

S P R I N G 2 0 1 2

LAKE HUGH MUNTZ

NEWSLETTER



Interesting facts

Did you know that:

- Lake Hugh Muntz was built as part of the planned community of Robina and was completed in 1982
- The lake was formed from the excavation of fill to build up the flood prone areas for development
- The lake is freshwater with no connection to the canals or river
- The Lake is 17ha in area and has a maximum depth of 12m
- The Lake is named after Councillor Hugh Muntz



Welcome

This is the first newsletter from the Lake Hugh Muntz Care Group, which is a group of concerned residents in Mermaid Waters who love our local area and in particular the spectacular environment of Lake Hugh Muntz. While the Gold Coast has numerous waterways Lake Hugh Muntz remains unique as the only waterway suitable for swimming.

The care group was formed in 2012 in order to:

- Raise awareness of issues affecting the lake
- Achieve a consensus on what residents see as the main issues and priorities
- Assist council with monitoring and changing conditions in the area.
- Liaise with Council on ongoing problems and recommend solutions.
- Implement improvements with the assistance of local residents.

Lake Hugh Muntz
Care Group

Website: <http://lakehughmuntz.com.au>

Contact: lakhughmuntz@gmail.com

Management of the Lake

The Lake Hugh Muntz Draft Management Plan was commissioned by Gold Coast City Council and presented for discussion with the community in 2008. Recommendations from that report are currently being investigated for implementation.

Recommendations

Recommendations from the Management Plan were:

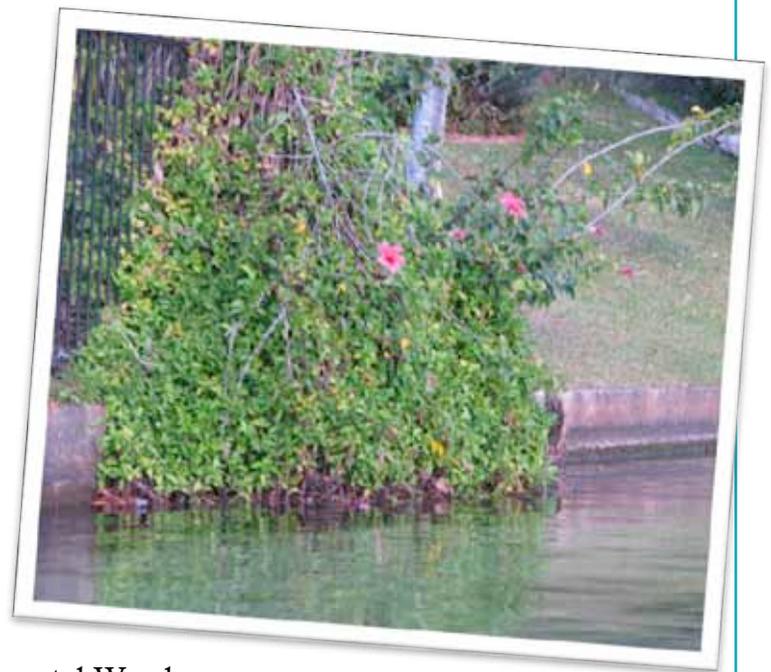
- Improve water quality monitoring
- Improve stormwater quality
- Control aquatic vegetation and sediment assessment
- Control pest fish populations
- Control algae/cyanobacteria
- Information transfer (like this newsletter!)

Latest news

As many Lake users and residents are aware Council installed two reed beds on to the Lake to assist with the management of nutrient levels (nitrogen and phosphorus) and resulting water quality issues. Every time you fertilise your lawn your adding to the nutrient problems so please consider the effects and ask yourself “do you really need to fertilise?”

Weeds in the Lake

You may have noticed this plant growing around the Lake foreshore – it is the Singapore Daisy a native of the area between Mexico and Argentina. **This plant spreads easily smothering and climbing over low growing vegetation. The dense ground cover it forms inhibits any natives from germinating due to lack of space, lack of sunlight and lack of water.** Shoots can be transported around the lake and have spread across several parklands. This plant is on the GCCC 10 worst weeds list. Council are in the process of treating and removing from parklands but it is important that property owners remove this weed as well to prevent further outbreaks.



For more information download the GCCC Environmental Weeds booklet at <http://www.gccparks.com.au/activities.aspx?page=116> or phone Council to obtain a copy.



What can YOU do to help?

- Remove any palm fronds or plant clippings that drop into the Lake
- Pick up your dog droppings anywhere around the lake area to prevent washing into the lake
- Wash your car on the grass and use biodegradable detergent



- Put your rubbish in bins around the park
- Remove noxious weeds from your garden - see the list above



Singapore Daisy



- A recent survey found over 170 dog droppings around the lake.



Max Cleans UP!

One family who lives on the Lake has an environmentally conscious cat by the name of Max. Most nights Max goes fishing in the Lake and brings home treasures that he deposits in the kitchen for the family the next day. It's not what you think – not fish or birds.... but rubbish and debris that he fishes out of the Lake and brings home.

A sample of Max's nightly efforts includes: Plastic shopping bags (filled with water); palm fronds, coconut husks, disposable coffee cups, tennis balls, pool noodles and paper....

**We need your help!
Max needs your help!**

Lake Cleanup Day

A lot of people are complaining about the amount of rubbish in and around the lake.

NOW YOU CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

A lake cleanup date, with a sausage sizzle afterwards commencing at Morialta Park has been organised for Sunday 7th October 1pm to 4pm.



The Lake Hugh Muntz Care Group aims to assist in maintaining the beautiful environment of the Lake in consultation with local residents, and key stakeholders from the Community including recreational and sporting users.

If you have any issues, or would like to provide a story or information for an upcoming issue of the newsletter please email.

lakehughmuntz@gmail.com