



BERWICK SPRINGS LAKE

25 Years of Community Work

Berwick Springs was officially opened by Robert Maclellan, Minister for Planning and Local Government on **14th November 1997**. The developers and Watsons Pty Ltd were responsible for turning the existing springs into Berwick Springs Lake.



Berwick Springs Residents & Owners Association (BSROA) was incorporated on **10th October 2000** to protect and improve Berwick Springs Lake and surrounds. Its first President was Tim Walkerden who worked tirelessly to represent the community to the City of Casey, Melbourne Water and the three developers.

With the small park at the end of Mercy Court under threat as the City of Casey took responsibility for maintenance of the Berwick Springs Estate residents came together behind BSROA to successfully lobby for its retention in **2002**.



Whilst BSROA represented the community to the multiple stakeholders responsible for the upkeep of Berwick Springs its members also helped to improve the environment by replacing plants and trees, clearing litter and introducing bird nesting boxes.

By mid-**2002** it was becoming apparent that the community was caught in the middle of a stand off between the City of Casey, Melbourne Water and the first developer, the latter being accused of failing to follow council guidelines on some of the park infrastructure.

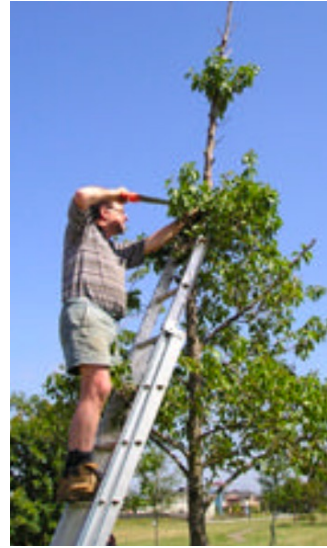




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In **2003**, with The City of Casey and Melbourne Water refusing to maintain the infrastructure in Berwick Springs Park, the community was left to provide repairs and maintenance to keep residents safe and the estate neat and tidy. Pavers were cemented pack in place, blackberry bushes removed and trees pruned.



Litter was a constant problem, in the parklands and in the Lake. The latter caused by an influx through the stormwater drains from the Cypress Hills Estate. BSROA President, Tim Walkerden, and committee member, Gary Hall, took a canoe to the lake to remove rubbish. After constant lobbying Melbourne Water eventually agreed to improving the drainage system in **June 2004**.



By the end of **2003** the footpaths were in disrepair and, gravel path to Beaumont Waters was on the way, Neither Melbourne Water nor the City of Casey were maintaining infrastructure or favoured the continuance of the fountain.

Erosion of the lake shore near Louise Baille Avenue was becoming a serious issue and not one the community could easily repair. It would take the constant lobbying of Melbourne Water to fix the problem.





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Yet, not all was doom and gloom! BSROA organized the highly successful 2003 Christmas Party that include a visit from Santa Claus on a fire engine. The first of many.



Of the three developers, only Stockland engaged with the community, providing financial support, regular updates and a place for BSROA meetings. They worked closely with the City of Casey to break the infrastructure maintenance deadlock.



In February 2004 BSROA president Tim Walkerden and committee members met with state and federal MP's Dale Wilson and Anthony Byrne to present the issues facing residents.

BSROA created an 11 point wishlist. - (see pages 4 - 6)



25 Years of Community Work

BSROA Wishlist Feb 2004

Published in the March/April 2004 BSROA Newsletter

Replacement of the brick paver paths with a concrete path

Completed by Stockland and the City of Casey



Replacement of the current gravel path between Beaumont Waters and Berwick Springs with a concrete path.

Completed by Stockland and the City of Casey

A solution to the sediment/litter problem in the lake.

Melbourne Water carried out improvements in 2004-2005



Repair and upgrade of the children's playground.

Clr Ben Clissold announced an upgrade in April 2004 – Casey carried out a major upgrade in 2025



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BSROA Wishlist Feb 2004

Published in the March/April 2004 BSROA Newsletter

Improve lighting along the footpaths around the estate

Whilst solar lights have been introduced in parts of the Reserve, lack of lighting remains an issue around Berwick Springs Lake



Provide a bridge over the stones at the end of the lake and a link to Beaumont Waters.

Improved further by the City of Casey in 2025

Shelters over the Picnic Tables.

Council funded shelters in 2004 for picnic tables funded by BSROA in 2003





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BSROA Wishlist Feb 2004

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Repair of the erosion at the lakeshore along Louise Baille Ave.

