

Lloma's Fab Foodie Trail

Priscilla's at The Imperial

35 Erskineville Road, Erskineville

I'd heard mixed reports about Priscilla's at The Imperial Hotel in Erskineville. Some said "fabulous" (a bit like Priscilla herself!) while others said "too much vegetarian".... Well, I'm definitely on the side of fabulous!

Located on the ground floor in the newly renovated hotel, in the area where the old drag show room was, the space is interesting and comfortable, the staff attentive and the service quick. The food at Priscilla's is definitely not "pub food" – offering a "soil to plate" menu Priscilla's brings veggies "out of the closet"! To quote their website:

"Eat, drink and be whatever you choose to be: vegan, vegetarian, pescatarian, flexitarian, omnivore, carnivore. We don't discriminate. Whatever your palate's pleasure, there is plenty for all and Priscilla's welcomes you to come join and share"

And of course it wouldn't be The Imperial without a drag show or two... which happened throughout the evening and were lots of fun.

We started with the Yellow fin tuna (\$14) from the Ceviche Bar (which has 4 fish and 2 vegetarian options). It was served in a lettuce cup, which added a crunchy texture to the fresh fish and lightly spicy and piquant sauce.



We chose the cauli and broc "wings", which were lightly battered pieces of broccoli and cauliflower served with a chipotle mayo. The batter was really light and the mayo not too spicy – a winning dish

in keeping with Priscilla's objective of vegetables being "far from humble".

We shared the crisp king prawns and lardo wrapped in leaves, which were served with another yummy sauce (described as agave, chipotle and lime sauce in the menu). The prawns were served with the head and tail on but the shell removed from the body. They were big, juicy and quite delicious - perhaps a bit pricey at \$18.50 for two prawns (and an additional \$9 per prawn).

We also shared the wood roasted squid which was stuffed with currants, pine nuts, spiced tomatoes and herbs for \$24. It was really full of flavour and the squid was well cooked, soft and nicely caramelised.

For desert the cheeky lime tart brulee, with pistachio praline and sour cream chantilly (\$12) was really yummy and a great finish to the meal. With a couple of glasses of prosecco (Ok... 3 each!) the bill came to \$170. Overall, Priscilla's offers something outside of the usual fare –add in the drag show (and did I mention the male pole dancers on Thursday nights?)... all in all a great night out!

Reviewed by Tracy, in Lloma's absence.

MATTERS ARISING

On Wednesday 18th July, at around 10pm, we were all aroused by the **fire alarms** and the calls to evacuate. Some of us did.

The alarm had been triggered by a heat build-up in an apartment of level 6 of building A. They had left their clothes dryer running, without the ventilation fan on, and without any other ventilation. As we all learnt at school, heat rises, so the heat sensor—not the smoke detector—activated and the fire brigade attended. The heat sensor measures not only the actual temperature, but also the "rate of rise" meaning that if the temperature at the sensor increases by 20 degrees C in less than 60 seconds, it will alarm. Apart from the inconvenience to their fellow residents, the lot-owners will themselves be inconvenienced when they receive the **bill for the false alarm** of \$1,776. Ouch!

The gardening group have been busy over winter preparing the



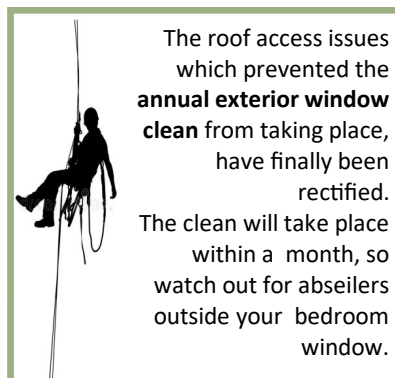
building for its spring planting. The day lillies along Macdonald Street, which always look a little scrappy at this time of year, have now been replaced with a handsome hedge of Port Wine Magnolias. In Pearl Street, a handful of willing, mature volunteers constructed



a little fence to keep the occasional desperate dog off the garden. The gardening group have also been working with the Council to improve the pocket park, and are responsible for the Oriental Hawthorns that have been recently planted there. They are now encouraging Council to improve the street gardens around the building.



As we go to print, the **upgrade to LED** of the carpark levels is moments away from completion. This will eventually provide significant energy savings for the Owners Corporation. But if you are one of the three remaining residents with a fitting with a cage above your car, you need to contact the Building Manager NOW!



The roof access issues which prevented the **annual exterior window clean** from taking place, have finally been rectified. The clean will take place within a month, so watch out for abseilers outside your bedroom window.

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ERKO News

AN OCCASIONAL JOURNAL OF NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

WHY DO THE STRATA FEES INCREASE?

There's been a bit of chatter on Facebook of late over the recent increase in Strata Fees. I bailed up the Treasurer of the Strata Committee, to ask him what was going on.

