



# **FRIENDS OF PERRY LAKES ANNUAL REPORT**

**18 February 2022 - 30 June 2022**



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## Our Purpose

To participate in and advocate for the conservation, restoration and enhancement of the Perry Lakes and Alderbury Reserve natural environment, infrastructure and cultural heritage for the enjoyment of current and future generations

## Our Objectives

- Provide support, advice and an independent voice to the Town of Cambridge (ToC) on matters relating to the conservation, restoration and enhancement of Perry Lakes and Alderbury Reserve.
- Provide resources (volunteer time, funding, equipment) to complement and assist the ToC in the monitoring, maintaining and improving Perry Lakes and Alderbury Reserve.
- Provide an opportunity for like-minded community members to enhance their health and wellbeing through participation and social interaction on activities relating to the management of the site.
- Raise awareness of the natural and cultural significance and history of the area to residents and users so they can support its conservation.

## Our History

In 2021, the Town of Cambridge published its ten year management plan and masterplan for Perry Lakes Reserve for 2021-2031. The plans were endorsed by Council in November 2021 and included an objective to 'Encourage community stewardship of the site through the establishment of a Friends of Perry Lakes group'<sup>1</sup>.

In October and November 2021, the Town hosted two community meetings to seek interest in forming the group. Around 30 people attended each meeting and on 10 November 2021 an acting committee was appointed to consider what steps needed to be taken to formalise the group. An Annual General Meeting was held on 15 February 2022 where it was agreed the group should become incorporated and voting for a new committee took place.

On February 18, 2022 the Friends of Perry Lakes became incorporated.

We look forward to continuing this momentum over the coming years and growing the group into a friendly, active, effective and respected community organisation.

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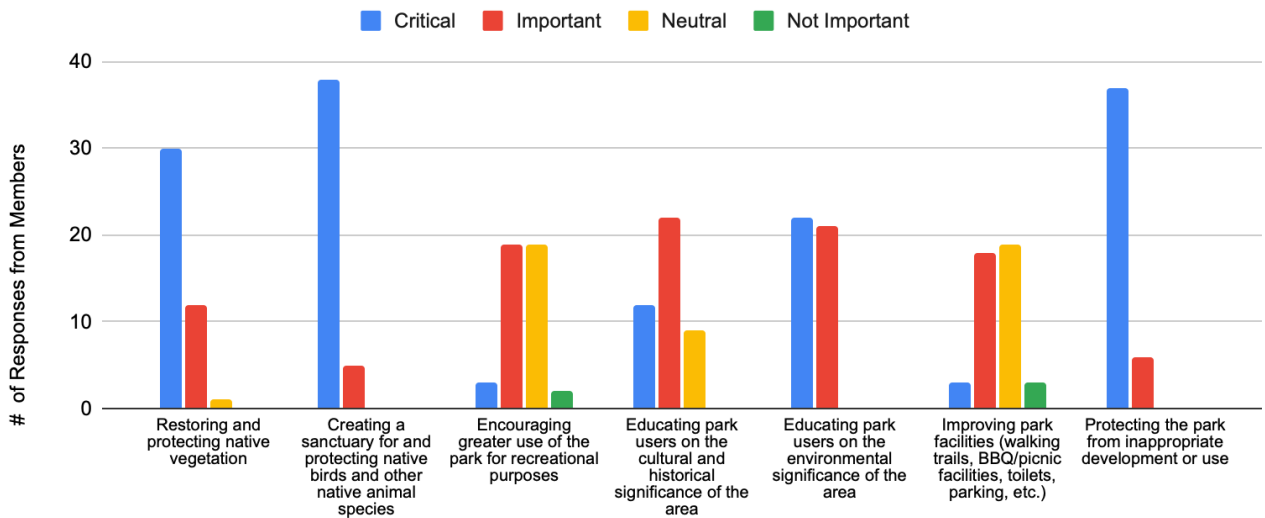
<sup>1</sup> Members of Friends Groups share the common goal of conserving and protecting a natural area. The type of activities undertaken by a group depends on the level of expertise of its members, the goals of the group and the management requirements of a reserve. Further information on the purpose and management of Friends groups within the Town of Cambridge is available [here](#).

## Our Members and Their Perspectives

At the end of the 2021-22 financial year we had 74 members comprising 17 family memberships and 14 individual memberships. Membership fees were set at \$35 for families and \$25 for individuals for the 2022 calendar year.

