

SANCTUARY LAKES RESORT NEWS

March 24, 2020



OFFICE CLOSED BUSINESS ALMOST AS USUAL

As part of our continued efforts to reduce the spread and impact of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), as well as keep our staff and community safe, we wish to confirm that the Administration Office, Security Hut and Maintenance Shed will continue to be closed to the general public for the foreseeable future.

The Recreation Club closed yesterday at midday and will be closed until we receive further instruction from the government. Sanctuary Lakes Resort cards will not be available until further notice.

Gate access fobs are currently unavailable for purchase. If you are a resident needing access to your gated community, you will be required to use your allocated gate code. If you do not have a code, one can be provided to you upon written request.

Owners Corporation Certificates will still be available as per normal. The OC Certificate request form can be found on our website.

The Architectural Review Committee will continue to approve all plans. If you wish to book a meeting with the Architectural Review Committee you may do so however, all meetings will be held over the phone.

The team at SLRS can still be contacted either by email at ocmanager@sanctuarylakes.com.au or by phone (03) 9394 9400 option 1. We are here for you and will continue to keep you updated as the situation evolves.

SLR Security will remain onsite 24/7 however some non-essential services will be suspended at this time. Suspended services include PermaConn installations, as well as non-urgent alarm technician services. Our friendly Security Staff will ask some basic questions with regards to recent travel before entering homes, we also ask that you help by keeping more than 1.5m from our staff keeping in line with social distancing guidelines (more on this further in the newsletter).

We thank you in advance for your understanding and co-operation.



WATERSTONE CAFE - OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The Waterstone Café is currently operating on a take away basis only.

The menu offerings will be reduced to ensure the food is fast and fresh.

Pre Order by calling 9395 7800 and please use 'Tap and Go' the café is open for orders from 8am - 3pm.



GOLF COURSE - OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The Sanctuary Lakes Golf Course will be closed Monday 23rd through to Wednesday 25th March for course renovations. Once complete the course will be open for play. During this time the driving range is still open - Pro Shop hours will be 7am - 3pm.



PUBLIC Q&A SESSIONS FOR THE PROSPECTIVE RECREATION CLUB REDEVELOPMENT POSTPONED

It is with a heavy heart that we have decided to postpone the public Q&A sessions due to the COVID-19 virus, we will advise when new dates have been set.

Whilst difficult to make, we feel this decision is in the best interests of the health of the community and the ongoing efforts to restrict the spread of COVID-19. If you suspect that you or a family member has COVID-19 you should call your GP or ring the National COVID-19 Information hotline on 1800 020 080.

For the most current information, resources and advice please visit The Department of Health and Human Services website:

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>



SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES

Governments around the world are responding to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and social distancing is a central aspect of plans to limit the spread of the virus. But what is social distancing and how do you do it?

What does social distancing mean?

Social distancing practices are changes in behaviour that can help stop the spread of infections. These often include curtailing social contact, work and schooling among seemingly healthy individuals, with a view to delaying transmission and reducing the size of an outbreak.

How do you practice social distancing?

As an individual, you can lower your risk of infection by reducing your rate of contact with other people.

Avoiding public spaces and unnecessary social gatherings, especially events with large numbers of people or crowds, will lower the chance that you will be exposed to the new coronavirus as well as to other infectious diseases like flu.

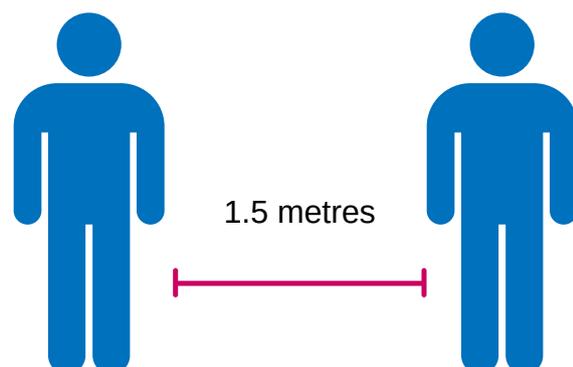
Other measures include working from home if possible, organising meetings via video calls rather than doing them in person and avoiding unnecessary use of public transport.

Social distancing should be approached sensibly and rationally. If you do have to be out and about, the World Health Organization recommends maintaining a distance of at least 1 metre between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing. It is also recommended that you avoid physical contact with others in social situations, including handshakes, hugs and kisses.

