

FRIENDS OF MAYLANDS LAKES

AUGUST 2019

While this 'mid-year' newsletter is a little late because of my prolonged absence overseas, it is in some respects timely, as a number of remediation measures, including the dredging of Bungana Lake have only commenced post 30 June. The delay in dredging was caused by teething problems with the barge, which have now been ironed out. At this stage, all going well, we expect the dredging to be completed in 6-8 weeks. This will be followed by another application of Phoslock on Bungana Lake.

The nutrient rich sediment being dredged from the lake is being stored temporarily on the Maylands Golf course. Once dried, it will be utilised elsewhere, essentially as fertiliser.



Barge on Bungana Lake.

Other significant works include:

- Planting of Pink Iron Bark trees alongside the walking/cycling path on the Eastern side of Bungana Lake. These will provide welcome shade, particularly in the summer months. These trees will grow to some 25 metres tall, but the lower branches will be pruned so as not to obscure the lake views of residents on De Havilland View.
- Pruning of the low branches from the Casuarina trees, removal of the casuarina saplings, clearing of weeds and the majority of Casuarina needles (which, because of their toxicity, prevent the growth of understory) and spreading of woodchips in their place. We are hopeful native shrubs for much needed understory will soon be planted in these cleared areas.
- Planting by the City of Bayswater of 15,000 sedges in the shallows of Bungana and Brearley lakes.
- A busy bee on Lake Brearley, adjacent to Hinkler Loop in May, at which another 2,000 native plant species were planted (in just over 2 hours!) Our thanks to all who attended, including the City of Bayswater representatives (in particular, Alex Devine, Catherine Ehrhardt and Elli Petersen-Pik) for their support on the day. Special thanks also to those who brought along mouth-watering refreshments for morning tea.
- FOML received \$1,000 grant from Perth Airport, for the purchase of plants. This was matched by City of Bayswater. The combined amount - (\$2,000) will be put towards sedges for planting in Lake Brearley.
- Replacement of the badly weathered floorboards on the jetties (excluding the out of service jetty on Tranby Rd) and gazebos on the lakes, as well as the bridges north and south of the Brickworks Lake, with synthetic timber planks. These last significantly longer than the natural timber.
- Installation of floating water quality testing apparatus on the Bungana and Brearley lakes. This and manual testing will continue for approximately 14 months. The testing will provide additional data, to better inform us regarding the condition of the lakes and the effectiveness of the remediation work undertaken to date.

- Replacement of some of the floating wetlands plants on Bungana and Brearley lakes, which were struggling, and modification to the rafts themselves. We are hopeful these new measures will prove successful, resulting in thriving plants and increased nutrient removal. It is encouraging to note that the floating wetlands on the Brickworks lake remain verdant.



Replacement plants and mesh (plastic) for floating wetlands on Bungana Lake.

Points of interest:

- The clearing/weeding of the vegetation in the drainage stream (Peninsula Rd – Brickworks Lake) undertaken by the City of Bayswater June 2018 and the subsequent revegetation of that area, by FOML volunteers, has proven very successful and the plants are flourishing beyond our expectations. This vegetation will better filter the water entering the Brickworks lake and hence that of the other two lakes.
- The FOML responded to the State Government invitation for submissions to the review of legislation applying to domestic cats. The committee considers cat owners residing close to the Maylands lakes should be required to ensure their cats are confined to their property 24 hours per day, seven days per week. FOML members and others have regularly witnessed with despair, domestic cats ravaging the wildlife, particularly birds around our lakes. We implore cat owners, especially those living directly opposite the lakes, not to let their cats roam and wreak havoc in such a sensitive wildlife area.
- Our new website www.friendsofmaylandslakes.org has been running for some months now and is an excellent source of up-to-date information regarding our lakes. If you have any suggestions for improvements to the site or would like to post information on it, just click on the 'contact' heading at the top of the home page.



Domestic cat observed stalking birds on Bungana Lake.

By way of summary to date, progress remains slow but steady. We believe the work undertaken so far, along with that which is in the pipeline, reflects a systematic and evidence-based approach to the remediation of the lakes. We trust this will in time bear the results we are striving for.

Thank you for your patience and support - rest assured we will continue our endeavours on your behalf, to the best of our ability.

Geoff Trott
Chairman
Friends of Maylands Lakes