

FRIENDS OF PERRY LAKES NEWSLETTER



Newsletter 4, October 2022

WE'RE SEEKING NEW MEMBERS!

Benefits of membership include access to free or subsidised educational events and social activities, and feeling you're making a difference to your local area.

Any memberships between now and the end of the year will be for 2023/24 also.

To join, please [complete this form](#) and follow the instructions therein.

WORK SHIRTS

We still have a couple of work shirts remaining. The shirts are available to members at a cost of \$20 each (non members \$70). To secure one of these great shirts, please [complete this order form](#) which includes sizing charts and payment details.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to our fourth Newsletter and to full lakes. It is great to see them both at levels not seen for several years. We developed and had members endorsement of our Mission, Vision and Strategy document - big thanks to Erin for driving this. This will set our direction for the next few years. Our AGM went really well and I am very proud to acknowledge the reappointment of most of your FoPL Committee. Special thanks to Nicki who has had to step down as our first treasurer due to work and family commitments, but she has got us onto a sound financial footing. Not much works are planned from TOC in 2023 on the lakes, so we will use the opportunity to identify and seek funding for works we believe will benefit the lakes and surrounds.

- *Greg Harrison, Chair FoPL management committee*

BirdFest – Saturday October 22

Friends of Perry Lakes were fortunate to co-host a stall at BirdFest on Saturday October 22. There were lots of interesting stalls and enthusiastic visitors to the FoPL stand. A big thank you to Nicki Mitchell and Olly Berry from FoPL, and Sue Waite from the Town of Cambridge for volunteering their time and efforts to promote the benefits of joining our Friends group.

Frog walk – Friday October 7



We held an evening frog walk for members from 6-8 pm on Friday October 7, led by FoPL treasurer Nicki Mitchell, who is a zoologist based at UWA and has been researching various frog species across Australia and New Zealand for more than 25 years. About 20 members arrived at East Lake well prepared with warm clothes, torches and the citizen science app 'Frog ID' installed on their smartphones. Nicki explained that six frog species breed in Perry Lakes and the surrounding parklands, and that four of these species could be detected on the night thanks to the distinctive calls made by the males of each species. Male frogs call both to attract mates, but also to maintain their territories within the wetland. The common names of the four spring-breeding species are the motorbike frog, the slender tree frog, the squelching frog and the

TO FIND OUT MORE

Follow us on Facebook:

[Friends of Perry Lakes | Facebook](#)

Website:

We have now launched our new website which is available from <https://friendsofperrylakes.org>. Check it out to find out more about Perry Lakes and its history, how to become a member, and upcoming events.

PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Our previous newsletters are available from here: [Newsletter | Friends of Perry Lakes](#).

western banjo (or Pobblebonk) frog. Once dusk fell the night was suddenly alive with sounds from birds, bats, insects and frogs, and as East Lake was circumnavigated members could discern the different frog species calling - some species were everywhere, while others could only be heard from certain locations. As the night was cold and with a clear sky, it was not ideal for seeing frogs moving about, but one motorbike frog was found and allowed members to take a close look. Motorbike frogs are also commonly found in urban gardens and swimming pools - and (you guessed it) - their calls sound like revving motorbikes. Nicki encouraged members to continue to record frog calls using the Frog ID app throughout the year, as the beginning and end of breeding periods are shifting due to climate change. There is an autumn-breeding burrowing frog species - the moaning frog - that relies on the wetting and drying cycles of West Lake to complete its life cycle, and moaning frogs in particular may be affected by the new management plan where water in West Lake will be maintained year round. So listen out for their distinctive moaning from about April next year!

Bird walk – Sunday August 21



A big thank you to Viv Read from Bird Life WA, Pam Ghirardi and Olly Berry from Friends of Perry Lakes for hosting a bird walk at the lakes on Sunday August 21. Some of the many birds and ducks we saw included Black Swans, Shoveller, Reed Warbler, Australian Grebe and Night Heron. It was great to see so many people interested in the birdlife at the lakes, with almost 60 people in attendance.

WEST LAKE WATER LEVELS OVER THE PAST 60 YEARS

West Lake has a water level record since July 1962 (see figure) which shows that it has dried over summer since about 1994. While the recent record is not complete, there are signs that lake levels may have recovered slightly in the last 5 years. Surrounding groundwater levels have also shown a similar upturn.

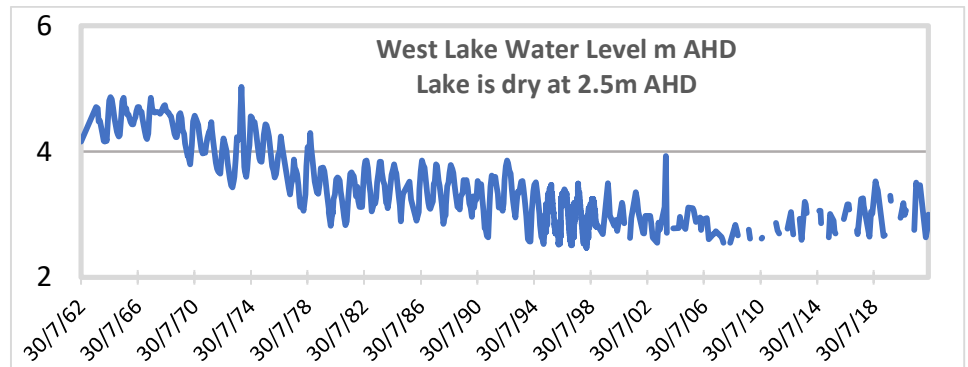
CONTACT US



Please get in touch if you have any questions or ideas about future educational events or activities.

Secretary John McCann
secretary@friendsofperrylakes.org

Reasons why levels may have risen include: 1) levels may now be in equilibrium with the climate after falling since the 1970s; 2) wetter and/or cooler years since 2016; 3) reduced pumping because of water restrictions; 4) urban infill producing more stormwater inflows, or 5) a combination of these factors.



Work by Master of Science Students at UWA is compiling data such as on the figure to help understand processes affecting the lakes.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2022

Weeding Day Sunday November 20

Our next weeding day will be held on Sunday November 20, 8 am until 10 am. We will meet at our storeroom, which is south of the playground south of West Lake. Please bring your own gloves and secateurs (if possible). Hope to see you there!



Educational talks

We continue to plan educational talks which we will publish on our website here: [Get Involved \(friendsofperrylakes.org\)](http://friendsofperrylakes.org).