



FRIENDS OF PERRY LAKES ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024



Photo credit: Olly Berry

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. June planting day

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.
- Provide resources (volunteer time, funding, equipment) to complement and assist the ToC in the monitoring, maintaining and improving Perry Lakes.
- 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 group¹'.

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.

¹ 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

At the end of the 2023-24 financial year we had 143 members

Comprising 38 family memberships
33 individual memberships

At the time of writing (August 2024) memberships have decreased to 74.

A part of this decrease could be due to some people who joined for the photo competition and did not renew but unfortunately there are a fair number of people (73) who have not renewed their memberships for 2025.

Membership fees remain at \$40 for families and \$30 for individuals for the financial year

Our Strategic Plan

The strategic plan developed in 2022 remains one of our guiding documents and we have worked hard to progress those objectives over the past year.

Friends of Perry Lakes Strategic Plan

2030 Vision: *Perry Lakes is a healthy and thriving natural environment that is a sanctuary for wildlife and the community*



Strategic Priorities and Objectives: 2023-2025



Enhance Habitats for Native Species

- Participate in the control and elimination of **targeted weeds**
- Participate in **native vegetation** re-establishment
- Advocate for enhanced native vegetation planting increasing **habitat establishment** and community enjoyment



Support Healthy Water Quality and Levels

- Understand impact of **water levels** on flora and fauna and advocate to maintain levels that support wildlife year round
- Influence water level and quality **monitoring** actions and broad communication of results
- Engage the community to identify and prevent **pollution**



Enhance Fauna Populations and Diversity

- Understand current **fauna populations** and their dynamics and monitor indicators of ecosystem health
- Understand **habitat needs** of fauna occupying Perry lakes and surrounding parklands to inform advocacy efforts
- **Enable the community** to increase their knowledge, appreciation and guardianship of native fauna



Connect People

- Establish a sustainable, interesting and meaningful **membership offering**
- Establish sustainable **management committee** processes that actively engage members and utilise their skills
- Develop **effective relationships** and trust with key stakeholders including the Town of Cambridge



Our Management Committee

The following individuals were elected to the management committee at the 2023 AGM.

Chairperson	Greg Harrison
Deputy Chairperson	Paul Brown
Secretary	Nolan Penning
Treasurer	Cathy Wallace
Works Coordinator	Tony Harding
Education Officer	Don McFarlane
Promotions Officer	Heather Eaton
Wildlife Coordinator	Martyn French
Projects Coordinator	Karyn Hodby

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>).

Chairperson's Report

Welcome to our second Annual Report.

This financial year saw the establishment of a new committee structure with the creation of the Promotions, Projects and Wildlife roles to enhance the ability of your committee to improve communications and activities.

We've had a productive year resulting in the award of Lotterywest Grant to undertake an ecological study to formulate our future plant selection and guidance on works. This project was largely undertaken in 2024 and is due for competition by 30 August 2024 when it will be shared with the FoPL membership.

In our third year of operation we have:

- Been awarded our first grant of \$15,000 by Lotterywest and enhanced by a donation of \$1500 by our local Member for Churchlands Christine Tonkin MLA to cover GST costs.
- Held four planting days and two evening planting in June-July, planting over 5000 plants in five locations around the lakes. 250 volunteer hours
- Held seven weeding days contributing 240 volunteer hours plus some 70 Adopt-a-Spot hours to improving the reserve
- Hosted three educational talks and one walk on various topics
- Continued to build up our inventory of gardening equipment
- Sought new ways to enhance our membership experience with better newsletters and educational talks.
- Increased our promotional visibility with new banners, shirts and cups.

The Town of Cambridge (ToC) has again been very generous in its support both financially, through donation of plants and services, as well as their ongoing guidance. We're very grateful for their contributions and continued support providing 5000 seedlings annually, weed spraying, mulching and augering.

We plan to also continue to work with ToC to:

- To monitor the water delivered to the lakes,
- Develop plans and locations for wildlife corridors between Perry Lakes and Bold Park, and in between the two lakes to create protected habitat for animal movements.
- Develop a path strategy and location plan.
- Research animal movements to better understand critical areas for planting for habitat.
- Request road speed reductions, more wildlife signs to reduce losses due to traffic.

Thank you for your continued support. See you around the Lakes.

Greg Harrison

Chair - Friends of Perry Lakes

SECTION 3

OUR FINANCES

Treasurer's Report

Financially, the Friends of Perry Lakes are in a positive position. As of June 30, 2024 the organisation had assets of \$10,453 (30/6/23 - \$8,261) with no liabilities.

