



YOUR LAKES. YOUR HEALTH. YOUR COMMUNITY.

Healthy Lakes, **Healthy Lives.**

A free community talk on wetland science and community health

GUEST SPEAKERS



Dr Don McFarlane

Science Officer
Friends of Perry Lakes



Dr George Crisp

Doctors for the
Environment Australia



Dr Jeff Cosgrove

Aquatic Scientist



Prof. Matt Hipsey

UWA School of Agriculture
and Environment



Lake Galup



FoPL citizen scientists at work

Agenda

- Introduction to Friends Groups
- Citizen science at Perry Lakes - What we're finding
- Friends of Galup
- Healthy Lakes, Healthy Lives - Dr George Crisp
- Q&A Panel:
 - Dr Jeff Cosgrove
 - Professor Matt Hipsey
 - Dr Don McFarlane
 - Dr George Crisp

CO-HOSTED BY



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the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program.



natural resource
management program



What is a Friends Group?

“Friends groups contribute greatly to the preservation of local biodiversity. The Town of Cambridge recognises this contribution and is keen to support friends groups in their efforts to improve natural areas in the Town.”

Town of Cambridge Friends Manual

What does a Friends Group do?

Examples of Friends Groups activities may include:

- Monitoring and recording of flora and fauna
- Weed control / removal
- Guided nature walks
- Rubbish clean-up
- Seed collection
- Community education (talks and presentations)
- Fire prevention
- Planting

Town of Cambridge Friends Manual



4,000 native seedlings waiting to be dispatched at PlantFest

Where we started

- Friends of Perry Lakes formed in 2022
- It began with weeding and planting events but soon expanded to other activities
- Members monitored water levels, pumping operations, and the ecology around the reserve
- The Town of Cambridge provided water testing equipment and members were trained in its use
- Informal bird surveys were being conducted and ad hoc wildlife sightings being reported via our website
- Captured data lived across many platforms and not accessible to the wider community



FoPL volunteers learning the water testing kit supplied by Town of Cambridge

Where we're going

Centralised

database to store and
analyse everything we observe

New website

to share our data
publicly, later this year

Deeper monitoring

of water, fauna
and flora across the reserve

- With support from the WA State NRM Program, we're formalising and expanding what began as a community passion project
- Higher engagement across every citizen science activity — more people, better trained, more consistently out on the ground
- Creating a template that can be followed by other groups
- This funding is what turns dedicated volunteer effort into a program that can be relied on for years to come

FACILITATED PANEL DISCUSSION

Q&A with the Experts

Put your questions to our panel of speakers

Dr Don McFarlane • Dr George Crisp • Dr Jeff Cosgrove • Professor Matt Hipsey