

SANCTUARY LAKES RESORT NEWS

November 17, 2020



THE LAKE AND SEA GRASS

We are beginning to enter that time of the year when the sea grass grows significantly faster than other times of the year and algal blooms typically occur. When hot weather days are interspersed with significant amounts of rain, and night time temperatures are not quite cool enough to lower the water temperature in the lake the sea grass will grow significantly. This is particularly an issue in areas where the lake is still and shallow.

We have been contacted by some concerned residents over the amount of sea grass and current appearance of the lake. We would like to reassure all residents that we are aware of the increased amount of grass in some areas of the lake and it is being managed as per the on going management plan with Melbourne Water.

The growth of sea grass is a natural part of the ecosystem of the lake and is not as a result of the lake being unclean. The lake's health is measured by many factors on a regular basis with attention being given to the salinity levels within the lake, the amount of phosphorus, nitrogen and dissolved oxygen in the water, the turbidity of the water, along with many other factors. The growth of the sea grass is what keeps these levels balanced and while it may not be visually appealing, it is what's needed to keep the lake healthy.

Having said that, this year you may have noted the growth rate of the sea grass did not slow and has continued through the winter months. This is due to the warmer than average winter, as well as the large amount of rain we received which has flushed a lot of nutrients through the canal and into the lake. This is resulting in record numbers of grass tonnage coming off the lake.

Below is a graph of how much sea grass has been removed from the lake and disposed of for recycling at Wyndham City Council tip.



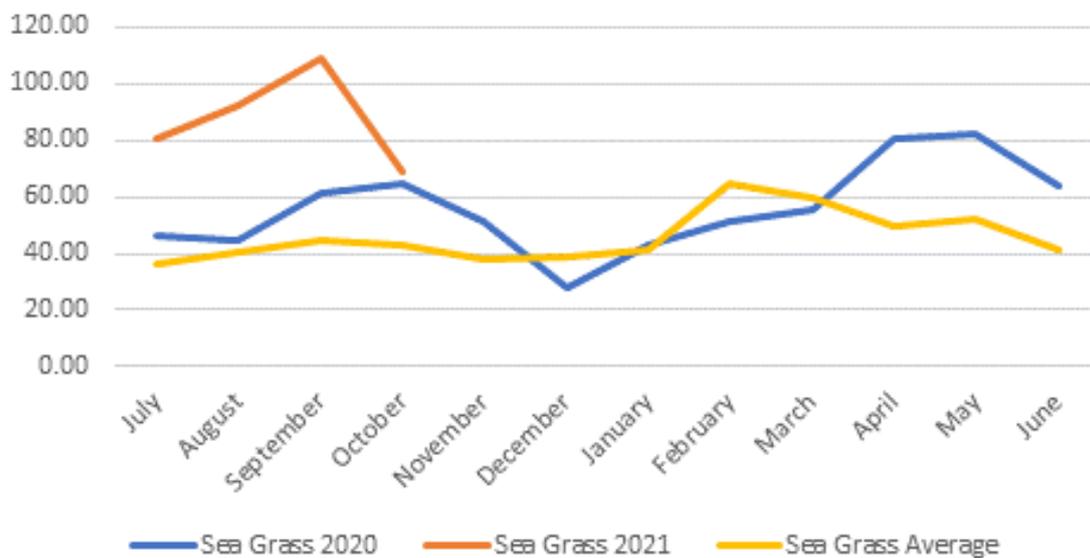
THE LAKE AND SEA GRASS

For the first four months of this financial year the tip has accepted 350.84 tonnes of sea grass, at the same time last year, we had disposed of 217.14 tonnes of sea grass.

The year to date average over 10 years for the same period is just 163.96 tonnes.

With the higher winter temperatures combined with significant rainfall this year to date we have collected and disposed of more than double the long-term average.

Sea Grass Disposal in tonnes - Financial years



Although it is unpleasant to look at, the grass is mainly an aesthetic problem. In terms of the removal of the grass the harvester, barge and truxor will be working together to remove the grass. The timings of these collections are deliberate and scheduled so the grass can be removed as efficiently as possible.

We have some people mention that the area behind their home can be serviced one day and the next day it looks as though we were never there. This is because cut and broken sea grass is blown around by the wind (which we have no control over), and it can accumulate very quickly in catchment areas immediately after we have serviced the area.

The water quality of the lake is tested independently each fortnight during the summer months, and despite large amounts of sea grass, the water quality remains good.

Once again, we would like to reassure residents that the health of the lake is our top priority and the situation is being managed, however it will take some time to resolve.

If you have any further queries about the lake please feel free to email us at ocmanager@sanctuarylakes.com.au.



