

# Friends of Galup



## TURTLES IN TROUBLE?

### An amazing turtle journey!

In October, we followed this turtle from the waters edge on the west side of the lake, across the lake path, over the green stretch across to the Dodd St parking area. (That's at least 100m!) On this trek she was harassed by the birds, crossed the lake path, and headed towards the school - which meant crossing the bike path. (Very determined - and we thought she might be following her memory of a previous nesting spot.)

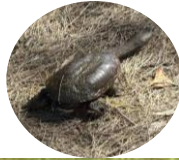
Then she disappeared!

Now the danger was even greater as the school bell had rung and the after-school circus was beginning. We looked everywhere - then started to look under the cars. And there she was - not going anywhere!

Finally, the car owner turned up so we had to get her out.

Experienced hands arrived (one of the pupil's parents) and, as he'd done many times before, carefully picked the turtle up and placed her under a flowering tea tree back in the green.

She disappeared again, and we can only hope she found the right spot to finally lay her eggs under the soft debris of this undergrowth.



## SCHOOL GIRLS TO THE RESCUE!

Why were three students from the Bold Park Community School on the northern pathway, huddling over something on their jacket sleeve? They'd spotted - and rescued - this tiny turtle.

No bigger than a 50 cent piece, this little chap had been trying to cross the main path.



They'd also spotted more than a few larger specimens in the pond areas just south of the upper viewing platform (motorway side). Great to see their care and concern for this little one!

## TURTLE EGGS PROTECTED

Karen Schmidt, Natural Environment Officer at Town of Cambridge, was alerted to this turtle nesting spot on the west side grassed area of the lake.

Not the best if spots for a turtle to choose, so a protective tape was placed around the area and other protections added.

Open grassy areas are danger areas for baby turtles, who are quickly snatched by predators when spotted in the open. We hope this makes a difference to the survival chances of this brood.



## TURTLE ATTACKS CARP!

It's not always a one-sided story with turtles. Many lake walkers (including quite a few Friends of Galup) were intrigued to see this sight in one of the ponding areas on the motorway side of the lake. This turtle was busily devouring a dead carp - quite oblivious to the onlookers.

# RECONCILIATION WALK

Many of you will have heard about the Reconciliation Walk at Galup on 30<sup>th</sup> October – and you may have been there. We were there too, and with our pink vests our presence was probably noted. It was a memorable occasion!



## Our green lake...

It's not a pretty sight – and is of great concern. But how come it's like this, and what can be done about it?



Stories abound, but Don McFarlane, (*Friends of Perry Lakes*) posted an in-depth explanation and commentary on our *Friends of Galup* Facebook page a few months back. We thought we'd share his insights with you:



Don McFarlane

A research paper and a PhD thesis have indicated that Galup has had a problem with toxic blue-green algal blooms for over 50 years. The blooms are by a cyanobacteria called *Anabaena*. It makes the water look oily and bluish green in colour. The blooms are triggered by phosphorus (P) which is in the lake beds having accumulated from runoff. Carp can mobilise P from the sediments and are likely to be a contributing factor to a bloom. The blooms affect food for birds, turtles and frogs. While not quantified, the duration and intensity of the blooms may have increased. They extended into winter this year and bird numbers were low. The government (DWER) has been experimenting with a modified clay that could immobilise the P. Hydrotalcite has been used in the Peel Harvey estuary and it may suit Galup. Unfortunately the latest ten year management plan doesn't mention serious efforts to reduce the blooms, mainly water monitoring and filtering runoff from the Mitchell freeway.



## Galup lake water helps in emergencies

It was definitely a bit of a surprise to hear helicopters buzzing over the lake early one November morning. And even more of a surprise to see them hovering over the lake and sucking up its water.

A bushfire in the western part of Inglewood created an emergency and Galup was a close source of water.

This highly effective method of fire fighting is common in the bushfire season, but Galup isn't often involved.



Support us by becoming a Financial Member of Friends of Galup. Go to [www.FOGLM.org](http://www.FOGLM.org) and click MEMBERSHIP on the home page.



