

Media Release

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Lake Hood taskforce working hard to solve algal issue

While disappointing an algal bloom appeared earlier this month, the Lake Hood Water Quality Taskforce is still working on long-term solutions to improve the lake's water quality.

These include bringing in an aquatic harvester to remove weed, introducing aeration in the canals through diffusers, and looking at inputs which could remove nutrients from the lake.

The taskforce is made up of representatives from the Ashburton Aquatic Park Charitable Trust, the Huntingdon Park Property Owners Association, Lake Hood Extension Project and Ashburton District Council. The group has been liaising with the relevant authorities (including Environment Canterbury and Te Whatu Ora) and consulting experts since March last year.

Unfortunately this summer's El Niño not behaving true to type with the addition of some hot days has not helped the situation.

Lake Hood Water Quality Taskforce chairman David West says the taskforce is looking forward to the aquatic harvester arriving to remove weed accumulating in parts of the lake.

"We have to trial several options to eradicate the bloom properly. There is no quick fix for algal blooms but we are working hard behind the scenes to ensure every idea is researched thoroughly and we have the appropriate specialist advice to support us."

Social media comments criticising a lack of action were incorrect. "The taskforce is made up of, in the main, volunteers, who have been working over the New Year to address the algae issue with council's support. Rather than engage on social media, we prefer people approach us directly and we can meet and discuss ideas in person. Already, many residents living in the Lake Hood community have helped by offering practical support and ideas, machinery and labour."

"We want to make sure Lake Hood remains a premier recreational destination for visitors and locals. Algae blooms in lakes are becoming more prevalent worldwide and they are complex beasts to solve. The taskforce is taking this seriously and wants to set up the lake for success."

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