

LAKE HUGH MUNTZ

CARE GROUP NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2014

Lake Clean Up & Info Day

Combined Day Sunday 2nd November 2014
Get Involved



The third annual Lake Hugh Muntz clean-up and information days will be combined into one day on Sunday the 2nd of November this year. Residents will be able to get together, spend a few hours caring for the shoreline of their rare fresh water lake, share stories about the fun it provides and learn about the lake's history and its future.

The PAST information days and clean-up days in 2012 and 2013 were big successes. Jumping castles, BBQs, community spirit and generous participation of Local Councillor Paul Taylor and Gold Coast Waterways staff have helped more than 100 residents appreciate Lake Hugh Muntz and its spirited community each year at the information and anniversary date of the lake.

Lake Hugh Muntz Care Group are keen to encourage everyone to come together to show support for "Lake Day" in 2014.

A combined information and clean-up day of fun, food, updates, socialising, prizes and just a little tidying up.

LATEST NEWS

International Swim Event Cancelled due to Poor Water Quality

The Pan Pacs swimming event was about to commence last month on Lake Hugh Muntz but was called off at the last minute due to poor water quality.

Council has advised that the faecal coliforms in the Lake Hugh Muntz were raised by the recent rainfall (as with any water body in the Gold Coast) but within council recommended level for swimming. However, the international body

LHM Care Group Joins the Catchment Management Association

Being part of this group offers many benefits including sharing of information and easier access to a variety of resources. A link has been included in our website for further info.

Retaining Wall Collapse

A retaining wall in front of a waterfront property has collapsed into the lake. Sand replenishment work was being conducted in the area. Council are currently investigating the cause of the collapse.



Location : Morialta Park (off Wild Duck Drive)

Time: "Spring Clean" will be between 9am - 1200 pm. BBQ and Info day 12pm - 4pm.

If you cannot attend in the morning, make sure you and your family don't miss the afternoon of fun in the park! Don't forget the Chair.

IMPROVEMENTS: Drainage Pit Inserts (gully baskets)

As the lake is a closed system, what flows into the lake stays in the lake! Although the catchment is small, 65 drains regularly feed leaf litter straight into the lake. Modeling suggests approximately 91,000 KG of suspended solids are produced in the catchment EACH YEAR. One of the key recommendations of the Management Report was to fit Gully Baskets to all street drains within the catchment.

These have the ability to filter waste down to 2mm and offer major reductions.



Leaf litter gathering over a storm water drain

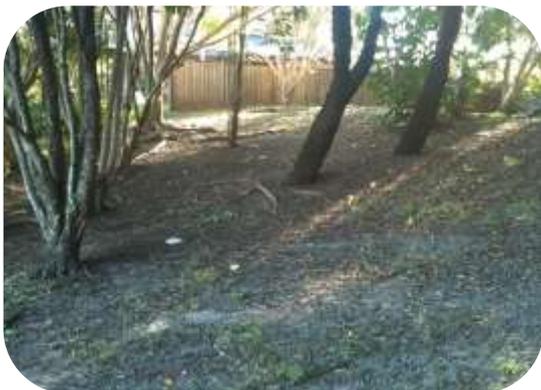


New Gully Baskets

Gully baskets were installed in April 2014 in all drains. Two different types are required due to the reduced depth of some drains. Most baskets are of the type to the left. They contain a centre basket and 2 overflow flaps. During high water flows, the side flaps open bypassing water directly into the lake. This feature will prevent flooding in peak rainfall events. The contents are regularly cleaned out on a monthly schedule.

IMPROVEMENTS: Runoff Reduction

In parklands within the catchment several areas are devoid of vegetation. This is to be due to poor growing conditions under trees. Stabilising these areas would reduce erosion of soil into the lake. The care group would like to see the plantings below in other areas around the lake.



The area adjacent to the preschool (above)



The area after replanted and mulched by council

Water Quality Results

Water Quality reports are now going to be released twice a year with the next report due at the end of this summer.

The latest Conclusion from the COGC report from November 2013 shows;

Water quality in Lake Hugh Muntz is generally good however nitrogen, ammonia and phosphorus concentrations have increased over time and a slight increase in turbidity has occurred since July.

Water quality issues are likely to be due to the nutrient load from urban runoff and atmospheric deposition. High rainfall in recent years is expected to have contributed to the increase in nutrients with Lake Hugh Muntz. The increases in nutrients cause algal blooms, which are present in most natural systems and depend a number of factors and chemical and physical processes. Increases in nutrients may be attributed to a number of contributing factors, including but not limited to natural variation, storm water run-off and garden fertilisers.

For the full report visit the website;

lakehughmuntz.com.au – Documents Section.

Sherbrooke Park Gets a facelift

Sherbrooke Park (off Wild Duck Drive) has suffered from ongoing erosion resulting in topsoil being constantly washed into the gutter and lake. Erosion from topsoil not only causes the lake to turn brown after rain but also adds unwanted nutrients to the lake water. Poor topsoil and poor levelling has resulted in very little grass surviving in this area.

Council have re-levelled the area with topsoil and laid new grass. The works will stop the erosion and have made a significant improvement to the park and surrounds.

A BIG thank you to the Parks Maintenance Teams for the great transformation!

Before / After photos below.



Reed Beds Get a Facelift



Residents have expressed concern over the poor growth of plants on the Reed Beds. The poor health of the plants is something of a mystery as they have been used very successfully elsewhere, including the Robina Lakes. SPEL, the installing company, have undertaken an in-depth study of the plants on the floating reed beds.



As a result, a variety of hardy native species are being used this time.

It is expected that once the plants are established, an improved appearance will result.

New Lake Community Notice Board

Part of the recommendations of the Lake Management plan back in 2008 was to install a community notice board to educate lake users and residents on issues affecting the lake.

A multipurpose sign has been installed in Bell Air Park for this purpose. We hope to see council regularly updating this notice board.



New notice board installed in Bell Air Park

KEEP UP TO DATE

The website is regularly updated with issues and news occurring around the lake. You can register your email to receive notification on new info. Simply send us an email at;

lakehughmuntz@gmail.com

or visit the website at;

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

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.