ATTENTION - GATED COMMUNITY RESIDENTS

We would like to remind all residents who live within a gated community, that should you be expecting a delivery, you must be home to receive the phone call from the panel as Security will not grant access to any gated estate.

This includes parcel deliveries from courier companies as well as food deliveries from Uber Eats, Menulog and the like.

Ideally, if you are expecting a delivery of any sort, you should be home and you should ensure your contact details are up to date in the panel. It is your responsibility to advise the delivery driver how to scroll through the panel to find your address and dial your home and to then open the gate for the delivery when called.

Please note Security will only grant access for emergency services, being Police, Fire Brigade or Ambulance.

MEET YOUR NEW HARRISON WARD COUNCILLORS!

Congratulations to the new Harrison Ward councillors!

The Harrison Ward is being represented by all-female Councillors, with the successful candidates being Susan McIntyre, Sahana Ramesh, Jasmine Hill and Adele Hegedich.

Well done to all on a successful campaign.



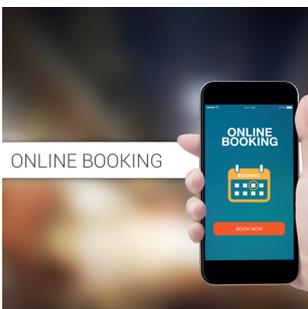
REC CLUB ONLINE BOOKING SYSTEM

We would like to remind all residents that there is now an online booking system which must be used to make a booking for the Rec Club.

Please click on the following link to access the online booking system:

<https://veribook.com/ew.jsp?cpUserId=840&cpAlias=wVhDMsrmEh1718&mobileSupport=true#wizStep=selectClass&keepOpen=true&hId=1>

Please note each session will run for 45 minutes. Session times will begin on the hour and at 45 minutes past the hour the Rec Club staff will ask you to finish up your session. Staff will then have 15 minutes to clean down all surfaces and equipment before the next session begins.





SECOND ROUND MAINTENANCE INSPECTIONS

Our latest round of maintenance inspections were carried out on the 19th and the 26th of October 2020, with initial letters being issued from the 20th and the 27th of October 2020.

As the 28 day period has now lapsed, our compliance officers will be re-inspecting those properties who were sent an initial letter. If the required maintenance works are yet to be attended to at the time of re-inspection, a second letter will be issued.

The second letter gives the resident a final seven days to complete the required works before we instruct our garden maintenance contractor to complete the necessary works, bringing the property back to a satisfactory state.



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that we have a wind sensor attached to the lake fountain?

The sensor is set for 22km/h, once the wind speed reaches 22km/h the fountain has an automatic cut off function. We do this to try and stop overspray hitting the homes at Beachcomber Place, Broadbeach Circuit as well as the vehicles parked in the car park.

If you notice the fountain not working and wind speed up, this is why.



LAKE FOUNTAIN

Wind sensor set at 22km/h



NATURE'S RUBIK



NATURE'S
RUBIK

by Tom Parkinson



COMMON BRUSHTAIL POSSUM

Last month due to our summertime hour switch, my early morning walk started in darkness. Passing towards the Southern Boulevard, I heard a loud abrasive snarling snort. Having lived in New Zealand and nearby Melbourne's Botanical Gardens, I immediately recognised the protective cry of the Brushtail Possum. This was the first time I had any evidence of Possums living in Sanctuary Lakes and as always happens in these cases, I only had to walk a further couple of hundred metres for a second distinctive deep guttural snarl high in the branches of a maturing eucalypt gum tree.

The Vic Park ranger told me there were couple of possums roaming around the Point Cook Homestead and Stables. The Friends of Skeleton Creek also mentioned a few possums were in the vicinity north of the Creek and around Altona Meadows. But until now and to my knowledge, there has been no tangible evidence of Possums residing within the Sanctuary Lakes Estate.

There are two species of Possum living in the Melbourne area, the Ring Tale and the Brushtail Possum. The most common in our western districts are the Brushtail.

All possums are nocturnal creatures, but none more so, than the Brushtail who seems to have taken up residence here in Sanctuary Lakes. "Brushy" lives a quite secretive and solitary life. "Brushy" uses secretions from glands near their chin, chest and tail to mark their territory allowing them to keep other possums at a distance. If you see a "Brushy" in your backyard, you can assume it is their home range. They will not allow other possums to enter. If your "Brushy" dies, or is removed, another will take its place as soon as the scent has worn off.

Originally Brushtail Possums lived in native woodlands areas, but since the rise of the human population they have adapted to living comfortably in urban areas.

