

# Harley Park Lagoon

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## Project outline

This Coast Ed project aims to facilitate a 'real world' study with AB Patterson College students. Throughout the study, biology and chemistry students will assess the water quality and user values of the Harley Park Lagoon, Labrador.

## Project Aims:

- to provide a real life study situation for students of AB Patterson College
- assess and report on the water quality of Harley Park Lagoon
- assess user and community values of Harley Park Lagoon
- to compare previous data with the current status
- to provide students with a background of the history of the lagoon and the community issues

## Harley Park Lagoon

Harley Park Lagoon is a swimming enclosure created in late 1997 using a natural design approach implemented by the Gold Coast City Council, GCCC. It is located in the Gold Coast Broadwater Foreshore opposite the south-western end of Wave Break Island, near the corner of Broad Street and Marine Parade at Labrador

### *What's a natural design approach?*

The traditional approach to coastal engineering and design has tended to focus on 'hard' solutions with no appreciation of natural processes within coastal systems. An attitude developed that focussed on 'defending against an enemy' as opposed to 'a willingness to work within a system' (Brunsden and Moore, 1999). The aim of using a natural approach to coastal engineering design is to mimic natural appearance and natural coastal processes (McGrath, 2000).

The Lagoon was created by the building up of an existing sand bund and the creation of a weir at the northern end of the Lagoon. The sand bund was designed to be overtopped by greater tides than the mean spring tide. The Lagoon is designed so that it fills on the flood tide and discharges on the ebb tide (Pocock, 1998).

The enclosure was created to provide a safe accessible swimming area for the public and a point of interaction between the public and the natural water environment. It also provides a safe location for swimmers with lower swimming skills or accessibility difficulties (Campbell unpublished).



## Facilities

The enclosure is adjacent to the Charis Seafood Market and offers barbeque facilities nearby. For those fishing enthusiasts, the area provides access to a boat ramp and fishing spots. Harley Park swimming area is flood-lit in the evenings for the convenience of patrons.

## Awards

Harley Park Lagoon was the winner of the Tourism Queensland Friendly Beach Award 2001.

Supported by Tourism Queensland, the *Friendliest Beach Award* combines two of Queensland's most well known attractions for visitors - the state's world famous beaches and the warmth of a Queensland welcome." A friendly beach is accessible to people of all ages and physical abilities and offers a range of facilities."

## Charis Seafood

The close proximity of Charis Seafood is an important factor when considering the user values, water quality and amenities of Harley Park Lagoon. Each day a group of pelicans are fed outside the kiosk area and this has become a significant tourist attraction for both Charis Seafood and Harley Park Lagoon.



## Community Issues:

There are several community issues relating to Harley Park Lagoon and can be categorised into three groups:

- Water quality – turbidity
- Siltation Complaints – the build up of slime on the bottom of the Lagoon
- Public Amenity Issues
  - lack of lifeguards
  - the presence of marine and other animals such as birds
  - the high water temperatures at times in the lagoon
  - the lack of adequate public parking.
- Overall environmental health.



## References:

Campbell, T. 2001. An investigation into the performance of naturally designed swimming enclosures. Griffith University unpublished.

Pocock, J. 1998 Harley Park Swimming Lagoon Draft Management Plan. WMB Oceanics, Spring Hill, Qld.

McGrath, J. 2000 Natural Coastal Management – Implication for Designers. Proceedings of the 12<sup>th</sup> Queensland Hydrology Symposium, Institution of Engineers, Brisbane.

## For more information contact:

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