



Sunday 1 March was Clean Up Australia Day and 177 people 'stepped up to clean up' and helped Springfield Lakes Nature Care (SLNC) clean up the area around Regatta and Discovery Lakes, and a separate area at Spring Mountain.

One hundred and thirty-two people, including 54 children, volunteered to clean up, whilst 45 members of the Springfield Malayalee Association (including 25 children) cleaned up the streets of Spring Mountain. In addition, three adult paddlers collected material floating in the two lakes. All litter collected was brought down to the Discovery Lake carpark for the audit report to be conducted. The rubbish was disposed of in the skip-bin provided by Ipswich City Council.

In comparison to last year's litter audit, there was a distinct decrease in the number and proportion of drink containers of the type that can be recycled through the COEX 'cash for containers' scheme. Anecdotal comments suggest that the number of people littering by discarding drink bottles has stayed the same, but community and environmentally aware citizens are picking up these bottles and cans before they make it into the natural environment and our lakes. There was also less builders waste, probably because almost all building on "The Peninsula" has been completed. Only three supermarket/retail bags collected, showing that the plastic bag ban is working.

The dominant form of litter was small and large bits of paper, newspapers, cardboard/polystyrene fast food containers/packaging, and COEX drink containers. There were also plenty of plastic straws, and this needs to be the focus of future efforts to reduce plastic in our environment.

SLNC thanks all those who turned up to help clean up: the Springfield and Goodna Girl Guides, Redbank Plains, Goodna and Camira Scouts, Greater Springfield Rotary Club, and the Springfield Malayalee Association. We would like to thank our sponsors, Lendlease and IGA Springfield for supporting the event and providing the refreshments and fruit and Milton Dick MP for the cake for morning tea. We also thank Ipswich City Council for the funding from the Environmental Grant which helped cover the cost of core flute signs and flyers to promote the event and the provision of a professional first aid officer.

If anyone else would like to donate plastic and glass bottles and aluminium cans to SLNC please take them to the Night Owl at Spring Lake Metro, or another COEX deposit centre, and use our registration code C10002285 so the funds will be credited to SLNC's bank account.

All bushcare working bees are cancelled until further notice because of COVID-19.

If anyone would like to join our Group, membership is free and meetings are every first Monday of the month at 6.30pm contact us: [info@springfieldlakesnaturecare.org.au](mailto:info@springfieldlakesnaturecare.org.au).