

LAKE USER GROUP NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2020



The National Capital Authority acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Welcome to our September 2020 newsletter. We hope this has been a helpful and pleasant alternative until we are able to meet face to face again.

A quick thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through these times. Please know that although we are working remotely, we are still available via phone or email and are still committed to ensuring the Lake remains safe, functional and enjoyable to all users.

Stay safe. We hope to see you all again soon.

David and Chantelle



UPCOMING LUG MEETINGS

Wednesday 2 December 2020 – National Capital Exhibition (NCE), Barrine Dr Parkes ACT 2600

Wednesday 3 March 2021 – No venue - Please let me know if you are able to host

Wednesday 2 June 2021 – Newsletter



Australian Government
National Capital Authority

MEET NICK

Owner of GoBoat and Capital Paddle

Where is your favourite spot on the Lake? On a boat of course! But after that, Springbank Island. It's still a bit of a secret Canberra hideaway not too many people know about.

What do you do in your spare time? I don't have a lot of spare time as the business has expanded fairly quickly, but when I do I like to take my dog to the park and read books.

What's a fun fact about you? Nick's expecting his first child in October!

Anything else? We really love working with other businesses and organisations in Canberra, so please feel free to pop down and see Nick, Billy, Amy and the crew at Kingston Foreshore if you've got any hair brained ideas or projects that we could partner up on!



www.goboat.com.au/canberra
www.capitalpaddle.com.au



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter Time Trials (Rowing)

Dates 12/13 September 2020 **Time** 9.30am – 10.30am

Location Rowing course at Yarramundi Reach

Disher Cup (Rowing)

Date 10 October 2020 **Time** 8am – 10.30am

Location Grevillea Beach, West to East Basin

Contour 556

Dates 9 to 31 October 2020 **Location** Various, including 2 installations on Springbank (more info coming soon)

Head of the Molonglo

Date 18 October 2020 **Time** 8am – 9am

Location Molonglo River to West Lake

Dragonboat Regattas 2020/21

Dates 24 Oct, 14 Nov, 21 Nov, 28 Nov & 12 Dec

Time 6am – 5pm **Location** Grevillea Beach, Dragon Boat course at East Basin

Rowing ACT Regattas 2020/21

Dates 7 Nov, 21 Nov, 30 Jan, 12 Feb & 27-28 Feb and 13-14 Mar **Time** 07.30am – 4.00pm

Location Rowing course at Yarramundi Reach

Clean up Lake Burley Griffin Day

Date 15 November 2020 **Time** 8am – 12pm

Location All areas of LBG, Molonglo & Kingston

Sri Chinmoy Triple Triathlon

Date 15 November 2020 **Time** 9am – 12pm

Location East Basin to West Basin

Canberra Club Triathlon

Date 22 November 2020 **Time** 8am – 12pm

Location Black Mountain Peninsula

Sri Chinmoy National Capital Swim

Date 29 November 2020 **Time** 7.45am – 12pm

Location All LBG – Scrivener to Grevillea

Elite Energy Proximity Triathlon

Date 5 December 2020 **Time** 6.30am – 1pm

Location Central Basin

Please note: These events/dates are tentative. Separate LUG notices will be distributed closer to these event dates.

TOLL Rescue Training dates *

Dates 9/10/15/16/17 September 2020

Times 10:00am and 1:30pm (1hr each session)

Location West Lake (north of Springbank Island)

Please note that training may not be conducted on some scheduled days due to weather or operational priorities.



View from Springbank Island

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UPDATES

WATER POLICE UPDATE

The Water Police have now moved their vessels and air berths from their mooring point at Yarralumla West Jetty to Yarralumla East Jetty.

The upgrades to the East jetty are completed and the secure fence is now on the jetty. The Yarralumla West Jetty is now in the decommissioning phase for handback to the NCA. The removal of the old bowser and fence is all that remains. There is no AFP operational equipment left on the jetty.

The old fuel tank is being removed starting this week (week starting 31 August) and is expected to take 3 to 4 weeks.

The Water Police are still in the planning process for their new building at the Old Canberra Girls Grammar rowing shed. At this time, it is anticipated that the building upgrade will not be completed until December at the earliest, so they will continue with their current operating arrangements until then.



Water Police

NCA UPDATES

COVID-19

The NCA continues to review our operations on an on-going basis in line with advice from health officials and Government.



Since our last newsletter:

- The National Capital Exhibition has reopened
- Blundells Cottage has reopened to its usual Saturday hrs 10am – 2pm
- We have welcomed back our volunteers. If you are interested in the NCA's volunteering program, please contact info@nca.gov.au

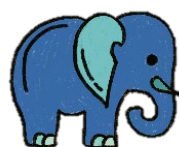
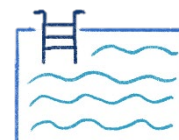
Wherever possible we are planning to pivot our public programs and business dealings to teleconference or digital spaces while we practice social distancing, good hygiene and other risk mitigation measures in all of our operations.