Upon joining, members were requested to provide their opinions on the following matters to help the committee prioritise activities<sup>2</sup>:

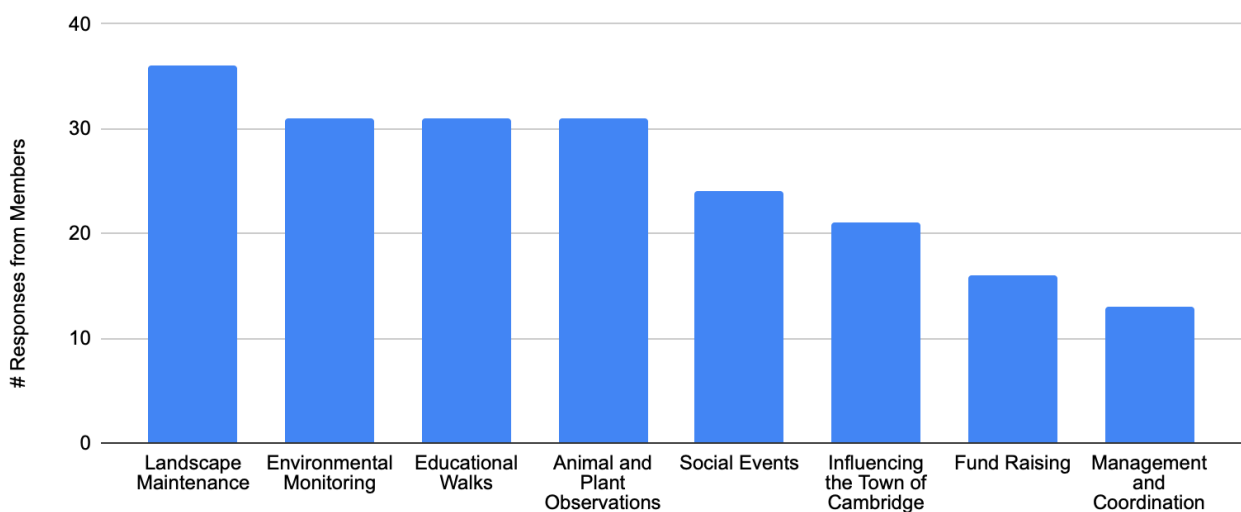
How do you rank the importance of the following...



Based on these responses, the key priorities of members were:

1. Protecting the park from inappropriate development or use
2. Creating a sanctuary for and protecting native birds and other native animal species
3. Restoring and protecting native vegetation
4. Educating park users on the environmental significance of the area

Which activities are you most interested in?

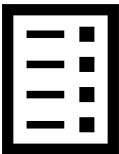
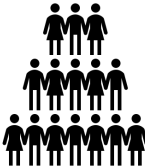







Based on these responses, there was strong interest in all the activities being pursued by FoPL.

<sup>2</sup> Graphed data are based on the 43 membership applications received up to September 21, 2022

## Our Priorities

The committee agreed to pursue the following goals in 2022. Good progress has been made on many of the actions already.

Focus Area	2022 Goal	Key Actions and Status
 <b>Processes</b>	Formalise Friends group and document processes	Incorporate - complete 👍 Open bank account - complete 👍 Develop membership process - complete 👍 Develop code of conduct - complete 👍 Finalise 2022/23 strategy - ongoing Develop vision and 10-year plan - ongoing Develop shared document storage - complete 👍
 <b>Membership</b>	Raise awareness and grow membership	Develop website and social media - complete 👍 Publish articles in ToC/print media - ongoing Finalise logo - complete 👍 Order clothing - complete 👍
 <b>Activities</b>	Get members involved in weeding/planting/surveys	Finalise works plan for ToC approval - complete 👍 Publicise dates/activities- ongoing Finalise risk/hazard assessment - complete 👍 Procure equipment - complete 👍 Set up storage area - complete 👍
 <b>Education</b>	Engage and grow membership through regular educational events	Identify topics/speakers of interest - ongoing Publicise calendar of events - ongoing Work with ToC on baseline sampling program and related research - ongoing Identify broader research opportunities, candidates and funding - ongoing
 <b>Relationships</b>	Build relationships with key stakeholders	Develop relationship map/goals - not started Engage in ToC Perry Lakes Committee - not started Engage research/education groups - ongoing Engage conservation/ community groups and indigenous community - ongoing
 <b>Funding</b>	Investigate and pursue fundraising opportunities	Maximise use of 2021/22 ToC funding - ongoing Update 2022/23 budget - ongoing Identify and pursue grants in line with works and education plan - not started Consider need for additional fundraising activities - not started
 <b>Risk Management</b>	Identify and manage risks	Document risk management processes - not started Develop FoPL activity risk register - not started Develop Perry Lake risk register (for advocacy with ToC) - not started