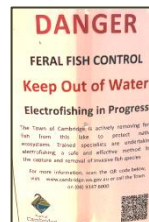
## FERAL FISH CONTROL

You may not have seen the project in action, but the Town of Cambridge launched its electrofishing project in December.

The contractors were very busy! The numbers and size of the carp were pretty astounding. (No surprise to our many lake watchers!)



We look forward to seeing them back again soon. We're keen to read their findings and learn of the next steps for ToC!



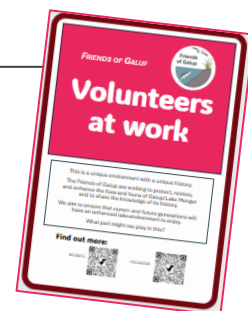
## LAST YEAR'S BUSY BEES

After September's washout, we had three great Busy Bees in October, November and December. Weeds were smothering our winter planting and we made an impact. The Town of Cambridge's spraying program (using chemicals that are safe for this environment), has also made a significant difference. But there are some major trouble spots!

The western side of the lake – where our winter planting was focused – is a mess. So that's our target zone now.

Look out for the signs we place around the lake to confirm the date and time.

We'd love you to join us!

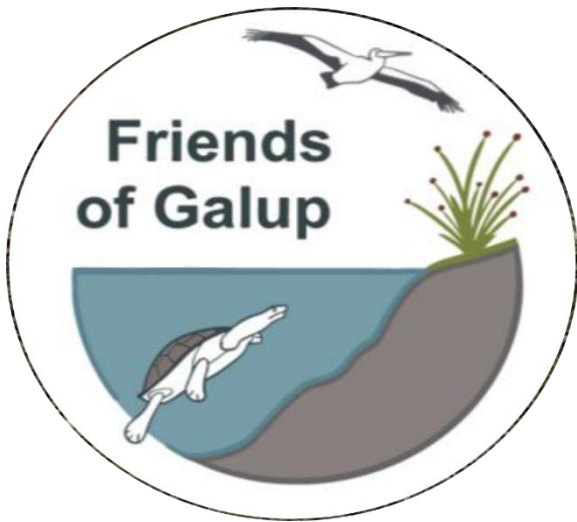


## When summer conditions threaten the lake...

- Clear rubbish around you. When wrappers and other rubbish get into the lake they degrade water quality even further.
- Dispose of your food waste carefully. Wildlife gains no benefit from human foods. Left-over scraps only encourage aggressive species and disrupt natural diets. Let nature feed itself.
- Empty your water bottle on young plants – then refill from one of the Galup water stations to hydrate yourself.
- Birds, ducks, and other wildlife need shaded areas more than ever. Leave them undisturbed

## What can we each do to help?

- Help with weeding in areas that have been newly planted. Weeds degraded the natural environment and compete with native vegetation and they'll undermine the changes of new plants surviving.
- If you happen to be a smoker – or you're with someone who is – be careful with those cigarette butts. It doesn't take much to ignite dry vegetation.
- In your own garden, use fertilizer wisely. Soil chemicals are flushed from home gardens into waterways. They increase the toxicity of the water in places like Galup.



Friends of Galup/Lake Monger (FOGLM) is a volunteer group, working to protect, restore, and enhance the flora and fauna of the lake and to share our knowledge of its history.

We aim to ensure that current and future generations can enjoy an enhanced lake environment.

Visit our website to find out about our planting and weeding Busy-Bees, and how you can contribute to the wellbeing of the lake.

## Next Busy Bee

### Weeding and Rubbish pick-up

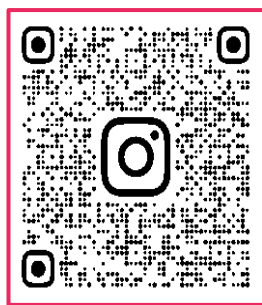
Meet at the Community Shed Carpark, (off Gregory st) on the West side of the lake.

**Sunday 8th March**  
**8.30am - 10.30am**

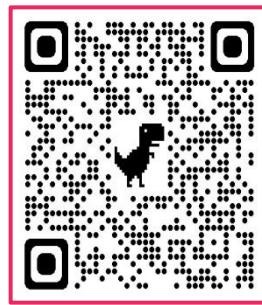
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