

FRIENDS OF MAYLANDS LAKES

DECEMBER 2018

Now seems an appropriate time to reflect on progress with the remediation of the Maylands lakes and their surrounds over the last twelve months. This includes the following work which has been completed and funded by the City of Bayswater over and above the funds previously granted:

- Replacement and repositioning of the aerators (fountains) on Lake Brearley and Bungana Lake
- Clearing of the exotic vegetation choking the drainage streams flowing into the Brickworks Lake
- Installation/piloting of an additional floating wetland module on Lake Brearley, which was fabricated by the City of Bayswater. The first prototype is somewhat rudimentary. Hopefully however, the City will improve upon this, as the cost is substantially less than those supplied by a commercial manufacturer.
- Provision/placement of temporary signs:
 - Warning motorists to slow down on roads near some turtle and duck crossing areas
 - Reminding dog owners to keep their dogs on lead
- Replacement of the galvanized metal turtle grates on street drains in the vicinity of the lakes and Swan River, with stainless steel grates (at the expense of the manufacturer)
- Infill planting with native species, of previously planted areas on the perimeter of the Brickworks Lake
- Refurbishment of the ornate park benches in the vicinity of the lakes. These have been restored to as-new condition with sturdier and more weather resistant materials.



Phoslock Treatment of Lake Brearley

Budgeted work has also progressed well, although a more detailed pre-tender survey of the lakes has unexpectedly revealed there is considerably less sediment than the previous broader survey results had indicated. This has led to the City of Bayswater (in close consultation with the Friends of Maylands Lakes) adopting a revised approach to the dredging program. This being:

1. Progression of the dredging of Lake Bungana as originally programmed (to commence early 2019).
2. Development of a detailed nutrient and hydraulic model for the lakes over a 14-month period (to commence at the same time as the dredging).
3. Consideration of dredging of Lake Brearley as “Stage B” in the 2019/20 financial year, dependant on outcome of the works (ie. 1 and 2 above).

The lower sediment level has also necessitated changes to the type of dredging process and the equipment used for this, as well as the tender specifications. Overall, these changes should result in less negative impact on the lakes, particularly the flora and fauna therein. Fortunately, the dredged material will be able to be used as a

soil/fertiliser supplement due to the nutrients therein. This will assist in containing the overall cost of the dredging.



Mother and Baby Cootes on Bungana Lake

To those of us living close to Lake Brearley it is somewhat testing to learn that the dredging will not commence early in 2019, as previously scheduled. Equally however, it is reassuring to know that in the light of the aforementioned new information, the City of Bayswater is not forging ahead regardless, with costly and potentially ineffective intervention, but rather focussing on more effective measures based on additional detailed and more accurate data.

It is important to note that algae accumulating in the corners and elsewhere on Lake Brearley will continue to be removed on a regular basis in the interim.

Other works completed since my last newsletter include:

- Planting of native vegetation (approximately 1,000 plants) around the streams flowing into the Brickworks Lake by Friends of Maylands Lakes volunteers
- The floating wetlands, which have been in-situ for approximately five months
- Large-scale application of phosphorous inactivation agent (Phoslock)
- Installation of two Gross Pollutant Traps, one on Lake Brearley and the other on

Bungana Lake, at a total cost of \$94k. These will remove 20% of the nutrient inflow. Additional filtering is planned to further reduce the level of nutrient infiltration.

- Following the removal by the City of Bayswater of several Casuarina trees from the Lake Brearley foreshore (adjacent to the Gazebo on Hinkler Loop), the Friends of Maylands Lakes volunteers replaced these and other exotic plants with approximately 1,200 native species. This worthwhile program, which will in the longer term better ensure the water quality of the Lake, was funded by a \$7K 'Stronger Communities Program' grant from the Commonwealth Government, which was matched by the CoB.



Pelicans on Foreshore

I am pleased to advise too, that with the benefit of a grant from the Myer Foundation, the Friends of Maylands Lakes is currently re-designing its website, to transform it to the focal point for information regarding the remediation of the Maylands lakes.

Finally, on behalf of the Friends of Maylands Lakes, I thank you for your contribution, ongoing support and interest in the remediation of our lakes. Hopefully, we will in time, see a return to clearer waters. Meanwhile, I take this opportunity to wish you all the best for Christmas and the coming year.

Geoff Trott
Chairman
Friends of Maylands Lakes