More info and NCA updates [here](#).

SCRIVENER DAM FLOOD OPERATIONS

During the August 2020 flood event, approximately 37,000 ML passed through the floodgates in a 72-hour period. This is more than the whole volume of the Lake!

DID YOU KNOW? 37,000 ML is the equivalent of 14,800 Olympic Swimming Pools.



We also removed over 45 tons of logs and debris from the lake. The equivalent of more than 7 adult African elephants.



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UPDATES...continued



*Scrivener Dam with 3 gates open
9 August 2020*

SAFETY REMINDER AFTER FLOODS

Just a reminder that after heavy rainfall, particularly when the Dam floodgates are opened, there will probably be an increased number of logs and debris floating in the Lake.

Following an event, NCA contractors inspect for damage/logs/debris as soon as it is safe and practical to do so and clean up commences shortly after. However, this process can take 2+ weeks, or longer, as debris continues to flow into the Lake after the event.

Please be aware of these potential hazards, and of other Lake Users who may be navigating away from the traffic flow to avoid them.

A reminder that swimming is not recommended after rain events due to increased bacteria.

ACTON WEST DEVELOPMENT

The NCA is currently assessing the works approval application for West Basin boardwalk and land reclamation and has requested further information from the applicant.

PADDLE BOATS

Capital Paddle will not be moving to Aspen Island anymore. They will operate again in the warmer months from their location next to Regatta Point jetty.



Paddle boats at Regatta Point in December 2019

LAKE WALLS RENEWAL PROGRAM

The first phase of stabilisation behind the walls of Lake Burley Griffin is nearing completion including resin injection behind 3.95km of stonewalls, posing a high risk.

Additional works delivered to improve public safety and aid in prolonging the life of the lake walls includes the repair of loose wall capping stones/pavers along the RG Menzies Walk, filling in sink holes landscape areas and the removal of two dead trees at risk of falling into the lake.

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NGA FORESHORE UPGRADE

Works to widen the shared path that runs between the National Gallery of Australia Sculpture Garden and lake foreshore path have commenced. The works include improved access to the Sculpture Garden, new lighting, terraced seating walls and minor landscape and supporting works.

The completion is expected in mid-November.

CANBERRA AQUA PARK (CAP)

The NCA has received a Works Approval application from Canberra Aqua Park for the temporary installation of inflatable structures on Lake Burley Griffin and ancillary onshore structures, at Black Mountain Peninsula.

Following last year's trial, this application seeks approval to operate for the warmer months (November to February) for the next three years (to 2023).

The NCA welcomes community feedback on this application by close of business Friday 11 September 2020.

More info [here](#) or via the link below:

<https://www.nca.gov.au/consultation/black-mountain-peninsula-inflatable-aqua-park>

SATELLITE SELFIE

As part of National Science Week (15 to 23 August) a satellite was planned to have flown over Canberra on the mornings of 17, 19 and 21 August – or at least that was the plan! Loads of effort went into showcasing our beautiful city by many selfie-its but for different reasons, including heavy weather conditions, the Satellite Selfie wasn't successful on those dates but made for fabulous pictures, as you can see. Another valiant effort was put in on Tues 25 August so we'll see shortly if this was successful!

The NCA certainly put on its best 'space face' over this time with a number of partners that we'd like to thank

including Go Boat Canberra, The Canberra Yacht Club, Dragon Boats ACT, The European Union Delegation Australia and The NCA Rose Garden Horticultural Volunteers.



*GoBoats in Central Basin, ready for their selfie
17 August 2020*

CANADIAN FLAGPOLE REFURB

This year, the NCA will be restoring the Canadian Flagpole on Regatta Point to allow for its safe and continued use.

The first stage is to get the pole down and stored in a safe spot to undertake further investigations.

More updates to come.

DID YOU KNOW? In November 1955 a 40.2 metre single green spar of Douglas Fir, logged from a forest in British Columbia and weighing 7.1 tonnes, arrived in Sydney with its bark still attached.

After being submerged in Sydney Harbour for several days for quarantine reasons, it was transported by train to Canberra, straddled along the length of three railway trucks.

The pole was trimmed to 39 metres, debarked and shaped and handed over from Canada on 20 November 1957.



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KINGS PARK PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The NCA is preparing to release the draft *King Park Improvement Strategy*.

Historically Kings Park (the Park) has been largely underdeveloped. With increasing use of the park we are concerned that safe and efficient use of the park is becoming more difficult. The NCA considers that there are ways to improve everyone's enjoyment and experience of the Park. We are looking at parking, vehicular, pedestrian, cyclist movements and signage.

