

Monday, April 25, 2016

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44 PAGES TO FIND YOUR DREAM HOME - LIFTOUT



Picture: JOSIE HAYDEN



Master of peace

Octogenarian black belt Kimm Yong Sup has notched up an impressive milestone – he has entered his 40th year of serving the community. The peace ambassador and hapkido grand master has improved the health and wellbeing of the thousands of people who have set foot into his dojang. **REPORT PAGE 11**

NEWS

Backpacker crackdown failing

MORELAND Council is struggling to stop backpackers who are illegally camping at Coburg Lake Reserve. Dozens of backpackers have been camping in the reserve's carpark for months and have been accused of vandalism and littering. **PAGE 3**

WHAT'S ON

Puppy pals

FOUR-LEGGED friends unite at the Melbourne Dog Lovers Show, join the Safe Steps Candlelight Vigil in Fed Square. **PAGE 14**



SPORT

Lions pounce on gun forward

COBURG Districts has secured one of country football's most lethal forwards, with Saad Saad joining the club. A four-time leading goalkicker in the Goulburn Valley Football League, Saad made his debut for the Lions last weekend. **PAGE 21**

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COBURG

Master's long path to peace

DECADES OF SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

Tamara Heath

THROUGH an entrance with a sign reading "leave your ego at the door," Coburg's own octogenarian black belt has exacting standards.

It can take students years to reach the level expected of them by Grand Master Hur-Nan Kimm Yong Sup - who has been teaching hapkido and suendo in Brunswick and Coburg for 40 years.

But do not expect to see the gym's black-belt graduates in action at any martial arts competitions or even in the street - the 81-year-old, or 82-year-old if you go by his Korean age, which starts from conception, only allows his students to use their skills for self-defence or in defence of the weak.

One would probably not expect anything less from the founder of the Universal Peace Movement, which Kimm also runs from his Sydney Rd dojang, or gym.

The movement - which is based on the principle of



Grand Master Hur-Nan Kimm Yong Sup (right) puts his black belt students through their paces.

Picture: JOSIE HAYDEN

harmony and order across work, life and the natural world - has taken Kimm to conflict areas across the world, including Russia, Tibet, Israel and Palestine, and put him in the company of prime ministers and even the Dalai Lama.

One of his ultimate aims is to one day see his homeland reunited - and he proudly recounted to *Moreland Leader* having orchestrated a handshake between diplomats from North and South Korea at a conference he organised five years ago.

Kimm's students are all members of the foundation and his wife Wendy Kimm, 67, said they adhered to its principles through their life and work.

"I don't like to show off, but I am a role model," Kimm said.

A former high school biology teacher, Kimm's path to peace began when he moved to Australia from Seoul in 1977 - and started teaching hapkido, an ancient Korean martial art, from a Brunswick community centre.

His first class came only days after he completed a three-month English language course he signed up for as soon as he arrived in Melbourne.

He said he was drawn to Brunswick because, at the time, it had a high migrant population with a generally low income.

"The people had a hard life and didn't think about their health," he said.

"They have no time, worked two or three jobs."

But 40 years on, he can only laugh at the irony of choosing to launch his business in such a poverty-stricken area, where many of his students could not afford to pay and did not often have the time to attend.

Even today, he said his two gyms - he runs another in High St, Prahran - were "not commercial" and were supplemented by his work with Melbourne City Council - growing hydrangeas in its hothouses.

Master Kimm marked the start of his 40th year in Melbourne with a black-belt ceremony in Coburg last Sunday, with Moreland Mayor Samantha Ratnam presented with an honorary black belt at the event.

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