To see a "Brushy" during the day is very rare although sometimes you can see one emerging from their daytime roosts in the very late afternoon. The best way to view a "Brushy" is to take a torchlight and shine the light into the foliage where you hear their call. They can be quite noisy, and a little scary if you don't know what you're hearing! "Brushy" communicates through a range of sounds from short, loud aggressive snarls to guttural coughs and sharp hisses.



Common Brushtail Possum
Trichosurus vulpecula

NATURE'S RUBIK



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COMMON BRUSHTAIL POSSUM

There's something special about spotlighting a "Brushy" weaving its way along a nearby tree branch. Staring down at you with its bulging eyes, it's a reminder that our estate can provide a habitat for some of our native Australian wildlife.

An adult "Brushy" is typically cat-sized with a pointed face, long oval ears, pink nose and bushy black tail. Studies of their behaviour showed that about 16 percent of their time is spent feeding, 30 percent travelling, 44 percent resting and sleeping and finally, 10 percent grooming. "Brushes" are arboreal (meaning tree-living animals) therefore are well adapted for climbing with their sharp claws; a hand-like back foot for grasping and a strong flexible (prehensile) tail for curling around branches. They will move rapidly among trees and will leap skilfully from branch to branch. Rarely are they seen moving along the ground.

The "Brushy" is incredibly agile! They can climb vertical walls and have been known to jump from a tree to roof up to 4 metres away. They can pull off roof tiles and squeeze through the smallest of holes.

Remarkably, they have been seen walking along power lines and balancing on fine branches.

Female "Brushy" who are called Jills have a 17-day pregnancy. This may seem very short, but they are marsupials, and their babies are born tiny and undeveloped compared to humans! A newborn brushtail possum is only 1.5 cm long and weighs only 2 g. As usual for marsupials, the newborn may climb, unaided, through the female's fur and into the pouch and attach to a teat.

Baby possums are called Joeys. Most Joeys are born in the autumn: March to May, but there are some born in spring: September to November. The young remain inside the mother's pouch for another 4–5 months. After which Joeys enjoy riding on their mother's back for a further two months.



A Jill and Joey Brushy

If you thought their gestation period was short, well so is their childhood. At ten months a Brushtail Possum is an adult. Female "Brushy" can begin breeding at just twelve months! They usually give birth to just one Joey at a time. Male "Brushy" are called Jacks, develop at a much slower pace, sexually maturing at two years old. Brushtail possums can live up to twelve years in the wild.

"Brushy" eats mainly plant material, preferring eucalyptus leaves with their high nutrient content. To continue reading this article please click [here](#).



Boulevard Rose Planting

We have just received a fresh batch of flower carpet roses which are now ready for planting.

What makes them interesting is that these roses were propagated cuttings that were taken from the Boulevard roses a few months ago when we carried out rose pruning.

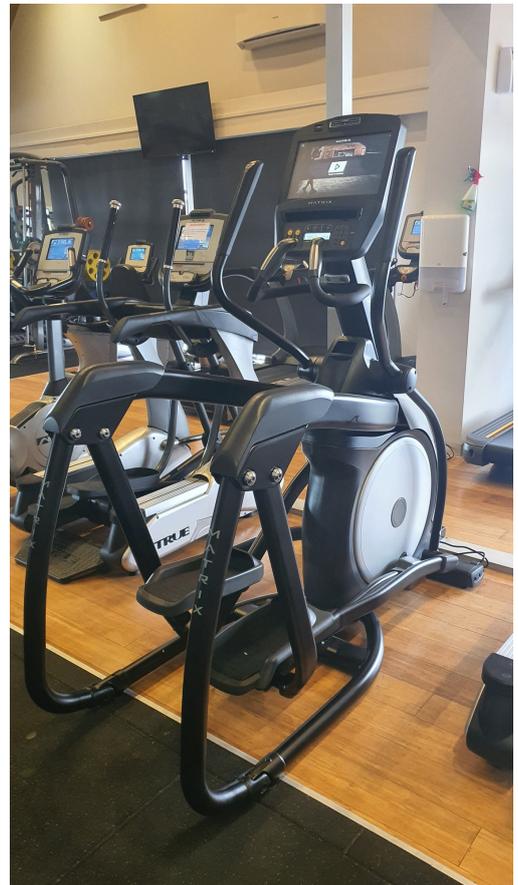
Our Resort Maintenance team are currently working their way around the Boulevard planting the new roses.



New Gym Equipment

During the lockdown period we purchased some new gym equipment which is now set up in the gym ready for use.

Make sure you book your session time and come and check out the new equipment!



COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

To advertise contact: communications@sanctuarylakes.com.au

*conditions apply



REC CLUB NOW OPEN

CONTACT
OCMANAGER TO
REACTIVATE OR
REQUEST A
GYM CARD

