



SANCTUARY LAKES RESORT NEWS

January 26, 2021



WYNDHAM CITY COUNCIL WASTE SERVICES

In recent weeks we have noticed an increase in windblown rubbish around the resort due to people overfilling their rubbish bins. In addition to this, we are receiving a higher than usual amount of complaints regarding household rubbish and bins.

We would like to remind all residents of the importance of not overfilling your rubbish bins. When bin lids are left open, it allows for waste to be windblown and/or to be picked out by birds.

Wyndham City Council Bin Collection Guidelines state that bins should not be overfilled, and you must ensure your bin lid is fully closed at all times.

If you regularly have more waste than your current bin can handle, consider purchasing a worm farm or compost bin to manage your food scraps. If this is not viable please contact Wyndham City for a second bin, please note that charges will apply.

Additionally, if you have any damaged bins Wyndham City Council will repair or replace damaged bins. In most cases bins are generally repaired or replaced within 2 working days after your scheduled collection.

Hard Waste Collections:

Did you know Wyndham City also offers Wyndham households 3 free hard and green waste collection services each financial year?

The service works on a pre-booked system. You will need to book your collection day at least 2 weeks in advance with collection waiting time between 2-5 weeks depending on your location. Below is a collection checklist from Wyndham City Council.



The below requirements must be followed to ensure all waste is taken when a booking is made.

- Items **must** be placed within the **property boundary (not on the nature strip)**;
- Please ensure clear access;
- Put items out 1 day before your collection date;
- To ensure a smooth collection please neatly sort/stack your items in 3 separate piles close together within your property boundary (E.g. Driveway or Front yard);
 - General hard waste
 - Green waste
 - White goods/metal items
- Please box small items of same type/category together;
- Each item must not weigh more than 55kg and must be able to be lifted by 2 people;
- Items must not be longer than 1.5 metres;
- Volume of waste must not be more than 3 cubic metres (3 metres long x 1 metres deep x 1 metre high);
- All items will be collected unless marked otherwise;
- Items will not be collected from inside a trailer. Items must be placed within property boundary.

For more information on what can and cannot be included in your hard waste pile please visit the following link <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/waste-recycling/hard-and-green-waste-collection-service>

ANNOUNCEMENTS



LAKE ALERT REMINDER

You may have noticed that the signs around the lake have been taken down.

As expected, the algal bloom has continued to decrease from last week and has remained at a Minor Alert for two weeks in a row now.

As the alert has now been reduced to a Minor level for all sites in the lake, the signs have come down and we can return to fortnightly sampling.

As the lake is not used for primary contact recreation (i.e. swimming), in the event of a minor bloom alert no additional management is required, other than the mandatory bloom notification to DELWP. During minor blooms it is recommended that people wash their hands after contact with the lake water in order to avoid possible skin irritation.



CELEBRATIONS IN THE PARK

With the warm weather here and the current Government restrictions on the number of people allowed at indoor events, many residents are taking advantage of the beautiful parks, playgrounds, and barbeques that we have here in Sanctuary Lakes for outdoor parties and gatherings.

Because of this we thought now would be the perfect time to outline to residents the guidelines that must be followed when having parties and gatherings in Wyndham City Council parks and open spaces.

For a party/gathering with under 50 attendees and no infrastructure:

- A permit from Wyndham City Council is not required;
- Residents are welcome to use the parks/open space areas at a time in which they choose however should be mindful that there may be other users in the area at the same time;
- Residents must be sure to clean up after themselves, taking all excess rubbish away with them such as cardboard boxes, etc.;
- There is to be no vehicle access into the park/open space area;
- Please do not blow up or hang balloons to the park, this helps to keep our waterways clean;
- Please do not empty ice onto the grass as it burns the grass;
- Should any type of shade tent be erected, weights must be used instead of pegs as all parks are irrigated.

For a party/gathering with under 50 attendees and with infrastructure:

- A permit from Wyndham City Council is required;
- All above mentioned points are applicable;
- Wyndham City Council will require a copy of the Public Liability Insurance Certificate for any companies that are hired to provide a service. Please note if a food truck is being hired, Wyndham City Council will also require a copy of their streitrader registration.

Infrastructure is considered any item that is hired from a company to be used on the day. This includes things like:

- Hired tables and chairs;
- Hired gazebos/marquees;
- Jumping castles;
- Food trucks;
- Animal farms.