## Our Management Committee

The following individuals were appointed to the management committee at the inaugural AGM on February 15th, 2022. All committee position terms expire automatically at the next AGM and existing committee members may be re-elected. Management committee member backgrounds, our constitution and terms of reference are available on our website (<https://friendsofperrylakes.org>).



Chair  
Greg Harrison



Deputy Chair  
Erin Musk



Secretary  
John McCann



Treasurer  
Nicki Mitchell



Works Coordinator  
Paul Brown



Education Officer  
Don McFarlane



Promotions Officer  
Tina Berilone



## Chairperson's Report



We have a lot to be proud of in the short period since the establishment of the Friends of Perry Lakes (FOPL) from our first meeting with the Town of Cambridge (ToC) in November 2021.

A special thanks is owed to our first committee who have not only created but established an effective organisational structure to meet the obligations of the Incorporation Act, as well as providing enthusiastic leadership in their areas of committee responsibilities.

In our first financial year of operation we have;

- established our management committee structure
- grown membership with 73 members and over \$2,200 raised through membership subscriptions and donations by June 30, 2022
- become incorporated
- set up our bank account
- developed a logo, website and procured work shirts
- procured equipment and PPE to allow effective weeding and planting
- held several weeding days, one planting day and community education events
- engaged University of Western Australia Masters students to undertake data integration projects to pull together various environmental data sets available for Perry Lakes and the immediate surrounds.

TOC have been central in their support both financially, through donation of establishment costs, as well as through their ongoing guidance and support.

The 2022/23 year ahead will see us continue to focus on supporting the ToC in its management of Perry Lakes, building relationships with key stakeholders, continue our regular weeding and planting days and seek to identify research projects and funding opportunities to grow our understanding of this important wetland area.

A key involvement of the FOPL will be to work with and provide community engagement with ToC to ensure the Perry Lakes Master Plan is implemented in such a way that it ensures the best outcome for the lakes and surrounds.

We have a solid membership base, we are financially sound and we have passion and drive to ensure the ongoing operation of FOPL in 2022/23 and beyond.

Thank you for your support.

**Greg Harrison**

Chair - Friends of Perry Lakes

## Treasurer's Report



Financially, the Friends of Perry Lakes are off to a great start. As of June 30, 2022 the group had assets of \$6,589 with no liabilities.

Our income for the 2021/22 financial year was \$11,101 with our primary income sources being start-up funding from the Town of Cambridge, membership fees and donations from members. We received a small grant of \$100 from the Perth NRM, which was used for tree planting equipment.

Our expenses were \$5,853 with our primary expenses being the purchase of work shirts (subsidised by member contributions), promotional costs and tools and equipment (see Works Coordinator's report for further details).

Our statement of accounts is provided below:

### FoPL Financial Report - Year Ended June 30, 2022

	2022 FY
<b>Opening Bank Balance - April 1, 2022</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Membership fees	\$1,200
Donations	\$1,090
Clothing payments	\$720
ToC Start-up Funding	\$7,991
Grants	\$100
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$11,101</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Tools and equipment	\$861
Consumables	\$310
Incorporation Fees	\$134
Clothing costs	\$3,384
Promotion, Website and Logo costs	\$1,161
Bank fees	\$3
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$5,853</b>
<b>Closing Bank Balance - June 30, 2022</b>	<b>\$5,248</b>
<b>Assets</b>	
Bank	\$5,248
Tools and equipment	\$861
Spare Work Shirts	\$480
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$6,589</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Nil	

**Nicki Mitchell**

Treasurer - Friends of Perry Lakes

## Works Coordinator's Report



The Friends of Perry Lakes Work Plan 2021-22 was drafted in late 2021 including ten actions, an annual schedule and budget. This was submitted to the ToC for comment in January 2022. The FoPL Work Plan 2022-23 is currently being drafted.

