

Hawksbury Lagoon update November 2019

We seem to be experiencing a typical spring with highly changeable weather patterns and at the lagoon we are beginning to see clutches of ducklings appear in the different areas. Below where I live there are two clutches one with six ducklings and one with four. It is a sad fact that most of these ducklings will probably not survive due to the voracious gulls which swoop down and snatch them away. Once the ducklings get a little older and heavier they are less at risk. Over the years I have seen clutches of up to nine ducklings reduced until only one or two remain. Goslings seem to survive better, probably because they are larger. On the Post Office creek side of the lagoon the ducklings are also prey to the eels which reside here. So do keep in mind while traversing the causeways that any disturbance can scatter the ducklings and leave them even more vulnerable, although difficult to avoid I know.

It was great to see four spoonbills back with us last week, I presume this is because the water level dropped, after the recent opening of the outlet in response to the heavy rain. However the outlet has now once more closed and I can only hope that we will retain a reasonable water level over the coming summer to keep algal blooms to a minimum. As I have said before managing the levels is much more difficult without the culvert cover near Stewart Street.

Good to see the council are finally doing some work at the corner of Beach and Stewart Street to install culverts, they have cleared out the ditch, which appears to have already made a difference to water flows and once the culverts are installed should reduce any further chance of flooding.

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Chair
Hawksbury Lagoon