Erko News: There's concern from some residents on Facebook that fees are increasing, and as they don't attend the AGM, they don't understand why this is necessary.

Treasurer: Firstly, I'd encourage all owners to attend the AGM. The Strata Committee does not make unilateral decisions about fees, they have to be discussed and approved at the AGM. At the recent AGM, for example, the SC, acting on residents concerns, proposed a special levy of \$120 to provide security cameras that would cover every storage cage in the building. This was defeated by the residents at that meeting.

EN: But the fees are increasing, right?

T: The fees are increasing. The inaugural AGM, back in 2015, agreed on a fee structure for the first three years of the building's operation. The most recent increase was agreed at that meeting. And most of our maintenance contracts allow for an annual cost increase. Next year I will bring a 3-year proposal to the AGM, and it will be up to the residents to accept or reject it.

EN: What actually are the fees used for?

T: Fees are used in two ways. Firstly there's the building's administration. The day-to-day running expenses; electricity, management, cleaning and repairs, plus a heap of compliance issues that no-one ever sees. Just today we are re-certifying the rooftop anchors and testing the fire maintenance equipment. Then there's the capital works fund. We know, for example, that in 10 years we will need to spend \$800,000 to repaint the whole building. We need to maintain a healthy balance in the Capital Works Fund so that we don't have to go to residents to ask them to stump up their share of \$800K.

The motions for the AGM and the summary are available on the website, or residents can talk to me anytime.
treasurer@erkoapartments.com.au



The Imperial Erskineville unveils Imperial UP!

If, like this correspondent, you've been watching the **transformation of the grand old dame on Erskineville Road** with wonder, you will have been delighted and amazed by the transformation of the home of Priscilla.

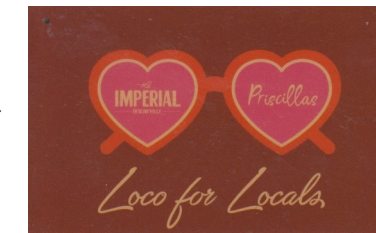


Now, the curtain's UP on act three of The Imperial Erskineville's \$6 million redevelopment: the brand new and very bella **Imperial UP**. You've probably already eaten at Priscilla's, where you can eat, drink, drag and dine—sometimes without even leaving your seat. Now you can go UP, where level 1 has been

brought to dazzling life with a 200-person courtyard, pop art graphics, quasi-classical sculptures, gold mirror clad pizza ovens and stone mosaic bar tops. Co-owner Fraser Short of Sydney Collective says: "We have designed a whole level of Imperial as a cocktail bar that acts like your own personal indoor-outdoor living room. I think the easiest way to describe it is: imagine a little Italian trattoria that loves disco and has a very cool lounge room."



Put all that on a rooftop and now add some tasty cocktails, postmodern glamour and eclectic LGBTQI-plus crowd, and hey presto - you have Imperial UP!



But have you joined the Imperial's **Loco for Locals** club? UP! Held a special welcome to all Loco members a few weeks ago and we were delighted to test the menu and enjoy the hospitality. Loco for Locals offers a happy hour Monday to Friday from 5-7pm, and currently two for one pizzas on Tuesday night. To join Loco for Locals email [Vivienne at the Imperial](mailto:Vivienne@theimperial.com.au).

THE BIKE RACKS THAT NO ONE ASKED FOR AND NO ONE USES.

Your correspondent was surprised as the next person, when about a month ago, a new concrete path appeared outside Lobby Two on Bridge Street. The “path” led directly to the lobby, and seemed to be there to funnel foot traffic from the shared roadway, onto the private Erko path.

There were a couple of issues with this. Firstly, where was the consultation? Had the Council asked whether the residents of Erko wanted or needed a path, and secondly, long-term residents will recall the Council’s insistence that gates were installed at each end of the path, to deter non-residents from using the path. This new path seemed to negate that. A quick call to the Council confirmed



what we now all know. We were getting bike racks.

A few days ago, SC members met on-site with Council representatives. We questioned their lack of consultation, (given that every time something arrives in the letterbox from Clover, she’s banging on about it incessantly); whether there was even a need for bike racks, and their plan for remediating the surrounding lawn.

Disappointingly, their response was, “It’s Council policy to install more bike-racks”. “It’s Council land and we’ll do what we want”. And “We are not required to consult with community”.

Disappointing, because we have very good relations with Council. But the bike racks are here to stay.

Where in the world is....

Residents of Erko travel to some unusual and out-of-the-way spots. Here we take a look at just one Erkonian’s travels.

Five things you must do on Skiathos!

1. FIFO (Fly in, fly out)

Of course, you can catch the bus service from Athens, spend two or three hours squeezed in



with the locals, then catch a ferry from Agios Konstantinos, but it’s far better, and far quicker, to fly. Many LCCs make the flight from all parts of Europe direct to the island. Be prepared for the run in though, the approach is very exciting.



