

SANCTUARY LAKES RESORT NEWS

May 21, 2019



SANCTUARY LAKES IRRIGATION

One of the most important steps in maintaining a healthy landscape is effective irrigation, which is why the Sanctuary Lakes irrigation system is one of the most valued and complex pieces of infrastructure within the Resort. We have roughly 18.5 hectares of irrigated garden beds and lawns around the Estate.

All the irrigated areas within the resort are irrigated with recycled water. The recycled water is sourced from the City West Water treatment plant in Altona. The pipework that delivers the recycled water to Sanctuary Lakes runs along the Skeleton Creek corridor, passes under Skeleton Creek at the end of Half Moon Terrace and stored in the 6th dam on the golf course ready for use.

All recycled water received from City West Water is 'Class A' recycled water, salt reduced. City West Water works with EPA Victoria to assess and endorse Class A schemes to ensure that the water is fit for use and does not pose a health risk.

The recycled water is moved around the resort via a ring main which runs along the cart path side of the Boulevard. The irrigation is controlled through a Rainbird proprietary system, which is able to irrigate street trees, garden beds, and turf areas separately. Generally speaking the garden beds and street trees will be watered during the day and turf overnight. Depending on the time of year irrigation of turf can take 10 or more hours.

The main purpose of the irrigation is to replace the rain we haven't received, and to keep on top of evaporation rates. The average rainfall in Sanctuary Lakes per year is 534.3mm, and the evaporation rate per square metre of soil is 1579.3mm. Therefore, based on these figures the irrigation system needs to replace 1045mm of water per square metre of soil per year. For example, Times Square Park is approximately 7000 m² and requires between 6 and 7 megalitres of recycled water to keep it green per year. That's a lot of water.

As always if you notice a leak anywhere in our system please give us a call or send us an email so we can repair the line as soon as possible.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



FEE NOTICES

Fee notices are due to be issued in July, watch this space for more information.

Note: If you have signed up previously to pay via direct debit it will rollover automatically and begin in August, if you wish to cancel your current direct debit you must do so in writing to ocmanager@sanctuarylakes.com.au



RESORT MAINTENANCE DELIVERY

Did you know that Sanctuary Lakes Resort Services has selected landscaping supplies available for purchase by residents?

Residents can purchase, soil, mulch and Tuscan pebbles. To place an order please complete the Landscaping Supplies Order Form (which can be found [here](#) on our website) and email the completed form to ocmanager@sanctuarylakes.com.au. Once payment has been approved Resort Maintenance will deliver to your home.



IMPORTANT NOTICE - NBN

We are continuing to receive reports of the NBN connection malfunctioning the circuit boards in old Alarm Panels. This results in a significant cost being incurred by the resident, in some cases up to \$1,000.

Please contact SLR Security BEFORE connecting NBN for the installation of a PermaConn Unit (See Website) or ensure your Alarm Panel is ISOLATED from the NBN connection prior to installation and protect your Alarm.



REPORT AN ISSUE - WYNDHAM CITY

Did you know that you can report issues directly to council via their website? You can report issues such as; dumped rubbish, abandoned vehicles, illegal parking, as well as road and nature strip issues.

It's as simple as selecting a location on the map, adding the details, and uploading a photo, voilà.



LOCAL DOGS OFF LEAD AREA

Although dogs must be kept on leads in all parks and streets throughout Sanctuary Lakes (including the golf course), an enclosed off lead dog park is located nearby at Saltwater Reserve if dog owners are looking for a place to exercise their furry friends!



LAKE - LOW WATER QUALITY

As many of you know in accordance with our maintenance agreement with Melbourne Water we have the lake water tested often. Twice a month over the warmer months and once a month during the cooler months of the year.

We have just received the water quality results for the last round of sampling which was completed on the 8th of May.

The results indicate that the bacteria levels were much higher than usual and at levels of concern, in particular in the canal and the western end of the lake.

The likely source of the bacteria is the build-up of faecal material (mostly bird droppings and some from other animals). The rainfall that occurred on the 1st and 7th May, coupled with the lack of rain for the previous three months, would have been sufficient to wash this faecal material from the catchment into the canal system and flow down toward the lake.

UV radiation in sunlight acts to kill off the bacteria so bacterial levels in the lake would be expected to return to normal in the ensuing couple of weeks after the rain.

Until that time, we recommend that good hygiene practices, such as hand washing after you have been in contact with the water and residents are discouraged from water based recreational activities.