We registered for GST from 1 October 2023 which enabled us to fully use the \$15,000 Lotterywest Grant and will enable us to apply for larger grants in the future.

Our income for the 2023/24 financial year was \$6,040 excluding Grants received. We received a generous donation of \$1,500 plus various donations from members which we are of course most grateful for. The photo competition also generated a pleasing source of income.

Our expenditure for the 2023/24 financial year was \$4,519. This included first time expenditure such as insurance and GST plus we once again purchased FoPL shirts. We also purchased an auger to help dig holes for planting plus a thermos for our morning teas.

An Income and Expenditure Statement for the financial year is provided below:

Income and Expenditure Statement				
1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024				
Bank Balance 1 July 2023		6,737		
Income				
Membership 2023/24	1,095			
Membership 2025	800			
Grant - Lottery West	15,000			
Grant - Volunteer Week	1,480			
GST Received	201			
FoPL Shirts	607			
Photo Competition	1,075			
Cash Donations	2,262	22,520		
Expenditure				
Grant - Lottery West	4,500		Assets	
Grant - Volunteer Week	1,246		Cash at Bank (net of Grants)	8,258
GST Paid	827		Tools & Equipment	1,595
Insurance	655		Spare Workshirts (20)	600
Promotions	834			\$10,453
Shirts	1,650			
Subscriptions	55			
Tools & Equipment	270			
Website	227	10,264		
Bank Balance 30 June 2024		18,992		

Cathy Wallace Treasurer - Friends of Perry Lakes

Works Coordinator's Report

Works Planning

The FoPL Works Plan was developed in consultation with ToC and covered:

- **Ongoing Weeding,**
- selection of **2024 Plant Species** and agreed **Planting Areas**
- a timetable for **Site Preparation & Planting.**

Job Safety Analysis both for hand weeding and planting were revised and improved. There have been no accidents reported in 2023-24 year.

FoPL Strategy: Participate in the control and elimination of targeted weeds.

On-Going Weeding

Seven once-a-month Sunday morning Group Weeding Days were conducted July - October 2023 and then March - May 2024. A total of around 120 Volunteers participated for the 1 to 2hr sessions with some deluxe morning teas being provided afterwards. As many hands make a big difference we saw great impact from these group sessions – well done to all!

Focus was mainly on weed control within previous planting areas and has resulted in marked suppression of common weeds such as Thistles, Blackberry Nightshade, Nasturtium, Pelargonium, Indian Sweet Clover and Bushy Starwort.

In addition, a determined group of active “Weed Warriors” undertook weeding beyond the group sessions in an opportunistic manner while walking in the Reserve, or more targeted in selected Adopt-a-Spots. Thanks to those enthusiastic members who have contributed a probably under-estimated additional 70 hrs of satisfying weed-extraction!

FoPL Strategy: Participate in native vegetation re-establishment

Planting

ToC provided 5,000 plants, comprising 2,520 wetland and 2,480 dryland species for FoPL to plant across 5 areas:

- East Lake – West side & Infill close to Perry Lakes Estate
- Infill Area between Lakes
- West Lake - NW & W sides

The areas were selected to extend from previously re-vegetated zones, to enhance existing vegetation or in the case of the infill area between the Lakes, to start to create protective corridor-cover for species such as turtles and quendas.

Planting by FoPL members and guests was undertaken over 4 sessions with some 69 volunteers contributing 183 hours to this rewarding activity. Cambridge Scouts planted the Infill Area between the Lakes over 2 evenings with 35 Cubs and Scouts participating. Thanks to Scout Leader, Jenne Brammer for organising her troops and we hope our link with the local Scout Group will continue.

All had a great time planting and though a fair bit of effort was required, the end result is fantastic with the plants now settling in under good 2024 winter rains. A big thanks to all who participated - your effort is helping create an improved environment for all the birds, fauna and insects across Perry Lakes Reserve!

Tony Harding - Works Coordinator - Friends of Perry Lakes



Planting Day Volunteers





Photo credits: Clive Addison and Paul Brown. June planting day

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 emphasis this year has been on capturing expert knowledge of the animals and plants that occur in the reserves onto our website. We also examined threats such as polyphagous shot hole borer, feral fish and eutrophication.