A Job Safety Analysis for hand weeding was developed in November 2021 and will be reviewed annually. There were no accidents reported in the 2021-22 financial year.

Progress on Works related actions is summarised below.

### **WEEDING - Friends Action 5: Reduce invasive broadleaf weeds, exotic grasses and woody weeds through targeted hand weeding**

There are very few indigenous native species on the reserves. In a 2019 flora and fauna survey, 38 introduced weeds were recorded and as of April 2022 the FoPL have identified 82 weed species.

In winter 2021, the ToC sprayed all weeds on the sloping banks of both lakes, which controlled most winter weeds and grasses. This has given FoPL volunteers a chance to follow up on reduced numbers of summer weeds.

#### Completed Works

In 2021-22 we held four weeding events (20/2 - 13 attendees, 20/3 - 21 attendees, 24/4 - 9 attendees and 22/5 - 13 attendees) and two 'Know your Weed' walks with 24 attendees on 27/11 and 3 attendees on 23/2. A total of 143 volunteer hours were recorded during field works (not including organisational hours). Volunteers have removed summer weeds around the whole edge of both lakes at least once and in some cases twice from February to May 2022.

The principal weeds FOPL volunteers focused upon were summer growing weeds as all the weeding days were post-Christmas 2021. They included:

- **Spear Thistle** probably nastiest of the local weeds needing a spade to dig out and two sets of gloves to handle. Many plants seeded in 2021 and seedlings are patchy but widespread
- **Blackberry Nightshade** is a very poisonous disturbance loving plant in small numbers but widespread around both lakes and in all gardens
- **Nasturtium** on two major drains on the east side of East Lake and north side of West Lake
- **Prickly Cabbage, Prickly Sowthistle and Fleabane** are all Summer weeds, widespread and up to 1.3 metres tall
- Eastern State's **Casuarina** (Sheoak) in West Lake where volunteers pulled and dug out about 1,800 plants from 30cm to 1.4 metres in height (more work to do)
- **Pelargonium** is a common garden plant escape we are just now tackling
- **Narrow-leafed Cottonbush** (declared weed in WA) is common in West Lake
- Removal of seed heads from **Typha/Bullrush** to reduce seed dispersal

In the first six months of the establishment of the FOPL, volunteers used their own tools on weeding days. In April 2022, the FOPL Committee was in a financial position to approve the purchase of their own field tools with two wheelbarrows, five spades, two shovels, 12 trowels, three secateurs, a mattock and pruning shears bought. A good quality first aid kit and two snake bite kits were also purchased.

### **ADOPT A SPOT - Friends Action 6: Friends support “Adopt a Spot” of heaven that is Perry Lakes Reserve**

#### Completed Actions

The FoPL Management Committee has not advertised or pushed the ‘Adopt a Spot’ concept in 2021-22 due to other group establishment priorities. However, two teams have ‘Adopted a Spot’ in the first half of 2022:

- In April 2022, members Tony and Jackie Harding with Neil and Caroline Mitchell adopted a 120-metre section of the north-east bank of West Lake east of the new water pipeline;
- Members Ray Tauss and Olly Berry have adopted manual control of woody weeds around the lakes, including Brazilian Pepper, Weeping Willow and any other problematic species identified.

### **DRYLAND PLANTING - Friends Action 4: Provide labour and support to the Town of Cambridge to revegetate the lake beds, banks and buffers to improve species diversity and wetland habitat value.**

FoPL had no input into the planning of plantings of native plants in 2022, as the ToC had already completed planning prior to the group getting established. Species selection and ordering, sites to plant, and site preparation was all done by the Town.

The ToC conducted a major Fusillade spray in April 2022 of the three lawn species impacting the lake edges (Kikuyu, Buffalo and Couch) prior to reed planting. These three species are the worst environmental weeds at Perry Lakes. The Town also slashed two large patches of Typha.

In May and June 2022, the Town of Cambridge started an ambitious revegetation program at Perry Lakes. They planted (using contractors) 40,000 reeds in the lake beds focused on the north and eastern part of West Lake and the north western part of East Lake.

#### Completed Actions 2021-22

In June 2022, the Town invited FoPL volunteers to assist in planting 5,000 seedlings in to the adjoining dryland sites on the banks of the two lakes. The FoPL Management Committee agreed to plant 2,000 of these plants and to set up a major planting morning on Sunday 3 July 2022. It was a successful day with 53 volunteers turning out to do the planting. The 2,000 plants across 16 species were planted into the ground in two hours. A BBQ was held afterwards. Great result!