The guidelines for secondary contact recreation (boating and fishing) are:

Enterococci (a bacteria used as an indicator for all bacteria)

50% of samples - less than 200 organisms/100 mL

Single sample maximum – less than 500 organisms/100 mL

Our results from 8th May

SL-Canal (Canal at Pt Cook Rd) – 10,000 organisms/100 mL

SL-2 (Mouth of Canal at Lake) – 4,900 organisms/100 mL

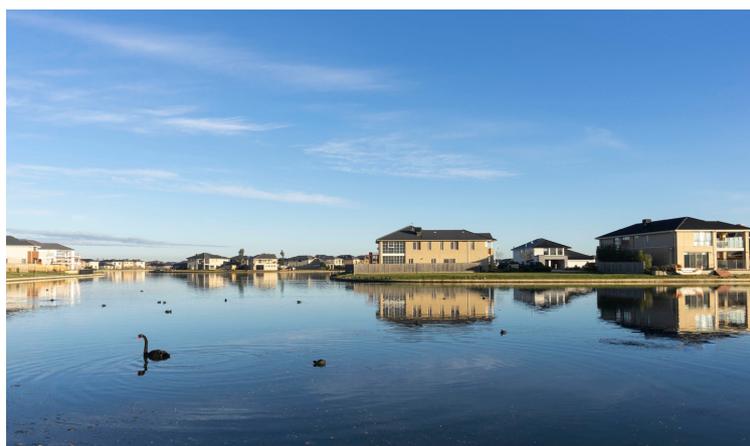
SL-3 (Lake at 18th hole) – 1,700 organisms/100 mL

SL-6 (Middle of lake) – 31 organisms/100 mL

SL-8 (Eastern end of lake) – 400 organisms/100 mL

SL-Pond (Holding Pond) – 820 organisms/100 mL

Independent testing of the lake is next scheduled for the 8th of June, and we will update residents further via social media once the results have been received.





THE STARLING

By Tom Parkinson

This year's extended summer drought, has had an unusual effect on Sanctuary Lake's bird visitors. In early autumn we normally welcome large flocks of Galahs who take over the median strips, roundabouts and fairways in their hunt for insects. But this year only a small number, a couple of family sized flocks, no more than twenty, appear to have arrived. They seem to have been replaced or displaced by the Common Starling, who have taken in large numbers, to foraging amongst our Estate's multitude of short cropped grasses for every type of insect, from spiders to flies.

The Common Starling (*Sturnus Vulgaris*) is an introduced species. The early settlers in Victoria cleared the bush but found their newly planted crops were being invaded by hordes of caterpillars and other insects. Native birds were not habituated to living in close proximity to humans so it was decided to introduce the Common Starling from Europe to consume the insect pests destroying the new farm crops. The first Starlings arrived in Melbourne in 1857. Early settlers looked forward to their arrival, believing that Common Starlings were also important for the pollination of flax, a major agricultural product at that time. Nest-boxes for the newly released birds were placed on farms and near crops. By the 1880s, established populations were present in the southeast of the country thanks mainly to the work of acclimatisation committees. By the 1920s, with very few predators, the Common Starlings were quickly becoming widespread throughout Victoria, but by then, they were also starting to be considered pests.



Common Starling *Sturnus Vulgaris* in its autumn and winter colours

Starlings are small to medium-sized birds with males and females similar in appearance. They have distinctive glossy black feathers with an iridescent green and purple sheen. From a distance they give a look of shiny black. At this time of year, after moulting the new feathers grow with pale tips, giving the birds a distinctive spotted appearance. However, by November these tips have worn and the birds appear glossy black again. The beak is blackish in colour for most of the year, but yellow while the birds are breeding. Young birds (arriving spring and summer) are a dull mouse-brown colour and when they moult to adult plumage in autumn,

they have a patchy brown and black appearance, often with some pale spotting.

Starlings are aggressive, social birds and can form very large flocks that move, feed and roost together. On the ground, they walk jauntily or run, rather than hop like many other birds.

Starlings can breed across a wide range of habitats. In Victoria they breed from September through to December and can have up to three broods per year. Nests are built in any available cavity often in tree hollows or buildings. The nests are constructed of dry grass combined with assorted other material, including twigs, leaves and feathers. Four to five light-blue eggs are laid, which hatch after 13 days. The young remain in the nest until three weeks of age.



THE STARLING

Common Starlings have a varied diet that includes insects, spiders, seeds, grains, fruit, livestock feed and food waste. To breed successfully they need to eat insects but plant food is also readily consumed.

Starlings feed mainly on the ground where they pick up food items off the surface as well as probe into the soil with their strong beaks. They also pick food items off vegetation, catch flying insects and pluck whole or pieces of fruit from trees and vines. They prefer short grass when foraging and the well-maintained gardens of Sanctuary Lakes and its golf course provide ideal feeding sites.

In Victoria and especially in rural areas, the Common Starlings have become a major pest. They can cause significant damage to horticultural industries, particularly fruits and a range of vegetable crops. Cereal crops are susceptible when grain is freshly sown and during ripening. They can also carry many parasites and diseases which raise concern in food factories and industrial areas and are a potential risk to livestock industries. Environmental impacts centre round their aggressive competition for nest hollows which is potentially serious for some native species such as Cockatoos.

