

FRIENDS OF MAYLANDS LAKES

JULY 2017

I am pleased to report on the considerable developments in the Maylands Lakes precinct since our previous newsletter.

Most will be aware of the virtual collapse of the Brickworks Lake following the heavy unseasonal rains earlier this year (apparently a 'one in one hundred year' event). Full credit however, to the CoB for the urgency with which it responded, thereby managing to revive the Lake and in doing so, implementing measures for its long term preservation. Intervention included:

- Immediate aeration of the water via a shore-based mobile compressor, pending the procurement/installation of a new aerator (the existing in-situ aerator had been inoperable for some time)
- A regime of frequent water testing, which initially revealed unacceptably low levels of oxygen
- Removal of 75% of the inundating weed (primarily because heavy concentrations of unwanted nutrients were attached to the roots)
- Dispersing the oxygenated water via an improvised circulation conduit
- Extermination of the on-shore weeds (on the Peninsular Rd side of the Lake), followed by mulching and planting of native sedges in this area
- Placement of a nutrient filtering barrier between the Brickworks Lake and Lake Bungana, to contain the contamination
- Eventual replacement of the defunct aerator with a more effective fountain, that automatically switches off if the prevailing winds are too strong (to minimise the risk of inhalation of potentially toxin laden mist by those recreating in the proximity of the Lake)
- Installation of a solar powered submersed aerator ('bubbler') to further oxygenate the water

- Piloting of a floating wetland comprised of three different species of native sedges, which will undergo comparative efficacy analysis.
- Facilitation in conjunction with the FOML, of a busy bee to clear the dead branches/undergrowth suffocating the 'hidden stream' between the Brickworks and Bungana lakes.
- Subsequent reinstatement of the walkway/cycle paths damaged by heavy machinery used in the process of remediating the Lake.

Other recent works in the locale include:

- An audit of the trees surrounding the lakes, with a view to replacing dead and non-native vegetation (e.g. Cotton Palms and Casuarinas), with species that are native to the area (e.g. Paper Bark trees).
- Painting of "Dogs must be on lead" signs on the pavement
- Further substantial removal of weeds choking the Samphires along the Swan River bank
- A major upgrade of the drainage system for the Water Playground car park
- Re-location/reinstatement of the aerators in Lake Bungana and Lake Brearley

I am delighted to advise too, that **the CoB has approved the funding of \$404K for this financial year**, as requested by the FOML, for phase-one of the remediation of the Bungana and Brearley Lakes. A huge thank you to all who supported our deputation to Council, particularly those of you who lobbied Councillors and/or asked questions on our behalf at Council meetings. We are grateful too for the efforts of Councillor Catherine Ehrhardt and the CoB Sustainability and Environment Department Officers, who worked tirelessly alongside us, to get this vitally important project underway.

The battle is not over yet, as we still need to secure \$1.3m in the 2018/19 financial year for phase 2, which is the bulk of the remediation program. Nevertheless, phase one of the works can at last commence. This will include nutrient filters on the drains which discharge water into the lakes (a prime source of pollution) and revegetation of the shoreline/shallows.

In addition to the \$404K from the CoB, the FOML has applied for funding under the *Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP)* for the removal of the Casuarina trees and subsequent revegetation of the Lake Brearley foreshore, adjacent to the gazebo on Hinkler Loop.

The FOML will also apply to Lotterywest this year, for funding of a community education program, whereby residents in the Maylands area can be informed how they can best assist in the conservation of our local ecology (e.g. eco-friendly fertilisers, water-wise plants, control of dogs and cats).

Our next busy-bee is programmed for Sunday 30 July (9.30am – 11.30am) – refer attached flyer. We again seek your participation, which on this occasion involves planting of native sedges along the banks of the once 'hidden stream' (connecting the Brickworks Lake to Lake Bungana), which we cleared on our last busy-bee. Please take this opportunity to make your contribution and to meet like-minded members of our community. We look forward to seeing you there.

Finally, our thanks once again for your involvement in this worthwhile project, which will hopefully restore our Lakes to their original pristine state for the Maylands and wider community to enjoy.

Geoff Trott
Chairman
Friends of Maylands Lakes