If SLR Security are required to attend your property there will be a set of questions you can expect to receive from the guards. These questions are as follows:

1. Have you been overseas in the last 14 days?
2. Are you in quarantine/self quarantine?
3. Have you been in close contact with someone with Covid-19?
4. Lastly before I enter do you mind keeping 1.5m distance between us while I complete works?

Lets all do our bit and flatten the curve.





REGISTER YOUR POOL

Changes to State Government building regulations means all pools and spas across Victoria need to be registered with Council and certificates provided confirming that they are compliant with safety regulations, by 1 June, 2020.

Owners need to ensure their barriers are inspected every four years by a building inspector.

These changes are designed to keep young children safe.

Since 2000, 27 young children have drowned in private swimming pools and spas and in at least 20 of those cases, the non-compliance of the safety barrier was a contributing factor.

While it is vital that children are supervised around backyard pools and spas, barriers will prevent children from falling into water and drowning.

Wyndham City Council has already counted 5000 pools in the district, but this number likely to increase when it receives new registrations.

For more information, please visit www.wyndham.vic.gov.au



RED CROSS DONATION

We would like to say a huge thanks to the Christmas at the Lakes Committee and to all those who purchased a showbag at the 2019 Christmas at the Lakes event.

A whopping \$1,114.00 was raised from the proceeds of the showbags.

These funds are being donated to the Red Cross Bushfire Appeal.



NATURE'S RUBIK



NATURE'S
RUBIK

by Tom Parkinson



THE AUSTRALIAN DARTER

A few years back I wrote a Rubik about an unusual occurrence in Sanctuary Lakes and that was the first-time sighting of all four species of endemic Australian Cormorants around our Lake. Beside the Cormorants the article also included the Australian Darter, a species that is often considered one of the Cormorant family. At the end of the piece I wrote "Let's hope the neighbourhood is to their liking and they move in"

Well four years later they all seem to have settled happily into the neighbourhood, in particular the Australian Darter.



Male Australian Darter (Anhinga novaehollandiae)

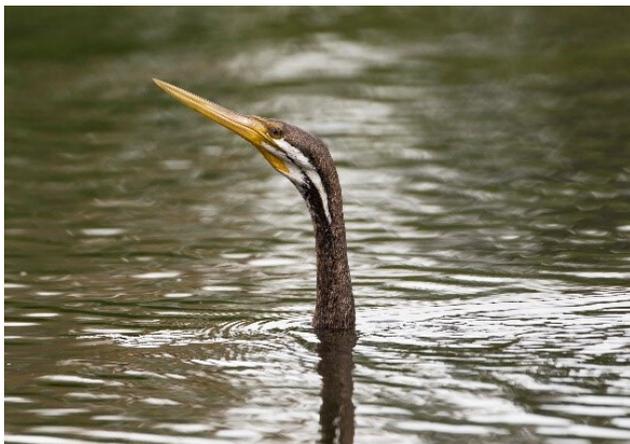
For me, the Australian Darter is my favourite feathered friend. I think of the Darter or his nickname the Snakebird, as the philosophers of the bird world. I know a lot of people would point to owls, but I am of the opinion that there is something of the wise old Mediterranean fisherman about the Darter. They go out at first light and get their fishing over and done with, then head to shore, hang their wings out to dry in the morning sun and contemplate the world. For me, that is philosophy at its finest. Thinking on a full stomach. Even when they shuffle around on their large creamy grey web feet, they have the behavioural persona of a dodderly Oxbridge Professor physically attempting to analyse a key Wittgenstein principle.

Although very similar to the Cormorant family the Australian Darter is one of the Anhinga family. The easiest way to see the difference is their bills. Unlike cormorants, that have hooked bills to grab fish, the Darter has a long daggerlike bill with which they spear fish.

The feathers of Darters, are much less water resistant than those of other waterbirds. Many people believe that this is because the birds lack oil glands and therefore cannot smear their feathers with a waterproof coating. However, it is the physical structure of the feathers, not a coating of oil, that makes the Darter's feathers less waterproof.

So, Darters, and to a lesser extent cormorant, have feathers whose structure is less waterproof, and this adaptation allows them to pursue their prey underwater with greater ease. It comes at a cost, however; they must dry their feathers after wetting them, and in the case of Darters, spend plenty of time in the sun not only to dry their feathers but to keep their body temperatures high.

As can be seen daily on our Lake, the Australasian Darter forages in the water, often with only its head and neck exposed, giving rise to the nickname Snakebird.



