

# Springfield Lakes



# Nature Care Update

by David and Luise Manning

To coincide with Keep Australia Beautiful week last month, SLNC organised our annual Spring-Clean the Lake event around Regatta and Discovery Lake. Nine community volunteers, including one kayaker, turned up to help.

Ten bags of rubbish were collected, two of which were full of recyclables – which is not really rubbish. Polystyrene was the dominant type of general rubbish found in the lake as well as a large amount of plastics and glass bottles. The remaining rubbish consisted mainly of building materials and packaging.

Although the amount of rubbish found on the pathways and shores of our lakes is still unacceptably high, returning volunteers from last year's Spring clean-up event said that the amount of rubbish seemed less than last year. We think that there are two main factors contributing to this.

- The Springfield Lakes community is becoming more aware of litter in the environment, as shown by the great turnout at Clean-up Australia Day in March. The community's on-going efforts has reduced the store of rubbish in the environment.
- The building boom on The Peninsula is nearly complete with only a few houses still in the process of construction. The wind blows the rubbish from open skip bins on the sites, scattering rubbish downwind and down slopes. This is confirmed by the large number of pieces of polystyrene builders' waste found.

Another contributing factor was crows that mainly pulled out plastic bags of food waste and scattered it around in the bushland. The other major culprits seem to be drive-by litterers. Some of this new rubbish turned up even whilst the clean-up event was happening – and could only have come from a car. We are hopeful that when the container deposit refund scheme comes into effect in November, the number of recyclable drink containers will be greatly reduced.

The #AussieBirdCount is on again. It's a great way to help count the birds that live in our backyard. You don't have to count in your backyard either, it could be a local park, lake or patch of forest. You can count as many times as you like over the week, as long as you dedicate 20 minutes to each sample. This data will help Bird Life Australia in understanding more about birds that live where people live.



Springfield Lakes Nature Care has launched its new #PromoteProtect Postcards which was made possible through Lendlease's Community grant. The postcards picture beautiful images of wetland birds that inhabit our three Lakes and were photographed by Anne Reardon. The postcards are available from Moselles Restaurant, Dark Horse Cafe, My Vet and Springfield Veterinary Hospital and they would be a useful tool to help you identify and record our wetland birds. Don't forget to share the postcard with us on our facebook page and use the hash tag #Promote & Protect.

Backyard Bird count starts on 22 – 28 October—to register go to [aussiebirdcount.org.au](http://aussiebirdcount.org.au).

Monthly cane toad catching nights have started again and are held on the first Friday of the month, with the next event

being 2 November at 7pm, at Spring Lake Park meet at BBQ tables next to the pontoon. You can follow us on [www.facebook.com/SpringfieldLakesNatureCare](http://www.facebook.com/SpringfieldLakesNatureCare) or contact [info@springfieldlakesnaturecare.org.au](mailto:info@springfieldlakesnaturecare.org.au) if you wish to become a member.

## Elorac Place celebrates Mental Health Week

On 11 October, during Mental Health Week, Elorac Place, located at 11A Southamption Road, Ellen Grove, will be hosting a free Health and Wellbeing Expo, encouraging local residents to take some time out for themselves and connect with other community members and services.

The Community Centre will team up with organisations such as Australian Hearing, Headspace Inala, the Salvation Army, Happy Paws Happy Hearts and Wildcall who will be bringing an array of Australian wildlife.

Elorac Place Community Capacity Coordinator Tania Kelsey said it was important to help connect the community to available services in the area.

"The aim of the Expo is to bring everyone together to raise awareness of health and wellbeing," Ms Kelsey said.

The event is free and interactive, with the provision of stalls and workshops covering different areas including self-care, fitness, healthy eating, and animal interactions. There will also be free pamper booths such as manicure services throughout the day, free raffles for those in attendance and will be fully catered for by Dion's Kouzina.

The event, hosted by Wesley Mission Queensland is sponsored by The Queensland Families and Communities Association (QFCA), The Queensland Government and Brisbane City Council.