If you are planning on organizing a party/gathering that will require a permit from Wyndham City Council, please visit the following link for further information and the relevant application form:

<https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/events-experiences/event-planning-guide>



NATURE'S RUBIK



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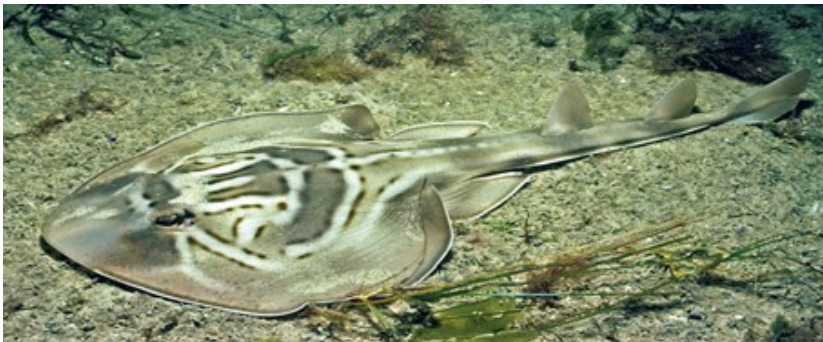
by Tom Parkinson



SOUTHERN FIDDLER RAY

The January summer sunshine allows us the chance to take leisurely strolls along one of Sanctuary Lakes best kept secrets, the long strip of sandy beach wedged between our Cheetham Wetland and the Point Cook Marine Park. Strangely even on the most perfect of days there are never many people around, which is surprising as it is a truly wonderful walkway. Due to its diverse flora and fauna, there is always something to see. From the wetland's vast number of migratory and shore birds, the summer carpets of shoreline flowers to the extraordinary sea life darting around the sandy shallows and seagrass fields.

Only a couple of days ago I was walking the beach, taking a refreshing paddle in those very cool sandy shallows when I suddenly saw gently flapping towards me a fully grown, one point five metre Ray. The distinctive mottled patterns on its back immediately told me this was not the very dangerous Stingray but the friendly harmless Southern Fiddler Ray. As I watched it circle towards me, I saw another, then another and another. Suddenly I realised I was standing in the middle of a shoal of some twenty Southern Fiddler Rays.



The Southern Fiddler Ray, *Trygonorrhina dumerilii*

The Fiddler has a flattened oval shaped body with a very rounded pectoral disc – a shape that is reminiscent of a fiddle or banjo, hence its name. Its colour is a dark yellow-brown. Three parallel grey-white stripes extending from just behind their eyes provides a striking, swirling, contrasting pattern against their yellow-brown body.

The Fiddler Rays are also distinguished from other Rays in that the anterior nasal flaps of their nostrils expanded backwards and fused together into a nasal curtain that reaches a slightly convex shaped mouth. Above the mouth lie two very small eyes. The Fiddler's long slender tail has two small dorsal fins and an asymmetrical caudal fin. An adult Fiddler's total length, including tail, can be as much as one and a half metres with an average adult weight of six to seven kilograms.

The Southern Fiddler Rays are from the Family Rhinobatida, which also includes guitarfishes and shovelnose rays. Fiddler Rays are sometimes also referred to as Banjo Sharks, Green Skate, or Magpie Ray. Fiddler Rays are not Stingrays (Family Dasyatidae) and do not have a venomous spine in their tail. Fiddler Rays are harmless and easily approachable. However, they do sport a thorny row of denticles (sharp calcified, tooth-like structures) along their back. Although not poisonous, watch where you tread. Fiddlers enjoy shuffling down and hiding just beneath the sand. Which makes it relatively easy to mistakenly step on one.

The Southern Fiddler Ray is common throughout Port Phillip Bay and just like my discovery, they are mostly found close to the sea floor in the shallows where they feed on shellfish, marine worms, crabs, and bottom dwelling invertebrates. Crushing the prey between their jaws and biting them with their

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SOUTHERN FIDDLER RAY

small, strong teeth. During the day Southern Fiddler Rays rest by shuffling down into the soft sea floor substrata and in amongst seagrasses of estuarine environments.

Reproduction in the Southern Fiddler Ray is fascinating: they are ovoviviparous – a zoological term meaning the female gestates her fertilised eggs inside her body and then gives birth to live young. The egg capsules of the female Fiddler are reported to be golden in colour, containing up to three embryos each. It gives birth to litters of four to six young per breeding cycle. Southern Fiddler Ray's main gestation period is 4-5 months. The female can then pause the development of her embryos for another 7-8 months before giving birth up to 12 months after conception! This strategy allows the female to respond to optimum conditions and give birth when ocean temperatures favour rapid growth and prey is plentiful – perfect for giving her babies the best chance of survival.

