

Diana Blackie
July 2026





Our history

Our mission is to assist in the conservation and enhancement of Galup, in partnership with the Town of Cambridge

- Informal group introduced by Christine Tonkin in 2021
- March 2022 – official launch, incorporation in May
- July 2026 – official name change to Friends of Galup
- All volunteers, mainly retirees
- 10 committee members, 30 paid members



What we do

- Plant seedlings in June, 4-5,000 each year (five years)
- Weed new planting areas
- Pick up rubbish round the lake
- Publish newsletter, Facebook page, website
- Community events
- Fundraisers and small grants, membership fees
- Enough funds to pay for insurance, tools, website and stationery
- Not enough to undertake any major activities.



Where are the water birds?

- We've seen very few swans this year
- Coots and duck numbers are reduced
- Pelicans visit but don't stay
- A few examples from Birdlife WA frequency data

	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
• Black Swan	49	5
• Eurasian Coot	52	11
• Musk duck	44	5
• Pink-eared duck	43	0









Water Quality

- In 2024 the Town of Cambridge produced a ten-year management plan for the lake and its surroundings.
- Concentrated on recreational and cultural issues
- Did not address the water quality issues
- Planting sedges to filter water, Swales, Electrofishing.





- Main issue is **eutrophication**, or nutrient enrichment
- Results in toxic algal blooms between about October and May
- Have been reported for at least 45 years
- November 2025 readings especially high
- Blooms remove food like macroinvertebrates and green algae - essential for native waterbirds, frogs and turtles.
- Increases problems of midges, mosquitoes, odour, and risk of avian botulism.
- Now more intense and longer lasting



- Twice-yearly testing has shown nitrogen levels rising sharply
- Phosphorus readings have dropped – is that good news?
- Algae can produce toxins that make people and animals sick, just from touching the water or breathing near it.