The main educational activities for the year have been:

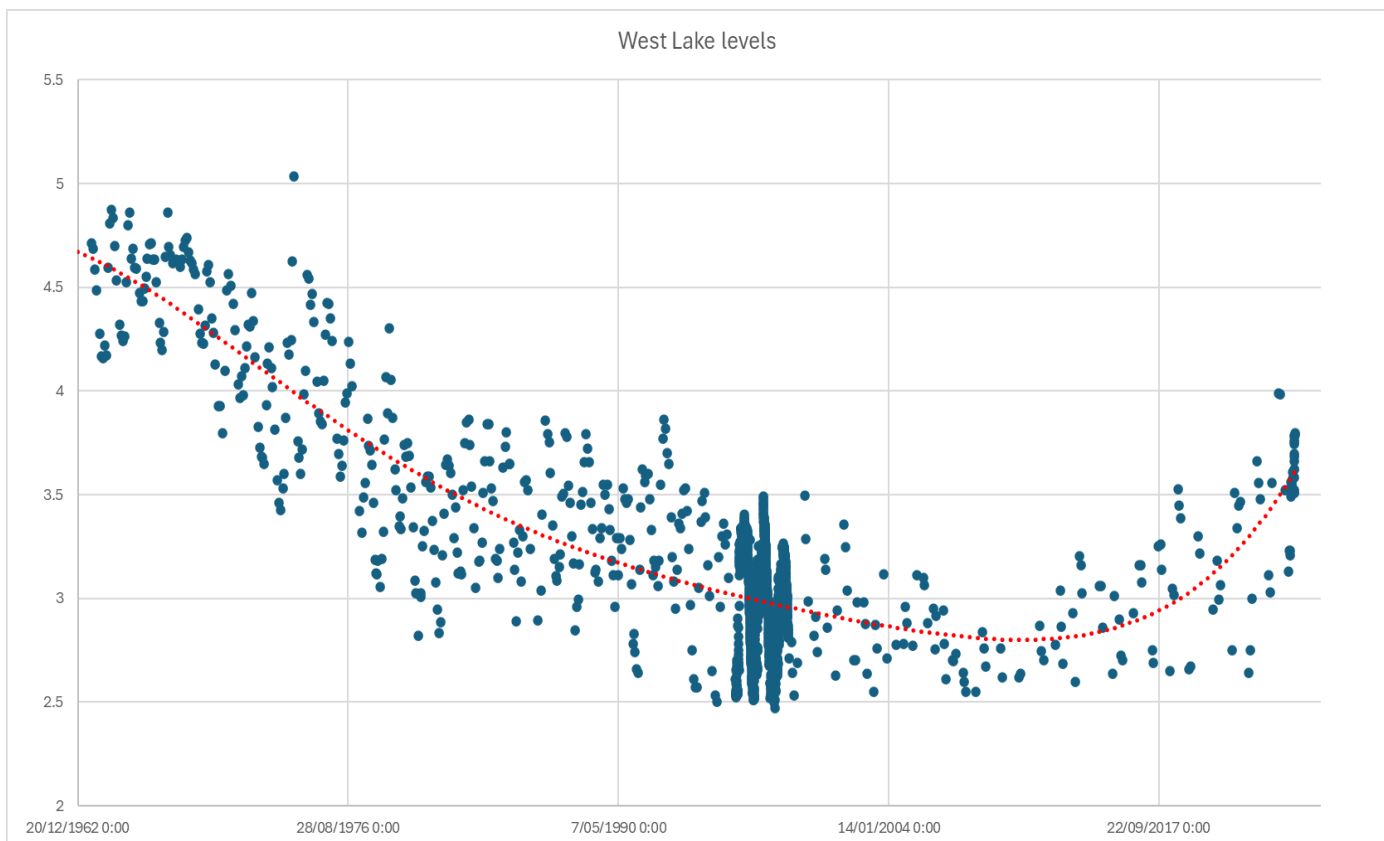
- Co-hosted a talk with Friends of Bold Park by Dr Jane Chambers on “A Kings Park to Bold Park Nature Link”
- Reviewed methods whereby lake water levels can be maintained or improved at Perry Lakes and other wetlands. This was part of the Friends of Lake Claremont nighttime chats. The talk, which has since been viewed by 175 people, can be viewed at: <https://www.facebook.com/folcwa/videos/978975566517654/>
- A talk on “An overview of Perry Lakes and its management” was given to residents of Eden West and Eden East. It can be viewed at: <https://friendsofperrylakes.org/educational-videos-1>
- These two talks interpreted data collected by the Town of Cambridge and others to make them available to a wider audience.
- Hosted a visit by Dr Barbara Robson from Murdoch University to better understand the vegetation and macroinvertebrates that exist on the reserves.
- Gave a talk on Perry Lakes to the WA Self Funded Retirees.
- Participated at a Volunteer's Week function where a talk on Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer was given by Jane Yang from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.
- Increased the frequency of lake levels readings using Citizen Scientists. Requested that the staff gauge on West Lake be increased by DWER (it was, just before the old one was inundated). Sourced information on how lake volumes and areas change with water levels. Daily readings are being made to better understand the lake water balances. It was heartening in 2023 to observe water levels in East Lake rising after groundwater flowed into it from West Lake which is being maintained at a higher level because of the diversion of water from the Herdsman to Floreat main drain. The balance pipe is therefore unnecessary and may pollute East Lake with nutrients, feral fish and toxic algal cysts if kept open.
- Assembled lake water levels (see plot of West Lake below).
- Working with the Town to start monitoring water quality measurements.
- Identified the street drains that discharge into each lake.
- Contributed technical knowledge to the ecological plan being developed by Natural Area using Lotterywest funding.