2. Go To The Beach

Any beach. But first go to Koukounaires Beach. Rated as the third most beautiful beach in the world. Who rates these things? We all know that

Whitehaven in the Whitsundays comes in as number one. But where is number two?



3. Don’t Stay in a Resort

Get a AirBnB in the old town. Specifically, look for “Listen to the Waves” hosted by our friend Stathis. He gets a gold star in the hosting stakes, meeting us at the port and carrying our bag up the hill to the apartment. (I did suggest he might invest in a donkey!) The apartment was cleaned and the sheets and towels changed every three days, (even on our

last night) and one evening Stathis popped in with a tray of home prepared sardines and beer.

From our balcony, we watched the ferries come and go from

the port and the myriad of day tour boats. We’ve even seen dolphins from our deck. The flat comes with a pair of high-power binoculars. Stathis tells us it’s so we can see what the people on the luxury yachts are drinking. But we know what he really means.



4. Mamma Mia, here we go again.

Take a day trip from Skiathos. There’s heaps of them leaving the old port every morning and they’re very popular with the lovely young people.

We took the AG Nikolas and visited Skopelos and Alonios. Fans of the original Mamma Mia will know that scene when they danced on the jetty was filmed in the old port in Skiathos, right under our noses, and much of the balance, across the water on Skopelos.

4. Eat Out, and Eat Often.

Skiathos has a multitude of excellent restaurants. A couple of our favourites are **Taverna Sellini**, just a few doors from where we live, **Taverna Helikon** and **Restaurant Palouki**, both are behind the church square above the old port.

[Read more.](#)

What Else is going on in Our Community?

In our last edition, we profiled the upcoming **Volunteer Fair** that the City of Sydney Council was running, and this reporter went along for a look. First off, I was delighted to see some of my fellow residents there, checking out opportunities from Chris O’Brien’s Lifehouse, through the Bowerbird in Marrickville, to Gig Buddies, who are looking for able bodies to take disabled bodies to all manner of gigs. The people from the Asylum Centre were there; the City Farm in Sydney Park had a great display, and the State Emergency Services guys were particularly fetching in their bright orange coveralls.



Ron Lui, Volunteer Manager for the SES, pitches to your reporter—Photo by Damian Shaw/ City of Sydney

Planet Ark recently celebrated 22 years of **National Tree Day** and Schools Tree Day. Since the event started in 1996, more than 4 million people have planted over 24 million trees and plants and it’s still growing. In our local Sydney Park, past Tree Days have seen planting designed carefully to complement the existing wetland with mixed plants that include taller trees, shrubs and grasses, such as species found within natural wetland areas. These provide greater habitat opportunities for wildlife and also shade to the popular picnic spots

This year, people of all ages helped to increase habitat space for small birds and lizards by adding to the understorey vegetation in existing bushland. The City of Sydney Council coordinated the event at Sydney Park, (Sydney Park Road, Alexandria) on the 29th of July – Erko residents Kylie & Henny joined in!



The Wuthering ‘movement’ has captured the hearts and imaginations of people all over the world. It’s held in over 20 cities including Berlin, San Francisco, Dublin, Copenhagen and 10 locations around Australia.

Crowds recreate the dance in the Kate Bush 1978 music video featuring the British singer’s Wuthering Heights hit, inspired by Emily Brontë’s 1847 novel. In Sydney Park on July 14th, crowds enjoyed a stunning warm, clear day with a great deal of dancing, frolicking, and, well, “wuthering”. Those observing and picnicking enjoyed the silliness too – and this year, many shared birthday cake to mark the 40th anniversary of the release of the single. Can it really have been that long ago?? Not only that, the end of July saw Kate’s 60th birthday, so the 2018 event attracted a lot of extra attention.

Again, Kylie and Henny represented the neighbourhood.



Wedding Bells and the sound of the pipes rang out on Level 7 of Erko recently, when Cynthia Carr and Kim Walker were escorted to their nuptials by a Scottish piper in full regalia. In front of a small crowd of delighted family and friends, Kim and Cynthia expressed their love and devotion for each other. Kim was attended by her parents Carol and Peter who had travelled from New York for this special day. Cynthia’s brother and sister, Sharon and Paul walked her down the aisle for a ceremony that drew upon Celtic and more contemporary traditions.

Whereas people often get married and move in together, the two brides are now apart. Kim is working as head of the music department at the University of Texas in Lubbock. Being a muso, Kim is spinning a list of long distance love songs, starting with Trespasser Williams’ *Different Stars*. Well surely that’s gotta be better than The King grinding out *Are You Lonesome Tonight*.

Photo by Zara King Photography, Zara lives in Erko.