The NCA will release a draft Strategy for community consultation within the next few weeks. The community will be encouraged to have their say on the proposed changes. A survey will also be conducted as part of the consultation so watch your emails for when this survey is live.

It is hoped that throughout this process:

'Kings Park evolves into a more user friendly precinct, with a focus on the evolution of better pedestrian and shared park users experiences, and an enabler for greater patronage in the Park with streamlined and safer parking and traffic management'.

Keep a look out for updates and the survey on the NCA's website www.nca.gov.au. It is anticipated this project will open for community consultation on Friday 4 September 2020.

WATER QUALITY

Just a reminder that the 2020/21 Recreational Season will commence in mid-October. The first sample will be taken on Monday 12 October 2020. The results will be posted on the free Swim Guide app and website on Thursday 15 October 2020.



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WORKS COMPLETED

SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER & THIS FY

COMPLETED

- June 2020 – Tidy up and erosion control at Radford launch wall
- August 2020 - Flood event clean up


IN PROGRESS

- Temporary boat ramp near Radford Rowing

PLANNED

- Project plans are in progress for maintenance and capital works we can do this FY. Watch this space!

Photos taken by Anthony Croke

 *Cecil1958*



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A Big Day to Catch – 18 Oct

A message from Jason

The big day on this year's calendar is coming, 18 October. This is the annual Go Fishing Day (also known as Gone Fishing Day, thinking of the sign you can put on your home office computer as you head outdoors), which celebrates and promotes recreational fishing and its benefits such as social interaction, habitat protection, and the fun of catching fish.

Whilst ACT doesn't have a dedicated program like that funded through NSW, the angling opportunities around Canberra are great and it doesn't need much gear - even a simple handline and some corn or bread for the local carp. If the fishing is quiet, give your local strip of water an emu bob while you wait (and before you leave).

My vote for the 18th of October is to go wet a line and celebrate the fun and friends and family activity in a safe and responsible manner. Don't forget those thousands of native fish NCA stocked in our local lakes and the recent Lakes Act to help promote our local fishing opportunities.



Pic provided by LUG member, Jason

Cast Away!

A message from Jason

In September, Canberra Anglers Association will continue their annual free public fly casting instruction on the lawns in front of Old Parliament House (opposite Questacon from 10-12, 13 & 20 Sept at Old Parliament House, before moving to Googong Dam 27 Sep). It is a long standing tradition, and supports the club fundraise, engaging with the public and promote fly fishing, continued in a COVID Safe manner in 2020.

In 2020 Canberra Anglers Association this year celebrates its 75th Anniversary. Its origins can be traced to an ad on 11 Oct 45 in the Canberra Times for like-minded anglers to meet at the Kingston Hotel, but is more historically documented in perpetual trophies like the annual Lyle Knowles trophy which began on the Cotter River in 1945, and has names like Bryan Pratt engraved on it. The club had a clubhouse on the shores of the river not far from where fly casting now occurs - in front of (old) Parliament House - removing it ahead of the Molonglo River becoming Scrivener Dam. CAA also supports other activities such as Casting For Recovery, in support of local breast cancer survivors.



NCA in collaboration with Conservation Research (ACT Gov)
Fish stocking 2019

● nca.gov.au
f [nca.gov](https://www.facebook.com/nca.gov)
t [@nca.gov.au](https://twitter.com/nca.gov.au)

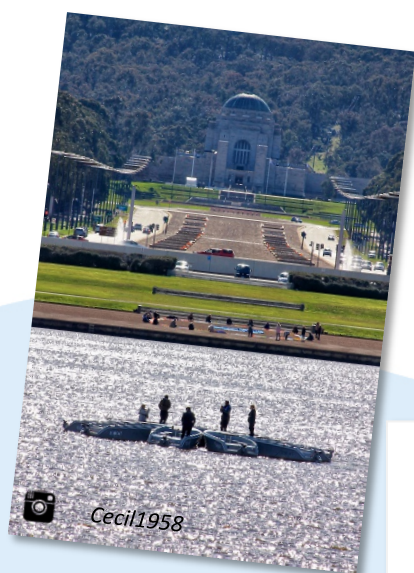
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78TH AUSTRALIAN SHARPIE NATIONALS

A message from Chris:

The Sharpie Nationals, which were to be held during the 2020/21 Christmas/New Year period have been deferred by 12 months. The event will be held in the 2021/22 Christmas/New Year period.



CLEAN-UP LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN DAY

A message from Tammy:

Covid might have cancelled a lot of events, but we're still planning for the next Clean-up Lake Burley Griffin Day on Sunday, 15 November (with social-distancing rules of course).

While this event hasn't been fully approved yet, we'd like to be ready for once we receive the okay.

Please let me know if you are interested in being a site supervisor on the day of the event. Ideally, we need 6-7 organisations to put up their hand again so that we can cover as much of the Lake as possible.

Thanks, Tammy

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