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Name the Frogs Contest Winner

Our new mascots finally have names: HIP and HOP

Congratulations to our 8 year old winner Frances from North Fremantle. She was super excited about winning the contest as she loves animals, especially frogs. She enjoys camping with her family and has been known to kiss a frog or two! But she isn't looking for a prince just yet and would prefer that the frogs stay just the way they are.

Frances attends the Beehive Montessori School in Mosman Park, where her favourite subject is maths. She also plays the cello. Frances won a \$100 Gift Certificate to Pronto in Claremont and a one year family membership to FOLC.

The contest was launched at the November 2011 Claremont Christmas Carnival. There were nearly 300 entries. Four judges had a tough job picking the favourite names. Two people had submitted entries of Hip and Hop, so the winner was determined by a tie breaking draw.

The frogs were designed and created by Gemma Carroll and Hannah James for the City of Perth's "Deck the Malls" Christmas window competition in 1997. The frogs were donated to FOLC last year. The frogs will attend FOLC special events and displays.



Frances with the newly-named FOLC mascots Hip and Hop.

Bats about Lake Claremont

One of the rainiest April evenings ever didn't deter 19 brave people from venturing out to search for bats around the Lake. Joe Tonga, aptly nicknamed Perth's 'Batman', led the group around the remnant bushland to bat boxes made and donated by Scotch College. Standing directly under, we peered straight up into several boxes aided with a bright torch and spied a few Gould's Wattled Bats. These microbats, about the size of a small mouse, were huddled inside staying warm and dry. Much smarter than us! On dry evenings these bats can consume hundreds of mosquitoes and other insects each. Joe pointed out that in the cooler months these bats go into a torpid state, a form of hibernation to conserve their energy and heat. If the bats are disturbed and forced to fly in the cold winter conditions they are likely to die.

Other attempts to spot light weren't too successful as there was so much reflection off all the water droplets. However, we managed to spot a few wolf spiders and heaps of moaning frogs hopping around. Perched on dead branches in the lakebed were a half a dozen Nankeen Night Herons.

Despite the conditions, the young kids and teenagers delighted in the torrential downpour at times with whoops and gasps of "Cool!" Sorry, due to the rain, no pictures taken!

Community Service Update

Summer term was hot, but that didn't deter the year 10 boys doing their community service work. Most Friday afternoons 15-20 boys from Scotch College and Christ Church Grammar School join forces to do projects around Lake Claremont headed by FOLC members Heidi Hardisty and Cr. Bruce Haynes. The boys accomplished heaps in 7 afternoons: collecting seeds from the pale rushes, weeding, removing bamboo planting stakes from the previous year and trimming back invasive Cape Lilac trees and new suckers to make way for planting this winter. The boys did a commendable job weeding which is vital to the success of our planting projects! As part of the program, the FOLC ask the boys to reflect on questions such as "Why are we weeding?" "Why is the Lake here?" "Why are we rehabilitating it?" "Why are wetlands important?" and "Why are we doing community service?"

Ted's Corner

By Georgia Johnson

New FOLC member Georgia explains how her interest in wetland rehabilitation has developed from such a young age.

Hello I'm Georgia,

I'm a fairly new member but this is because my interest in helping re-build our local wetlands has been fairly recent. Most of my life I have been concerned with helping just animals but after volunteering at the Shenton Park Dog Refugee for 6 months and completing a basic course in wildlife rehabilitation, I became more interested in the environment and not just animals. The two-day course however was very interesting, after finishing it you gain a lot of knowledge on how to handle injured wildlife.

Joining the FOLC and helping re-plant, weed or prune has really made me feel good because I know I'm making the Lake a more liveable and sustainable environment. However, since I am in my final year of school at John XXIII College where I am the Sustainability Captain, most Sundays I just don't have the time to get down and help out, in spite of it being something I really enjoy doing. But, I have even more respect for the other FOLC members who take a couple Sundays a month to go help out. If we had more generous and compassionate people like the FOLC members the world would be a much better place for it!



Georgia in action at the Lake

April Busy Bee – Preparing the State NRM Grant Site



Joan and Norma weed out Century Plant (*Agave Americana*)

A lovely Sunday in April had a dozen Friends removing century plants and invasive Cape Lilac seedlings to prepare for planting this winter. The busy bee site adjacent to Strickland Street Swanbourne is part of a larger 1 hectare area (northwest of Lake Claremont) that will be planted with native woodland species including Peppermints, Tuarts, Banksia and a myriad of shrubs, wildflowers and ground cover. A total of 25,000 seedlings will be planted by volunteers with the \$45,000 State Natural Resource Management (NRM) grant.



A magpie supervises the lovely tea served up by Jane after all the hard work

The Planting Season Begins!

The planting season is underway and the Friends of Lake Claremont are looking for help to carry out our goal of planting 50,000 native seedlings this winter. It's an opportunity to get your hands dirty and meet new people. Please join one or more of our 5 public planting sessions:

- Sunday June 10th
- Sunday June 24th with the Big Help Mob
- Sunday July 8th with the Big Help Mob
- Saturday July 28th Church and Community Day
- Sunday July 29th National Tree Day

Registration is mandatory. Please meet at 9:00 am at the south end of Strickland St. Swanbourne. The session will run from 9am to 12pm, and refreshments will be served. For more information please contact: Heidi Hardisty at folc.wa@gmail.com or 0416 614 696.



The dead Barn Owl found at the Lake

Who's to Blame?

A dead Barn Owl was found at Lake Claremont in mid-May. Barn owls and the Southern Boobook owl are common around Lake Claremont. Owls feed on small rodents, birds and some insects, frogs and lizards. Barn owls can be identified by their heart-shaped facial disc and are lighter than the less common masked owl. Breeding times are optimistic taking place when food is available. They generally nest in high hollows which can take over 100 years to form. The female incubates the eggs and both parents care for the young. Unfortunately many are killed by vehicle strike. Please slow down at night if you see an owl!

Calendar of Events – May 2012

| Day | Event | Time |
|------------------------------------|---|------------------|
| Tuesday June 5th | World Environment Day | |
| Friday June 8th | Planting with Year 10s and Big Help Mob | 1:30pm - 4:00pm |
| Sunday June 10th | FOLC Public Planting Morning | 9.00am - 12pm |
| Monday June 11th | FOLC Board Meeting | 5:30pm -7:00pm |
| Friday June 15th | Planting with Year 10s | 1:30pm - 3:00pm |
| Friday June 22nd | Planting with Year 10s | 1:30pm - 3:00pm |
| Sunday June 24th | Public Planting Morning with Big Help Mob | 9.00am - 12.00pm |
| Friday June 29th | Planting with Year 10s | 1:30pm - 3:00pm |

Besides work on the ground, we also need help behind the scenes. We are looking for volunteers to help out with memberships, communication, minute taking, special events, publicity and more! Please contact us if you have some time to give.

The Friends of Lake Claremont Ltd. (FOLC) is a community organization established and run by local residents all of whom are volunteers.

Our mission is to assist in the conservation and enhancement of Lake Claremont, a Conservation Category Wetland and Bush Forever Site

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