The Fiddler has few predators in Port Phillip Bay, Sharks and similar large bony Fish are the only potential marine predators. Even humans seem to be relaxed by them. Although the flesh is considered good to eat, only a small quantity is sold in seafood outlets and it is of minor commercial fisheries interest. The Southern Fiddler is often caught as bycatch in commercial fisheries as well as by recreational fishers. It adapts well to captivity and is often on display as an exotic Ray in many of the world's public aquariums.



The Southern Fiddler resting beneath the Sand

As for my own experience, I stood motionless for over twenty minutes enjoying the tremendous pleasure of observing marine life going about its business, in its natural wild surrounds. After a few minutes they seemed to get used to my presence and occasionally a member of the shoal would slow down from scavenging the seabed and take a moment or two to inspect my feet.

Once again Sanctuary Lakes Beach walkway has given up another natural, unexpected, and wonderful encounter.

Why not give it a go!



The Fiddler's camouflage cleverly protects it from predators



SLOW DOWN: BACK TO SCHOOL MEANS SHARING THE ROAD

School days bring congestion, school buses are picking up their passengers, kids on bikes are trying to get to school before the bell rings, hurried parents are trying to drop their kids off before work.

It's never more important for drivers to slow down and pay attention than when kids are present – especially before and after school.

Safety tips for drivers:

With hundreds of children returning to school this week, it's critical for drivers to ensure they exercise extreme caution when travelling through school zones.

The following safety tips can easily help:

- Be aware of the placement of schools in your local area so you know when school zones are approaching.
- Remember that children can be unpredictable and misjudge traffic.
- Always stay alert and aware of their movements.
- Remain focused on both the road ahead and pedestrians in your peripheries while travelling through a school zone.
- Constantly check your speed and make sure you stick to the speed limit. A pedestrian hit by a car at 40km/h has 75% chance of surviving. At 60km/h, the survival rate drops to just 15%.

Safety tips for parents and children:

To ensure your child's journey to school is a safe one, keep in mind the following tips:

- Keep your kids close. Children up to 8 years of age should hold an adult's hand on sidewalks, in carparks, and when close to a road.
- Children up to 10 should hold an adult's hand when crossing the road and should be supervised around traffic.
- Teach your children to minimise distractions, such as listening to music in headphones or playing on devices when close to a road.
- Have open and honest conversations about the risks involved in a road traffic environment.





Sea Grass Disposal Figures For 2020

Last month the lake maintenance crew harvested and disposed of 66.86 tonnes of seagrass for recycling at the Wyndham City Council tip.

This is 25.4 tonnes above the 10-year average for the month of December.

For the year of 2020 we harvested and disposed of 863.12 tonnes of seagrass for recycling at the Wyndham City Council tip.

This is a massive 322.81 tonnes above the 10-year average and the highest tonnage that has been disposed of for recycling at the Wyndham City Council tip in a calendar year.



Green Waste Disposal Figures For 2020

Last month the Resort Maintenance team disposed of 42.80 tonnes of green waste for recycling at the Wyndham City Council tip.

This is 17.91 tonnes above the 10-year average for the month of December.

For the year of 2020 we disposed of 436.66 tonnes of green waste for recycling at the Wyndham City Council tip.

This is 42.48 tonnes above the 10-year average.



COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

To advertise contact: communications@sanctuarylakes.com.au

*conditions apply

We need your help!

You are invited to help us to learn more about leisure activities and bird feeding at Sanctuary Lakes by participating in a research study conducted by SLRS in conjunction with Deakin University and Zoos Victoria.

It is a short survey to help us understand how residents of Sanctuary Lakes and the greater Point Cook area engage in bird feeding at Sanctuary Lakes.

The survey is anonymous and will only take about 10-15 minutes to complete, plus you can go into the draw to win one of 7 \$50 Coles gift cards. To complete the survey, click the link below.

<http://m6z.cn/697Ery>

This study has received Deakin University ethics approval (reference number: SEBE-2020-67).



Photo: Hayley Mann



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*conditions apply



Fireworks Pet Safety Tips



- Keep your pets inside, scary sounds may cause your pet to escape.
- Stay home with them, seeing you relaxed and happy will ease their distress.
- Let them hide, set up a safe space just for them.
- Use background music to comfort and mask the noise.
- Keep them busy, treat toys can help to distract them.
- Update their microchips, registration and ID tags.

