

Volunteers targeting the typha

Friends of Forrestdale Lake volunteers were enlisted recently by CALM to undertake a detailed survey and map of the weeds at Forrestdale Lake Nature Reserve, so that Perth District staff could carry out a weed-control program targeting priority weed species.

Reserves officer Rod Martyn said that the Friends of Forrestdale did a great job, mapping species, their numbers and locations.

"This was a major, labour-intensive task and one which the district would have had great difficulty in completing without additional staff," Rod said.

"Perth District has now finished the first phase of a three-to-five-year weed-control program, involving removal and treatment of major woody weed species."

Further control of other species, including bridal creeper and arum lily, will be undertaken in the coming winter.

The Friends will continue to help CALM, by conducting an annual weed count and producing a corresponding distribution map to discover the level of success achieved to date, and to identify species and areas needing further control.

CALM will use this information as a basis for future weed control and follow-up programs.

Forrestdale Lake has been dry for several months this summer, enabling the tractor-slashing of typha

beds to restrict further growth across the lake, and to cut firebreaks as required under the fire management plan for the reserve.

The Friends of Forrestdale Lake have provided CALM

with invaluable help in the management of the reserve, including slashing along fence lines to protect fences from fire, planning and conducting revegetation of degraded areas, actively seek-

ing greater protection of the reserve, and seeking Federal and other grants to cover expenses such as those incurred in building the boardwalk, signage, and brochures.



President of the Friends of Forrestdale Lake Rod Giblett (left) and colleague David James with CALM forest worker Andy Lange at Forrestdale Lake. Here, Andy is about to cut a swathe through a thick growth of typha weed with a slasher attached to the back of the tractor. Photo by Verna Costello