Don McFarlane

Education Officer - Friends of Perry Lakes



Field monitoring equipment



About 1500 reading from West Lake have been taken since 1962

Promotions Report

The objective of the promotions portfolio is to maintain a strong connection with our members and raise community awareness of the group and its activities.



Engagement and Communications Strategy

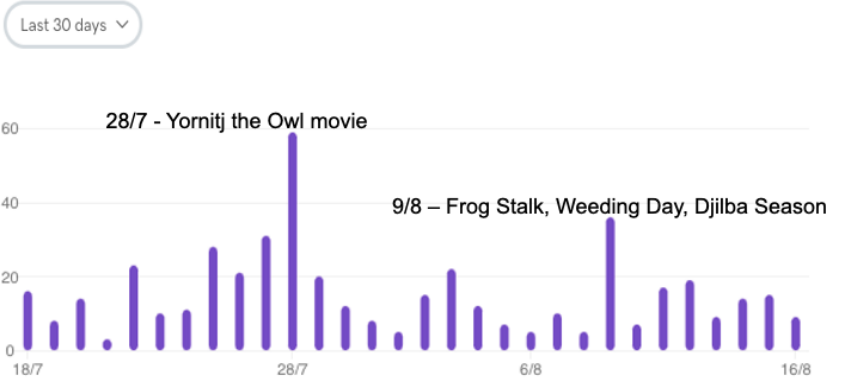
The first half of 2024 marked a significant strategy to enhance engagement and information accessibility with our membership base and interested parties. We added 12 new pages to our website, showcasing the rich biodiversity of Perry Lakes Reserve, including extensive documentation on the flora and fauna, as well as the various environmental threats facing the area. These additions reflect our commitment to providing valuable insights and fostering community awareness of this natural space. *For their valuable writing, input and management of this content, we thank: Olly Berry, Paul Brown, Andrew Burbidge, Tony Harding, Don McFarlane, Martyn French, Rick How, Jiri Lochman, Norm McKenzie, Nicki Mitchell, Margaret Owen, Viv Read and Beth Walker.*

Performance at a glance:

	Content: 12 additional pages on Flora, Fauna and Threats. Videos: Additions: 1, Overview of Perry Lakes and their Management 16 July 2024 by Dr Don McFarlane. 2. “Volunteering for Perry Lakes’ with Clive Addison and Trish McGarry. Visitors to site: 6195 in the past 12 months. 106% inc. since 2023 (3000 visitors) Performance: 83% score compared to similar organisations. Equivalent to visitor engagement.
	Current Friends of Perry Lakes Facebook members: 274 Inc over 2023: 45% (188 members)
 Email Marketing	Subscribers: Increase of 20%. 173 subscribers in Jan 2023 to 209 in mid-Aug 2024. Emails delivered: 18 between Jan - Aug 2024
	Free articles in Post Newspapers: 1. October 2023 1 x featuring winner of Floreat Forum People’s Choice Award in FoPL Photo Competition – October 2024. 2. 10 May 2024 1 x Volunteer Week Celebration notification in ToC’s News page. Paid advertisement in Post: 18 May 2024 promoting Volunteer Week event.

Email Marketing. Our primary communication medium was via our email marketing platform. From January 2024 to mid-August 2024 (at the time of writing), we delivered 18 emails promoting our regular activities (weeding, planting, mulching), wildlife citizen science projects, and the like. Emails were strategically designed to drive full engagement by linking subscribers to website content, as indicated in the monthly graph to the right. Our email subscriber base grew by 20% between Jan 2023 and Aug 2024, with a minimal unsubscribe rate.