Australian Darter/Snakebird Swimming

NATURE'S RUBIK



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THE AUSTRALIAN DARTER

It enjoys our Lakes plentiful supply of fish, Black Bream, Flatheads and Hardy Heads. They also enjoy the shrimp, worms and cephalopods living amongst the sea grass. Tiny prey, such as shrimp, are swallowed during swimming but a larger prey item is speared underwater with the beak, then the Darter returns to the surface to juggle the prey until it is swallowed head first. Large fish may require up to 20 turns to get the head-first position required for the Darter to swallow the whole fish.

The Darter is a medium-size water bird (85 to 90 cm long, with a wing span to 1.2 metres) Males and females have distinctly different colouring. Males are almost entirely gloss black. The head is marked with a white stripe below the eye extending along the side of the neck from the base of the bill, passing under the eye and ending level with the throat. The bill is brown above and yellow below; Feet are cream to grey-brown. The long-rounded tail is grey buff.

Females are dramatically different. Their entire underside, throat and breast down to their legs are creamy-white. The stripe on their side of the head is reversed and has dark edges. The Female is similar to the male with a yellow/brown bill and black wings with pale grey fringes.



Female Australian Darter

Observing the Darters around Sanctuary Lakes one can see that they tend to be a solitary bird, unlike the Cormorants who enjoy forming flocks, they seem to prefer feeding and wing drying alone. But they do form pairs while breeding. Darter's breeding time is erratic, happening whenever water levels and food supplies are suitable. Last year our spring time was relatively dry, but with the early November rains Darter pairs could be viewed nest building. In Sanctuary Lakes the nests were usually solitary. Normally seen in trees that fringe the Lake, usually built in the fork of an overhanging branch about 3 to 5 m above the water's surface. Both sexes complete the nest, three to five elongated oval eggs are laid and together the parents incubate the eggs and raise the young. Chicks are kept warm by brooding continuously (or cooled down by shading with spread wings) for up to a week after hatching and both adults stay in the nest with the chicks overnight. In hot weather, the adults will even shake water over the chicks after a swim. Chicks can swim after about four weeks in the nest and start to fly at about 50 days.



Darter chicks nesting

The Darter Chicks are hatched with almost pure white plumage, slowly as they mature light brown patches appear around their necks and pale grey wing feathers start to form. After almost a year the young finally receive their adult plumage. Within another two years they will start on their breeding cycle. Australian Darters will live between 15 and 20 years of age.

To continue reading this article please [click here](#).



Sea Grass

Last week 14.5 tonnes of sea grass was taken to the tip for recycling.

The sea grass is dropped in a special area at the tip which is allocated to Veolia. It is then transported to their recycling plant at Bulla for processing.



New Walking Path

Wyndham City Council are in the midst of installing a new walking path to the bus stop located on Sanctuary Lakes South Boulevard.



Boulevard Irrigation Works

You may have noticed irrigation works happening on the boulevard over the past week. We are replacing the old large irrigation sprays for smaller water saving sprays, all PGA valves (designed for potable water) are being upgraded to reclaimed water scrubber valves. Works will be completed on both sides of the boulevard from the Medallion Estate and Swingers Green up to Gleneagles Estate.



COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

To advertise contact: communications@sanctuarylakes.com.au

*conditions apply

Ten ways to reduce your risk of coronavirus

- ✎ **WASH** hands often with soap and running water, for at least 20 seconds. DRY with paper towel or hand dryer.
- ✎ **TRY** not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
- ✎ **COVER** your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow.
- ✎ **ISOLATE** yourself at home if you feel sick. If you take medication ensure you have adequate supplies.
- ✎ **PHONE** your GP first if you need medical attention. They will tell you what to do.
- ✎ **CONTINUE** healthy habits: exercise, drink water, get plenty of sleep, and now is the time to quit smoking. Call the Quitline 137 848.
- ✎ **DON'T** wear a face mask if you are well.
- ✎ **BUY** an alcohol-based hand sanitiser with over 60 per cent alcohol.
- ✎ **GET** the flu shot (available April).
- ✎ **SHAKING HANDS** is optional!



Find out more

www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

If you are concerned, call the

Coronavirus hotline 1800 675 398 (24 hours)

Please keep Triple Zero (000) for emergencies only.

To receive this publication in an accessible format email em.comms@dhhs.vic.gov.au
Authorised and published by the Victorian Government,
1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.
© State of Victoria, March 2020 (2001628).

