

Patterson Lakes – Quiet Lakes

Managing Water Quality – Update July 2011

Water Quality Management Plan 2011 has commenced

In February 2011, we commenced a staged Water Quality Management Plan for Lakes Legana, Illawong and Carramar at Patterson Lakes.

The 2011 Water Quality Management Plan takes into consideration aspirations, input and ideas from the Quiet Lakes community and was developed on advice from water quality specialists and in consultation with PLAC*, the Patterson Lakes Advisory Committee. It includes a range of actions to help improve water quality in the lakes. We will assess the effects of each action and provide you with updates.

As we implement each stage of the Water Quality Management Plan, we will be in touch with residents and community groups to ensure you are aware of how, when and why we are implementing the 10 stages of the plan throughout 2011. Updates and further information can be found on our website at: melbournewater.com.au/pattersonlakes

Find out about the Management Plan at an Information Session

Melbourne Water will be running information sessions about the Water Quality Management Plan 2011 presented by Jason Sonneman of DesignFlow. DesignFlow is a team of water management professionals engaged by Melbourne Water to develop the 2011 Water Quality Management Plan. Sessions run for approximately 45 minutes each, including time for questions.

Information Sessions on 2011 Quiet Lakes Water Quality Management Plan:

1. Thursday 21 July, starts at 11.00 am
2. Thursday 21 July, starts at 6.30 pm
3. Saturday 23 July, starts at 11.00 am

Venue: All information sessions will be held at Melbourne Water's South East Regional Office, Worsley Road, Bangholme.

How to register

As we have limited places available **registrations are essential** to ensure your place. Please register online at: melbournewater.com.au/pattersonlakes. Once you have registered successfully, you will receive a confirmation email. If a session is filled, it will no longer appear on the registration page, you will be given the option to be placed on a waiting list, and we will contact you if a place becomes available. We may consider extra sessions if all sessions fill and there is sufficient interest. In that case, we will contact people on the waiting list.

Registrations close 5.00pm on Tuesday 19 July.



What we've been doing in 2011

We have commenced low-cost actions aimed at achieving improved water quality in Lakes Legana, Illawong and Carramar.

Stage 1 / 2011 – SolarBee® in Lake Illawong – 23 February 2011

We are now 5 months into the 20 month trial of the SolarBee. The machine is designed to improve water quality through natural processes, decreasing stratification and preventing and controlling blue-green algae in the water. Stratification occurs where water forms a distinct layer of different temperatures – cooler at the bottom and warmer towards the top - that can create an environment that could be conducive to algal growth.

We expect that the benefit of the SolarBee will become evident in the warmer months, when shallow urban lakes like Lake Illawong are more prone to blue-green algae blooms.

We will continue to monitor the effects of the SolarBee and report our findings.

Stage 2 / 2011– Stratification Testing – May 2011

We have conducted 3 monitoring sessions on all 3 lakes. The results show that there is currently no stratification in any of the lakes. Regular monitoring on all lakes will continue as stratification is generally more prevalent in the warmer months when we expect to see the effect of the SolarBee®.

Stage 3 / 2011 – Investigate Increase to Bore Water Allocation – to start April 2011

Melbourne Water is working with Southern Rural Water to increase the bore water license allocation to up to 400ML/year for top up and re-filling purposes. Southern Rural Water is a water corporation owned by the Victorian government and licences groundwater users across the southern half of Victoria. We will provide you with an update on the progress of our application and, if successful, the effect of the increase in the bore water allocation will have on the Quiet Lakes.

What's coming up next

Stage 4 / 2011 - Trial of Fyke Netting for Carp Trapping and Removal in Lake Carramar – to start mid July 2011

Carp affect the quality of water in the lakes by preying on native fish and stirring up sediment. Fyke nets are one method of trapping Carp in order to remove them. We will first trial the use of Fyke nets in Lake Carramar. If the trial is successful, we will then trial them in Lakes Illawong and Legana. Before we install the trial nets, we will be in touch with residents. It is not expected that this activity will have an impact on the use of the beaches.

For more information on the 10 stages of the Water Quality Management Plan and other Melbourne Water management and maintenance at Patterson Lakes:

Visit: melbournewater.com.au/pattersonlakes

Email: pattersonlakes@melbournewater.com.au

Phone: Alan Clements (03) 8770 8782 After Hours Incident No: 9316 2800

* **What is PLAC?** PLAC is the Patterson Lakes Advisory Committee, an advisory committee to Melbourne Water. It plays an important role in making recommendations to Melbourne Water on a range of matters relevant to ratepayers and residents living at Patterson Lakes. Find out more about PLAC at: www.plac.com.au