471 Site Visitors



Social Media. Promotions co-administers the Friends of Perry Lakes Facebook page with our Education Officer. Followers of our page include a diverse range of individuals. Minimal moderation is required, with a few exceptions:

- We added a participation question: 'Do you live in Perth, Western Australia?' to address confusion from US users mistaking our group for one associated with Perry Lake in Michigan.
- Additional rules were implemented to prohibit promotion, spam, hate speech or bullying, alongside the existing "Be Kind and Courteous" guideline. All are standard for FB pages.
- We removed a post from a member promoting their air-conditioning business and redirected them to a local community business group designed for such activities.

Events. Volunteer Week 25 May 2024. A thank you event for our volunteers was held jointly with Friends of Bold Park. 12 FoPL members attended. This event was funded through a grant provided by Volunteering WA and Lotterywest.



Attendees L-R, Elizabeth Rippey (Friends of Bold Park) Don McFarlane (Friends of Perry Lakes), Pam Ghirardi (Friends of Bold Park and Perry Lakes) and Nolan Penning Friends of Bold Park and Perry Lakes)

Graphic Design. We thank members Jocelyn Sisson and daughter Alexandra for graphic design assistance for press ads, flyers and posters.

Merchandising and Signage. Work shirts: We re-ordered new stocks of our work shirts.

Signage: We printed 2 x teardrop signs to build brand awareness during on-site activities and events. Mugs: We produced some eco-friendly coffee mugs for members to use at morning teas held post-weeding sessions.

We look forward to continuing to engage our members in meaningful and satisfying ways and encouraging new members to join us.

Heather Eaton

Promotions Coordinator - Friends of Perry Lakes



Wildlife report



One of the most important aims of FoPL is to enhance the environment of Perry Lakes and the Reserve with a view to increasing the abundance and diversity of wildlife.

A major achievement this year was the establishment of a fauna section on the FoPL website, which aims to provide information about the native animals that inhabit the Lakes and Reserve. With the expert assistance of Andrew Burbidge, Norm McKenzie, Olly Berry, Nicki Mitchell, Ric How, Viv Read and Margaret Owen, information has been provided on bats and other mammals, black cockatoos, dragonflies and damselflies, frogs, oblong turtles, quendas, reptiles and waterbirds. The information about bats was particularly interesting because it was based on a survey undertaken using ultrasonic sound detectors to record bat echolocation calls. We envisage continuous improvement of the

content of the fauna section and encourage members to submit high-quality images of wildlife or suggestions for updating and additions.

It was pleasing to observe the positive effect that higher water levels in the Lakes is having on the abundance of water birds. In particular, there was a notable increase in the number of great egrets and yellow-billed spoonbills this year. The ecological plan for the Reserve that has been developed by FoPL should provide the impetus to undertake periodic monitoring of birds, particularly water birds, as a means of assessing the success of habitat improvements. We are currently working with local bird enthusiasts to set up a process for the formal surveillance of birds that will include FoPL members.

It is also hoped that improved water levels in the Lakes will increase numbers of oblong (snake-necked) turtles in the Reserve. A database has been established to collect information from FoPL members about turtle sightings in and around the Reserve. In addition, a turtle special interest group (TSIG) has recently been established to consider how FoPL can contribute to turtle welfare in the Reserve, including assisting in the activities of the Save Our Snake Necked Turtles (SOSNT) program run by Murdoch University.

A very positive development during the last year was the observation of quendas in the Reserve, as well as in Bold Park, which we reported to the public through an ABC radio interview and a report in the Post. A database has been established to collect information from FoPL members about quenda sightings in and around the Reserve. Information from our database has been provided to a group at the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) that is monitoring quenda repopulation of metropolitan areas. These positive developments have, however, been tempered by the increasing number of reports of dead quendas on the perimeter of Bold Park and on roads adjacent to the Reserve. While quenda deaths are often caused by encounters with road traffic, it is also possible that some are the result of fox predation. We encourage ToC to work with other local councils and the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (who manage Bold Park) to ensure that fox predation does not impact fauna in the Reserve, particularly quendas and oblong turtles, which have been severely affected by fox predation elsewhere in Perth.

Martyn French, Wildlife Co-ordinator

Projects Report

CONTACT US

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Facebook:

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