

Friends of Forrestdale

THE FRIENDS OF FORRESTDALE (Inc.) is a community group dedicated to conserving areas of bushland and wetlands of conservation value in Forrestdale. The group was launched in April 1990 following a recommendation in the *Forrestdale Lake Nature Reserve Management Plan (1987)*, and has since played an active and valued role assisting the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) in the management of Forrestdale Lake Nature Reserve and surrounding Bush Forever areas. The Friends of Forrestdale is also dedicated to educating and informing local residents and visitors about the natural value of these areas.

Lake Forrestdale

Lake Forrestdale is located approximately 25 km south-east of Perth, in the City of Armadale. It was gazetted as an A-class Nature Reserve in 1957 for the Conservation of Flora and Fauna and today the reserve is recognised as one of the most important conservation areas in south-western Australia. Lake Forrestdale (together with Thomsons Lake) was designated a Ramsar wetland in 1990. Both lakes constitute a major breeding, migration stop-over and semi-permanent drought refuge area for waterbirds. Seventy species of waterbird have been recorded at both Forrestdale and Thomsons Lakes with 21 of them using the lakes to breed.



Top: Lake Forrestdale (west side); below: viewing lake from east side

Anstey-Keane Dampland

Anstey-Keane Dampland (Bush Forever site 342) in the Jandakot Regional Park in Forrestdale supports more than 380 flora species, which makes it the second most



floristically diverse of Perth's 495 Bush Forever sites. The site includes rare flora, as well as two threatened ecological communities, which are associated with seasonal wetlands. One of these is endangered type 10a, described in *Bush Forever*, 'shrublands on dry clay flats and the other is vulnerable type 8, 'herb-rich shrublands in clay pans'.



Anstey-Keane Dampland also supports a rich variety of wildlife

Key Activities

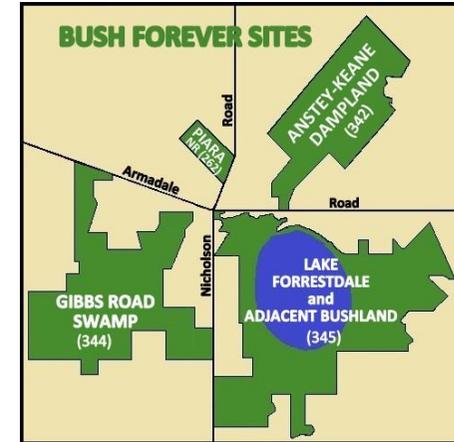
The Friends group maintains an interest in all bushland and wetland areas within Forrestdale including the Bush Forever sites Anstey-Keane Dampland, Piara Nature Reserve, Gibbs Road Swamp and Forrestdale Lake Nature Reserve. These areas include wetlands, banksia woodland and heathland and support a rich variety of wildflower and wildlife species. The group's activities aim to conserve the outstanding values of these conservation sites and rehabilitate degraded bushland and wetland areas.

The Friends' activities include:

- fence maintenance
- weed surveys and eradication
- bush regeneration
- bird surveys
- collecting water depth data
- picking up and removing rubbish
- guided walks
- feral bee control



Weeding, fence repair, mowing, feral bee control, rubbish removal



Road Swamp and Forrestdale Lake Nature Reserve. These areas include wetlands, banksia woodland and heathland and support a rich variety of wildflower and wildlife species. The group's activities aim to

Bushland Regeneration

The Friends consider rehabilitating bushland in the Forrestdale Lake Nature Reserve as one of their most successful on-ground activities because it is a growing contribution to the area and restores lost habitat for wildlife.



A Friends of Forrestdale bushland regeneration achievement

In 1993, the Friends of Forrestdale began a regeneration project on a block of land in Commercial Road, Forrestdale, which was cleared long ago by early settlers. Twenty years on, (2013) this approximately 1.5ha area (now owned by the West Australian Planning Commission [WAPC] as part of the Lake Forrestdale Nature Reserve) is a thriving woodland of species native to the local region: Menzies, Candlestick and Swamp Banksias; Prickly Bark; Jacksonia; Sheoak and Tree Smokebush, with a scattering of understory plants including Blueboy and Mangles Kangaroo paws, now fill this sandy space that for years bore nothing but weeds. Particularly rewarding is the fact that many species of wildlife now use this regenerated bushland for feeding, nesting and shelter.

References and Further Reading

- DEC (2005) *Forrestdale Lake Management Plan*.
 DEC (2010) *Jandakot Regional Park Management Plan*
 Giblett, R. (1993) *Outer city sanctuary: Forrestdale Lake. Landscape*, Winter.
 Giblett, R. (2006) *Forrestdale: People and Place*. Bassendean: Access Books.
 Giblett, R. (2013a) *Black Swan Lake: Life of a Wetland*. Bristol: Intellect.
 Giblett, R. (2013b) *Traces of an Active and Contemplative Life 1983-2013*. Champaign, IL: Common Ground.
 Giblett, R and D. James (2009) *Anstey-Keane: Botanical jewel. Landscape*, Winter.
 Government of Western Australia (200) *Bush Forever Volume Directory of Bush Forever Sites*. Perth: Department of Environmental Protection.



A selection of wildflowers of Forrestdale nature reserves

Contact Us

For more information about how to join the Friends and to be advised about upcoming activities contact Rod Giblett, Secretary, on 93972874 or r.giblett@ecu.edu.au ; David James, President, on 93970276

Front panel, clockwise from top right: guided walks led by Friends of Forrestdale; Friends of Forrestdale removing rubbish from Anstey-Keane Dampland; Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*); Sand Bottlebrush (*Beaufortia squarrosa*); Menzies Banksia (*Banksia menziesii*); Southern Brown Bandicoot (*Isodon obesulus*); Australian Painted-lady Butterfly (*Vanessa kershawi*).

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