Starlings are also considered to be a major nuisance in urban areas. They will nest under roofs where they can infest houses with bird lice, are often unwelcome in parks and shopping areas, especially at night where the roosting flocks can be unsightly, noisy and able to contaminate the area with droppings. The Starling has been included in the IUCN List of the world's 100 worst invasive species.

Fortunately for Sanctuary Lakes they have not, as yet, started either nesting or roosting in large numbers and are mainly daytime visitors. Although recently I have seen a flock of Rosellas fighting with the Starlings over a large Tree in Andrews Square by Lakeside Drive.

Presently the Starling are a positive and helpfully balance Sanctuary Lakes natural growth, but it would be prudent for residents to watch out for signs of major increase in flocks. There are numerous non-lethal techniques, such as using auditory devices, which can quickly upset and scare the Starlings from settling, nesting and roosting.

Finally, classical Starling trivia: Mozart had a pet Common Starling which could sing part of his G Major Piano Concerto. He bought it from a shop after hearing it sing a phrase from a work he wrote six weeks previously, which had not yet been performed in public. He became very attached to the bird and arranged an elaborate funeral for it when it died three years later.

So, if you are wondering along the Southern Boulevard and hear from out of the grassy strips, a Common Starling whistling the opening phrase to "Eine Kleiner Nachtmusik" you will know without a doubt, his ancestor's lineage.



Common Starling in breeding colours, yellow beak and pink legs



MAY GARDENING

Once all the leaves have fallen off deciduous fruit trees, spray the tree and surrounding soil with lime sulphur. Be sure to plant any new citrus trees this month.

Now is a great time to pot up basil to grow on an indoor windowsill. In most areas it will die off with winter's arrival.

May is the last chance you'll have to finish planting spring bulbs, so get in quick! As soon as possible after purchasing liliium bulbs, plant them into humus-rich soil.

When mowing, leave lawns a little longer than usual, they will cope better with the cooler conditions. While you've got the mower handy collect all fallen autumn leaves, and mow over them, catching the leaves in the lawn mower catcher. The leaves are then ready for composting.

Plant out all winter/spring flower and vegetable seedlings. By putting in peas and broad beans now, you are giving them the winter to extend their roots deep. This means that when the weather does start getting warmer and the frosts disappear you are ahead of the game. Radish, Swedes, turnips and spinach will also crop well if planted now. For frost sensitive seedling cut the bottom out of a plastic bottle (coke bottle or similar) and place the bottle over the seedling

Cut back and lift dahlia tubers as plants die down.

As weather cools reduce watering of indoor plants and use tepid (rather than cold) water.

Happy Gardening.



GARDENING SPOTLIGHT



This month we have the spotlight on *Angopgora costata* which is a member of the Myrtaceae family. It is also known as the Smooth-barked Apple Myrtle.

These trees are one of Sanctuary Lakes Signature trees and grow on the Boulevard nature strips. They are a hardy and are generally trouble free from pests and diseases, when fully grown reach heights of up to 20 metres high and 15 metres wide.

They are resilient during times of drought and enjoy full sun. These trees are generally found in costal heaths and open woodlands.



Tube Stock Planting

Last week our resort maintenance team carried out some tube stock planting of Agapanthus in St Andrews and St Andrews Precinct area.



Sea Grass

We took a total of 18.08 tons of Sea Grass to the tip last week.



Tree Planting Oyster Bay Park

Here are some of the lovely new trees that have recently been planted in the Oyster Bay Park.



Sammy Swan

Sammy Swan has been on quite the adventure. So far he's been to Tasmania, Queensland, Romania and New Zealand just to name a few. He has a trip planned to Canberra, Hawaii and then will be heading back to Europe again! If you have a trip planned we'd love for you to take our pal, it'd be great to see how many places we can get Sammy to. If you'd like to book him please email communications@sanctuarylakes.com.au to check his availability.



COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

To advertise contact: communications@sanctuarylakes.com.au

*conditions apply



FLU SYMPTOMS OR CARBON MONOXIDE?

Breathing in high levels of carbon monoxide can cause loss of consciousness and death in a matter of minutes.

Carbon monoxide poisoning can be misdiagnosed as it mirrors flu like symptoms unless the cause is very obvious.

High risk groups include infants, the elderly, pregnant women, and anyone with a previous history of cardiac insufficiency or chronic obstructive lung disease.

TO ENSURE YOU'RE SAFE:

- Have fuel burning appliances serviced at least once every two years by a registered licenced gasfitter
- Unblock all flues, vents and chimneys
- Fit an audible Carbon Monoxide Alarm

EARLY SYMPTOMS OFTEN MIMIC THE FLU:

- Headache · Nausea · Confusion
- Shortness of breath · Weakness · Lethargy

Be aware of these symptoms and don't wait!

**BECOME CO AWARE
AND PROTECT YOUR FAMILY
FROM THE SILENT KILLER!**

SEVERE SYMPTOMS

CONVULSIONS



UNCONCIOUSNESS



DEATH



**If you suspect
carbon monoxide poisoning**

CALL 000

& get fresh air immediately!