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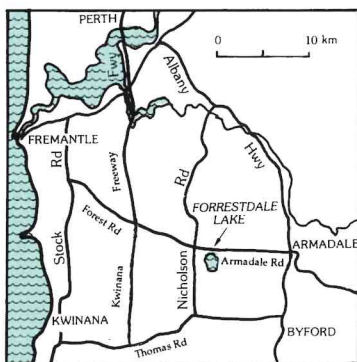
Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

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## FORRESTDAL LAKE

Forrestdale Lake Nature Reserve is one of Western Australia's most important conservation reserves. It is an A-Class Reserve for the Conservation of Flora and Fauna and is listed on the Register of the National Estate. The Reserve, including the Lake, covers an area of 245 hectares.

Forrestdale Lake is the largest lake in the southern Perth metropolitan area. It is shallow and semi-permanent with a narrow belt of fringing vegetation and supports more than 10 000 waterbird residents and visitors each year.



## FURTHER READING

Department of Conservation and Land Management, *Forrestdale Lake Nature Reserve Management Plan 1987-1992*.

Rod Giblett, 'Outer City Sanctuary — Forrestdale Lake', in *LANDSCOPE*, Vol 8 No 4, Winter, 1993. Also available as a reprint.

Rod Giblett and Hugh Webb (Eds) *Western Australian Wetlands: the Kimberley and South-West* (Black Swan Press/Wetlands Conservation Society 1996).



Department of Conservation  
and Land Management

Friends of Forrestdale

Forrestdale Community Association (Inc.)

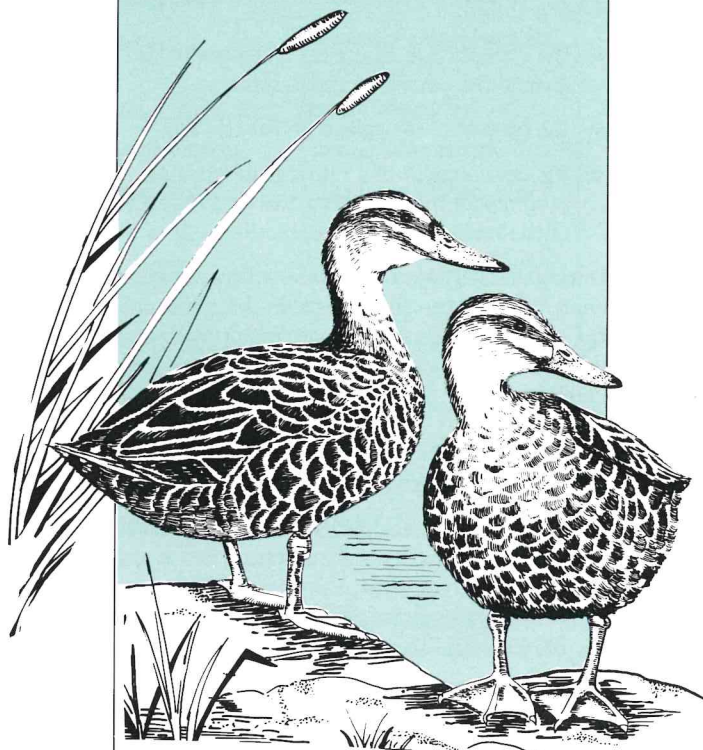
Wetlands Conservation Society (Inc.)

Forrestdale Plant Liaison Committee (Inc.)

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## FORRESTDAL LAKE NATURE RESERVE

*A GUIDE FOR VISITORS*



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND LAND MANAGEMENT

## THE FUTURE OF FORRESTDALE LAKE

In 1987, the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) produced a Management Plan for Forrestdale Lake Nature Reserve.

Some of the management strategies identified included:

- ❖ the control of the introduced bulrush (*Typha orientalis*);
- ❖ the construction of a fence and a bridle trail around the outside of the Reserve;
- ❖ the control of the spread of dieback; and
- ❖ the development of a nutrient monitoring program for the Lake which will treat the cause of the midge population explosions.

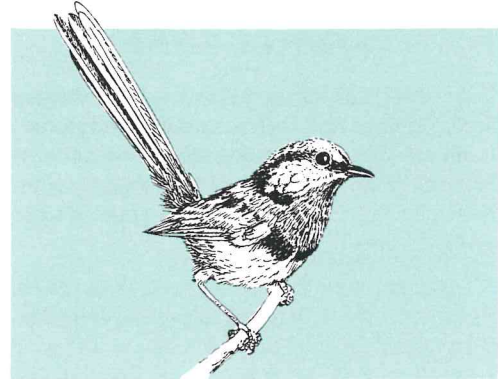
During the next 30 years, the Lake will increasingly come under urban pressure from the north and the east. It is a valuable and vulnerable outer city wildlife sanctuary which will need to be carefully conserved.

### The Friends of Forrestdale

The Friends of Forrestdale is a group dedicated to conserving Forrestdale Lake Nature Reserve and adjoining reserves. New members are welcome. For further information please contact Rod Giblett on (08) 9397 0094 (home) or (08) 9370 6051 (work).