Completed by Melbourne Water - 2004-2005



More benches for walkers/residents to sit on throughout the estate.

Dog "poop" bins along the footpaths.

There are nowhere near enough bins along the footpaths. Dog "poop" remains problem.



Maintenance of the fountain in the long term.

The City of Casey agreed, in 2004, to maintain the fountain.



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In late **2004** The City of Casey released plans for recreational facilities, including football and cricket to be developed at the end of Berwick Springs Promenade. Residents were concerned enough by the plans to present a petition of 600 signatures to the City of Casey. BSROA led by new the President Jan Mann and vice-president Paul Bulka, stepped in to work with council and local clubs.



The final layout and setup was significantly different to the initial proposals and resolved many of the concerns from residents. Berwick Springs is represented by junior football, and cricket teams.





25 Years of Community Work

With the estate completed, the developers gone, and the City of Casey working hard to develop and improve Berwick Springs Wetlands, BSROA took a step back....however that did not stop the community holding council and other bodies to account

From 2010 Berwick Springs Residents:

Carried out regular rubbish clean ups around Berwick Springs Lake

Advocated, successfully, to Council and Melbourne Water ,for the repair and maintenance of Berwick Springs Lake fountain

Petitioned Casey to protect Berwick Springs Promenade Median Strip to prevent speed bumps and intrusive lighting

Advocated, successfully, to Council against public toilets near Berwick Springs Promenade

Advocated, successfully, to Council for off street parking on The Esplanade

Advocated, successfully, to Council to repair lighting on Berwick Springs Lake Bridge and Beach.

Advocated, successfully, to Council for additional bins and waste collection days during the covid pandemic

Worked with Council to maintain landscaping at the Greaves Road roundabout

Advocated, successfully, to Council for the repair and maintenance of Berwick Springs Lake fishing piers

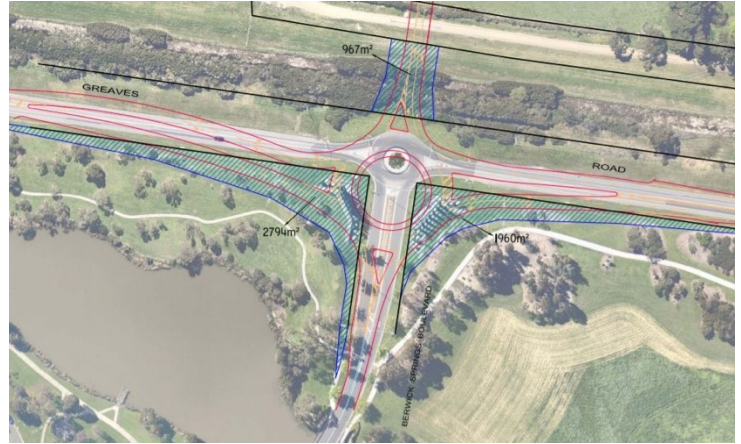
Advocated, successfully, for improved safety barriers on the Greaves Rd/Moondarra Dve intersection



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Save the Berwick Springs Entrance

In **Nov 2016** residents were galvanized into action again with the news that the beautiful entrance to Berwick Springs would be devastated by the enlargement of the existing roundabout at Greaves road by a factor of five.



The plans had been developed by the developer of the Alira Estate, Moremac, whilst the City of Casey was the planning authority. Residents had not been consulted. Representation to Casey was made without success despite a petition with 1200 signatures.

Residents raised funds to take the matter to VCAT which heard the case in 2018. Whilst many were disappointed with the decision it did secure a smaller roundabout, two tier entry and the planting of oak trees.





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On the 9th Nov 2024 seven MP's arrived at Berwick Springs Lake to "celebrate" its renaming to Lake Guru Nanak. Residents had not been consulted nor invited to the ceremony. FOI requests showed that Sonya Kilkenny ignored the recommendation from GNV, for wider consultation and had used ministerial direction to rename Berwick Spring Lake.



Residents came together once more to protest the government's failure to follow democratic due process and consult the community. Had the Sikh community been told that the Govt had failed to consult, acted undemocratically and had effectively handed them a poisoned chalice?

Liberal MP for Berwick, Brad Battin, stood shoulder to shoulder with residents, challenging the process that led to the change....until it really mattered. Now as party leader he turned on residents by failing to back the petition, in parliament, he himself instigated. Only Ann-Marie Hermans and David Limbrick stood for democracy.



Residents feel violated, the govt has taken the heart of their home and handed it to a community with little connection to and no history in the area. Residents will continue to protest and will never give their lake up.