

W I N T E R 2 0 1 3

LAKE HUGH MUNTZ

CARE GROUP NEWSLETTER

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Latest News

- Lake Hugh Muntz birthday / information day to be held at Morialta Park, on Sunday 16th June, 1 - 4pm.
- GCCC website updated to include Lake Hugh Muntz.
- GCCC kerb side green bins now available.
- GCCC improved street cleaning frequency on a 4-6 week cycle.
- GCCC installation of new noise abatement sign in Bel Air Park.
- Community Dog Bag Dispenser is on trial in Lamington Park (please help fill).
- GCCC landscaping completed near preschool on Barrier Reef Drive.
- Street tree audit completed by GCCC with small number of trees being treated or removed to decrease litter.

Lake Hugh Muntz Birthday / Info Day

Welcome to the second newsletter from the Lake Hugh Muntz Care Group. It has already been 1 year now since the local community met for the first time on 30th anniversary of Lake Hugh Muntz.

To continue the community spirit that has helped improve the quality of the lake the Lake Hugh Muntz Care Group has organised a

Birthday / Information Day

Morialta Park, Sunday, 16th June 1-4pm.

The birthday and info day will include:

- Information on the lake
- Sausage sizzle and free drinks for kids
- Jumping castle for kids
- Liaise with local Council





Swan Feeding and Bird Rescue

Recently the Lake Hugh Muntz Care Group approached a local volunteer wildlife catcher who specializes in big birds like swans, pelicans, ibis, ducks and cormorants. He has worked with rescues on Lake Hugh Muntz over the past 7 years and provided the following information. **If anyone does see an injured bird especially if it is hooked on fishing line etc. CALL 0438 823 100.**

Enjoying the swans on our lakes and waterways is one of the great pleasures of living on the Gold Coast. To have a family of swans arrive with new cygnets is a real treat. Many people feed swans although it isn't necessary because they have plenty of natural food. I'm often asked 'what's the best food for swans?' It definitely isn't bread. Bread is not good for any species of bird. Their digestive systems are not designed to metabolise grains (flour), preservatives, yeast or sugar.

Bread to a swan is like lollies to a kid. They'll gallop it down but bread displaces the natural food they should be eating. If they eat too much bread, for too long, they become weak and breed unhealthy young. Bread is very rich in protein compared to a swan's natural diet of water weeds. If young cygnets (baby swans) eat a lot of bread they can have a growth spurt causing their body to develop too quickly for their legs. They become plump to a point where they can't stand or walk.

You'll notice that in the wild swans dip their head underwater and forage on the bottom amongst the roots of the water weeds. These 'green foods' are their natural diet. They supplement this with a few bugs and insects.

I know that bread is very convenient and clearly swans love it, but if you'd like to give them a more nutritious diet feed them greens. They like silver beet (not spinach) and lettuce – the darker the better. The darker varieties of lettuce have far more nutrients and minerals than head lettuce. Shred silver beet and lettuce leaves into thin slices and scatter them on the water or on the shore.

Making the effort to feed swans a good quality diet will help ensure they grow into beautiful, healthy birds.

Weeds and Palms in the Lake

In the last newsletter it was mentioned that the Singapore Daisy is in the top 10 worst weed on the GCCC list. Council have been working with the Care Group to treat and remove this weed from our lake but it is still important that property owners remove this weed as well to prevent further outbreaks.

<http://www.gcparks.com.au/activities.aspx?page=116>

It is also important to remove not only weeds but also palm fronds or plant clippings that may fall into the lake.

Please remember the use of fertiliser on lawns and it's runoff to the lake impacts the nutrient levels so consider the effects and ask yourself "do you really need to fertilise?"



Lake Cleanup Day 2012

What an outstanding success!

It really is amazing what three or four hours and a small band of like minds can do to help make a difference to our lake.



Four large industrial bins full to the brim and trips to the rubbish dump for all the excess that wouldn't fit.



A big thank you to all the helpers on the day, your contribution is very much appreciated. To Councillor Paul Taylor, Gold Coast City Council and Gold Coast Catchment Association thanks for your support in providing rubbish bins, bags and refreshments for the workers.

Lookout for Cleanup Day 2 later this year!

Dog Droppings



The GCCC liked the Care Group's temporary bag holder so much they copied it! Council has installed their community doggy bag holder along with a new bin in Lamington park.

The idea of the community bag holder is to allow people in the local community to top up the holder with their unused plastic shopping bags. This not only saves the council money with supplying and filling the dispensers, but allows reuse of the abundant plastic bags supplied by shops etc.

Please support this initiative. If the dispenser supply becomes low please refill it – simply roll up a bag and push it through the slot.

Gold Coast City Council Kerbside Green Waste Bin Service

Residential and commercial properties can now quickly and easily dispose of their green garden waste in a lime lid green waste bin.

The green waste bin will be serviced fortnightly on the alternate week to the yellow lid recycling bin.

The introductory charge for the green waste service is just \$1.00 per week between now and 30 June 2013.

Council reviews its rates and charges annually, and the charge may be varied for the next rating year.

<http://www.greengc.com.au/find-a-service/council-residential-green-waste-service>



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.

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