#### **Paul H Brown**

Works Coordinator - Friends of Perry Lakes



## Education Officer's Report



The Friends of Perry Lakes aim to raise awareness of the values of the Perry Lakes and Alderbury reserves, and increase our knowledge by identifying and integrating existing studies, reports and data. Over time we will add additional knowledge and connect with surrounding areas, especially Bold Park.

The main educational activities to August 2022 have been:

- In May, Andrew Head from the Town of Cambridge explained to a group of about 25 people the process whereby water from the Herdsman Main Drain would be pumped to West Lake. We met where the water would enter the lake, and where a gross pollutant trap had just been constructed. We also visited the balance pipe between West and East lakes. Getting a power source at the diversion site near Newman College was the remaining activity to complete the project. Potential issues such as transferring feral carp eggs, nutrients and pollutants from Herdsman Lake were discussed. The newly-planted sedges and reeds were designed to slow and filter the incoming water, and will be periodically harvested to remove nitrogen and other nutrients entering the lakes via the Herdman Main Drain
- In July, I gave a talk on the hydrology of Perry Lakes at the WA Ecology Centre which was attended by about 40 people, mainly members of Friends of Bold Park and Friends of Perry Lakes. Olly Berry and Nicki Mitchell recorded the talk and it can be watched [here](#).
- In August, about 12 members of FoPL learned about the work by the Friends of Lakes Claremont from their convenor, Nick Cook, on a morning field visit. Lake Claremont has a long history of successful revegetation, close liaison with their local government authority and funding groups. The visit provided a vision for what could be achieved at Perry Lakes. We also learned about their regular night chats. We attended a talk and bought a book on nesting boxes by Simon Cherriman.
- In August, 38 Masters of Science students from the University of Western Australia began working with the Friends to help collate and analyse data on the values and management of the lakes. The scope of work will extend to Bold Park, Galup (Lake Monger) and the Town of Cambridge beaches.
- In August, a guided walk to identify birds was carried out in conjunction with Viv Read and Rochelle Steven from Birdlife WA. A future walk to help members learn to identify frogs and to discuss improving the habitat for south-western snake necked turtle is planned for October.

**Don McFarlane**

Education Officer - Friends of Perry Lakes



## Promotions Officer Report



A key objective of the promotions portfolio for this inaugural year has been to raise community awareness of the group and develop a solid membership base. This has included establishment of a baseline presence for FoPL on the internet and through social media.

Key initial activities have included development of the [Friends of Perry Lakes website](#), which includes information about the group, how to become a member, and upcoming activities. We have also [developed a Facebook page](#) which is attracting increasing membership and regular posts from the local community. Additionally, we have established links with several related websites including the Town of Cambridge and

Urban Bushland Council, and now have information about our group available on these websites alongside similar Friends and other local community groups.

We have also sought to publicise the group through local newspapers, in particular The Post. We have published three articles to date, two updating the local community on the tree planting day we held in early July, and one advertising the bird walk around Perry Lakes which was held in August. We have found that this has been a particularly effective way to inform the local community of upcoming events and attract new members to the group, so will be a strategy we continue to use into the coming year. A special thanks to our members Ron Banks and Clive Addison, who have been instrumental in assisting with editing and publication.

Now that our baseline promotional activities are established, we are looking to the next phase of promotions, with the three aims of ensuring our existing membership is informed of our current activities, attracting interest and new members to the group, and informing and educating the local community on the natural and historical significance of the area. Activities now in the pipeline include membership competitions, advertising through local businesses and social activities. I welcome any ideas from the membership and broader community on how we can continue to promote the activities of the group via email at [promotions@friendsofperrylakes.org](mailto:promotions@friendsofperrylakes.org). We look forward to the coming year and all the new opportunities this will bring, including the chance to see our fledgling group continue to grow and flourish!

**Tina Bertilone**

Promotions Officer - Friends of Perry Lakes



## CONTACT US

Email:

[Secretary@friendsofperrylakes.org](mailto:Secretary@friendsofperrylakes.org)

Website:

[www.friendsofperrylakes.org](http://www.friendsofperrylakes.org)

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1053205218955040>