

Hawksbury Lagoon update September 2019

If you have been wandering around the lagoon in recent weeks you will no doubt have noticed that the water level is quite high. This is not unusual for this time of year, however it is important that the levels are managed within quite tight limits. Because the lower culvert cover was vandalised some time ago, the only way we have for managing the water level now, is by having the Regional Council pay to get the outlet mechanically opened. Often this is a very effective method of lowering the water level, however when we are experiencing high tides, as occurred a couple of weeks ago, sea water flows into the main body of the lagoon raising the water level even higher. Also high tides can often push sand back up the outlet and close it off again within a few days, as happened recently. Prior to the culvert cover being vandalised we would have shut it off during periods of high tides and high levels and thus reduce this inflow. Once our project for electronic monitoring water levels is complete, we will probably reinstall a more modern, vandal proof culvert cover which, if we get the funding needed, will open and close automatically in order to maintain a consistent water level.

It is good to see the City Council beginning work on the culvert under the road at the corner of Beach Street and Stewart Street. It is always a huge concern a times of high rainfall that the homes on either side of the street may be inundated. Having the ditch between Beach Street and the lagoon dug out and installing a second or larger culvert under the road will make a big difference in ensuring any excess water moves rapidly through this area and into the lagoon. Which brings me back to my initial comments regarding the management of the outlet and how important this is in the overall management of water levels. Fortunately, this past winter has been relatively quiet in terms of weather extremes. As we know this is not always the case.

We are having a planting day on **Saturday September 7th** meeting at the Inverary Street entrance at 9am. Anyone interested is welcome to join us. Tools, plants and food will be provided.

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