

Timeline of events at Hamilton Lake

Date	Progression
Approx 17,000 years	Lake was formed by natural geological evolution
1800's	Lake was an important resource for local Maori. Eels, Freshwater, crayfish & mussels caught. Rushes used to make clothes. Walking track on East side of lake went to Te Rapa Pa. Areas around lake known as "Paretaru" and "Te Ohaapu". Urupu (burial ground) used to be on hill near where water tower is now
1864	The Military used the area as a recreational retreat. Mainly scrub and swamp land
1872	Alfred Cox built "Lake House", the first dwelling building at the lakeside. Designed by I.R. Vialou. Had formal gardens. Some land used to graze cattle
1878	The whole town of Hamilton was invited to a picnic at "Lake House"
1886	Lake was declared a reserve for public recreation under the control of the Hamilton Domain Board. (Waipa Council)
1890	Hamilton Rowing Club was formed
1907	Perch were introduced into the lake by Waikato Angler's Club
1908	Frank Jolly designed a 2-storey house "Windermere" overlooking the lake. It was completed in 1910. Frank Jolly was a generous landowner
1911	Officially made a "Wildlife Reserve"
1913	Lake Domain Board started clearing the scrub and planting trees
1924	Area was vested as an official reserve. Families spent Sundays here, picnics, boating carnivals, swimming, a brass band, horse and carriage rides and local events took place
1930	Weed cutter bought to clear aquatic plants
1937	Hamilton Yacht Club was established
1939	On September 22nd nurses from the nearby Waikato Hospital planted 120 native trees
1940	Cynthia and Reg Watson bought a house at the lake. They become unofficial caretakers of the lake. Cynthia is known as "Lady of the Lake" (Died 1999 at Tamahere)
1940	Many old rotten Wattle trees removed
1941	15 mph speed limit introduced in park for horse and vehicular traffic
1949	Hamilton City Council (Formerly Hamilton Borough) took over maintenance of domain from the Waipa Council

1949 A "Lake Society" was formed. Hamilton City Council wanted to raise the level of the swamp with rubbish fill. Local residents objected. Society granted lease and the Innes family was very generous

1955 A "Giant slide" was placed in the domain near the entrance at Ruakiwi Street. It was removed in 2002 due to wear and tear.

1956 Swamp area became known as "Innes Park"

1957 Clock tower placed by the Tea kiosk - designed by John Austin (Removed June 2009)

1959 2,450 gallons of Penite 6 (Sodium Arsenate) put into the lake to control aquatic weeds

1960 "Innes Park" officially became "Innes Common"

1960's Tea Kiosk, golf course, skating rink built.

1971 Liquid diquat was sprayed from a helicopter to control aquatic weeds

1972 A mini-train was installed for children's rides.(Removed 2001)

1974 The Jaycees constructed a space age playground

1974 Liquid diquat again sprayed from helicopter to control aquatic weed

1975 The Lion's Club and Hamilton City Council constructed a nature walk

1978 Liquid diquat sprayed from boat to control aquatic weed

1981 Diquat gel placed in lake to control aquatic weed

1986 Some trees removed to facilitate yachting on lake

1998 30 White Domestic Geese are relocated from the lake

2004 The Lake walkway (Continuous all around the lake) was opened on 8th February 2004

2008 Tea kiosk which had expanded to tea rooms, ice cream sales and function centre was demolished to make way for new function centre and restaurant

2009 "The Verandah" Restaurant, ice cream sales and function centre opened on 4th July