## ON THE WING AND IN THE MUD

Bush birds enjoy the special environment of the Nature Reserve. There are more than 70 species living in the Lake's fringing vegetation. You may be lucky and spy a brilliant flash of blue as one of the more colourful inhabitants, the splendid wren, chases its insect meal.



The variety and number of waterbird species make Forrestdale Lake one of the most important wetland habitats in south-western Australia. Seventy-one different species have been recorded here and some fly thousands of kilometres to taste the delicacies that abound in the shallow water. The long-toed stint is one that makes the long journey from Siberia to enjoy our warm summers and, together with 13 other migratory waders, is protected under the Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement.

## INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

In recognition of its value as a waterbird habitat, Forrestdale Lake was nominated in 1990 for inclusion on the List of Wetlands of International Importance known as the Ramsar Convention.

It is one of only nine such wetlands to be nominated in Western Australia. Two lakes, Forrestdale and Thomsons, are the only nominated wetlands in the Perth metropolitan area.

By regularly supporting more than 10 000 waterbirds and more than one per cent of the known Australian population of the long-toed stint (80 on one occasion), the Lake satisfies two criteria for nomination. It fulfils a third criterion for nomination as a good example of a wetland of its type.

## ON THE HOP

A variety of other animals are found in the Forrestdale Lake Nature Reserve.

The most common mammal, despite its 'endangered' listing, is the southern brown bandicoot or quenda. A recent survey discovered many of these animals among the dense heath, rush, and exotic grasses.

Quenda are generally nocturnal and live in dense vegetation. Often, the only evidence you may find of their presence are small conical holes where they have been digging for insects.

Other inhabitants of the Reserve include 15 species of reptile, including tiger snakes and long-necked tortoises, and seven frog species.

## SEDGELANDS AND WOODLANDS

Forrestdale Lake Nature Reserve has a varied and interesting flora, which can be divided into four major groups. These are (from higher to lower in the landscape): banksia woodlands; acacia thickets; paperbark forests; and bulrush sedgeland on the Lake margins.

Some of the notable plants of the area include tree smokebush, which is locally uncommon, gnarled paperbarks, several banksias (Menzies', slender and swamp), WA Christmas tree, orchids and fringed lilies.

## ABORIGINAL SIGNIFICANCE

Forrestdale Lake was formerly known as Jandakot Lake. *Jandakot* means 'place of whistling eagle' (or 'kite') in the language of the area.

According to tradition, Forrestdale Lake is home to a powerful *Waugal*, or Dreamtime rainbow serpent.

Forrestdale Lake has been registered as an Aboriginal site of significance by the Western Australian Museum and comes under the protection of the Western Australian Aboriginal Heritage Act (1972-80).

### Scientific names for the species mentioned

Menzies' banksia	<i>Banksia menziesii</i>
long-necked tortoise	<i>Chelodina oblonga</i>
long-toed stint	<i>Calidris subminuta</i>
paperbarks	<i>Melaleuca raphiophylla</i> , <i>M. preissiana</i>
quenda	<i>Isodon obesulus</i>
slender banksia	<i>Banksia attenuata</i>
splendid fairy wren	<i>Malurus splendens</i>
swamp banksia	<i>Banksia littoralis</i>
tiger snake	<i>Notechis scutatus</i> <i>occidentalis</i>
tree smokebush	<i>Conospermum</i> <i>tripplinervium</i>
WA Christmas tree	<i>Nuytsia floribunda</i>

## CARING FOR FORRESTDALE LAKE NATURE RESERVE

- ❖ **BE CAREFUL:** Stay on paths and help prevent erosion.
- ❖ **BE CLEAN:** Put your rubbish in the bins or take it with you.
- ❖ **BE COOL:** No fires please.
- ❖ **PROTECT ANIMALS AND PLANTS:** All animals and plants are protected in the Reserve.
- ❖ **STOP DIEBACK:** Stay on the roads.



## THINGS TO SEE AND DO

**CYCLING** — a concrete cycleway winds through Skeet Memorial Park between Weld St and Moore St, and a gravel track (closed to vehicles) continues from Moore St to Broome St.

**WALKING** — walk around the entire Nature Reserve (1½ - 2 hours).

**CAR PARKING** — a small car park is located at the Lake (or southern) end of Moore St close to Skeet Memorial Park (see map).

**BIRDWATCHING** — Forrestdale Lake is a birdwatcher's delight, especially in late summer when, if the Lake is drying up, it is teeming with waders and water fowl. The best spot to begin watching is from the boardwalk in the Moore St clearing, then follow the cycleway to Swamp Rd and the trail around the lake.

**PICNICKING** — picnic shelters are located at the north end of the Lake in Skeet Memorial Park, which also has playground equipment. Public toilets are available at the rear of the Forrestdale Hall in Weld St.

**WARNING — BEWARE OF TIGER SNAKES**

