

## Hawksbury Lagoon update June

On approximately Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> of May one self-centered person decided to vandalise the culvert cover on the Stewart Street culvert. The result being that we no longer have the ability to manage the water level extremes within the main lagoon. So over this winter you can expect to see higher levels during times of high tides and high rainfall, and when the outlet is open for several days the lagoon will empty. Even during our two year trial of leaving the culverts open we still had the ability to manage the levels if need be. Whatever the person's rationale for doing this, they have only succeeded in speeding up our plans to replace the cover with a more robust modern version which will be tamper proof!! Our society will also have to bear the cost of a replacement cover as this doesn't fall within the responsibility of any of the agencies involved with the lagoon. We expect it to take several weeks before a replacement can be installed.

This act of vandalism has been reported to the police and I know that Senior Constable Eason will be pleased to hear from anyone who may have seen or heard anything in relation to this matter.

Regardless of the actions of one uninformed individual, our work around the lagoon will continue with the support of the many locals and visitors who see value in the work our group of volunteers undertake. Over two hundred flaxes and cabbage trees were planted in the rain by the Ki uta ki tai group of volunteers, mostly just over the bridge. In addition, much gorse regrowth was removed.

In coming months, you may start to see some of the pampas cut down, particularly at the Scotia St and Stewart St ends of the causeway. As you no doubt know pampas is a noxious plant and in time we will replace them with toi toi or flaxes. The process will take several years before they are completely removed and replaced.

If anyone has a genuine concern about how aspects of the lagoon are being managed, I know that myself or any other committee member will be only too happy to explain our reasoning.

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Chair

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