elder son.

After losing the business in a fire nearly 20 years ago and being out of the aquarium business for 12 years, Paul re-established Lots of Fins in order to pour all his profits into his family's charity, Revive the Kids.

The charity rescues orphans and slaves from around the world. Paul travels to various countries around the world for this purpose.

"I've set free about 3000 people from slavery, and rescued about 500 orphans in places like Africa, the Philippines, Nepal, India and Burma. In the last 18 months has set over the 200 from sex traffiking in India and set them up in their own business.

"I stand alone and travel alone so that all the funds and profits can go 100 per cent to achieve what I'm doing and I'm not wasting any money," he said.

Paul (right) and his son Caleb. 193931

"To come and visit is an experience in itself, and every person is amazed when they come into the shop. It's an enjoyment just to browse," he said.

Visit Lots of Fins at 94-96 Victor Crescent, Narre Warren. The store is open 7 days a week, 10am to 6pm and 9pm on Fridays. Find out more at www.lotsoffinsaquarium.com.au, and learn more about Paul's charity, Revive the Kids at www.revivethekids.com.au.