



Friends of Lake Claremont News

Editor: Adnan Visram

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Inside this issue:

- Pride of Australia p.1
- Possums Playing p.2
- 2013 Planting Highlights p.2 - 7
- Oblong Turtles p.8
- Calendar p.9

Pride of Australia

Heidi Hardisty was awarded the national Pride of Australia Medal, Environment Category, in November. "I have been recognized for my volunteer work restoring Lake Claremont and inspiring hundreds of volunteers to assist and make a difference", Heidi said. "It is a great personal honour, but I couldn't have achieved it without the continual support of the community, the Town of Claremont and the Friends of Lake Claremont."

After winning the award, she was a special guest at a Claremont Council meeting where Deputy Mayor, Bruce Haynes, also a long serving Friend of Lake Claremont member, spoke of the tremendous contribution that Heidi has made in the transformation of the old golf course at Lake Claremont to native bushland. Heidi was then congratulated and thanked by Claremont Mayor, Jock Barker.

Over the past 5 years, Friends of Lake Claremont have earned State and Federal grants worth \$368,000, most of the money going towards the purchase of native seedlings.



Claremont Mayor, Jock Barker, congratulates Heidi on her award (photo by Hilary Heptinstall)

Possums Playing

A Brushtail possum was spotted on the edge of the remnant bushland at Lake Claremont on a dark winter's night last June. These nocturnal animals are one of the few mammals that have been able to adapt to an urban environment. Although possums are not threatened, their populations continue to decline. They eat a wide variety of food, preferring to eat vegetation like leaves, flowers, and fruits; but they will also eat meat like birds and eggs. They spend their days tucked away in cosy hollows.



Brushtail Possums (from Wikipedia)

Brushtail possums are preyed upon by foxes, cats and large monitors, all present around Lake Claremont. Another good reason to keep cats in at night!

Although possums can cause problems for humans, like being noisy tenants in the attic, the presence of possums is generally a positive sign that we are preserving and enhancing the environment in which they live. It is very encouraging we still have possums in the middle of Claremont!

Looking Back at 2013: The Biggest Year Ever!

The Friends of Lake Claremont are celebrating an extraordinary year. Over 83,000 native seedlings were planted in and around Lake Claremont with the help of nearly 1000 volunteers from the local and wider communities. The plant survival rate has been high, in part because of an extensive weed management program coordinated by the Town of Claremont. We held 3 major fundraising events, a members' barbecue, Clean Up Australia Day, National Tree Day and participated in Celebrate Lake Claremont Day. This also marked the fifth year that the FOLC have run the Community Service Program with Year 10 students from Scotch College and Christ Church Grammar School. And we have had over 5000 hits on our website!

We have also obtained 2 additional grants which amount to another \$58,000. (Story next edition)

2013 Planting Highlights

Over 1000 volunteers came from near and far to assist with the planting of 83,000 seedlings. The FOLC coordinated and led over 50 planting sessions with local residents, corporations, community groups and students from local schools and universities. In addition, the FOLC continued to develop a great relationship with the Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA). Thank you to everyone for your great effort!

Conservation Volunteers Australia – 28 planting sessions – 34,300 seedlings

The Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) were the backbone of our planting efforts. From the regulars in Perth to corporate groups and overseas visitors CVA provide a corps of enthusiastic individuals ready for work hard. We couldn't have done it without them!



2013 Planting Highlights

Shah Satnum Ji Green S Welfare Task Force – 5 sessions – 21,000 seedlings

It was a blessing when the Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) introduced the FOLC to a group called the Shah Satnum Ji Green Welfare Task Force. This Indian group is dedicated to all humanity, volunteering for many good causes including improving the environment. The Perth group spends most of their winter weekends on planting projects in the southwest of WA and we were lucky to have them join us for 5 planting days.



2013 Planting Highlights



Local Residents Planting Day - June 9th – 1675 seedlings



Chevron – June 12th – 3800 seedlings



Church and Community Day – June 22nd 1450 seedlings

2013 Planting Highlights

National Tree Day at Lake Claremont – July 28th – 2600 seedlings

Every year this event grows in popularity. On July 28th, 125 volunteers turned up Sunday morning to enjoy the lovely weather following a wicked storm the previous day. The combined effort took under 3 hours to plant 2600 native seedlings. The “Buddist TZU-CHI Volunteers” group attended for the second year in a row and planted nearly half the total number of seedlings. “With local residents and volunteers from as far Mandurah, it was a great atmosphere”, said Nick Cook, one of four FOLC directors. “What a tremendous effort!”

The project to recreate woodland was funded in part by the State NRM (Natural Resource Management) program. \$50,000 was awarded to the FOLC on the stipulation all the seedlings purchased would be planted by volunteers.



2013 Planting Highlights

Big Help Mob – June 29th – 3000 seedlings

For the third year in a row the Big Help Mob were there to lend a hand. This group of young and energetic people volunteer wherever help is needed. 70 people planted 3000 seedlings.



National Student Volunteer Week – August 10th – 2100 Seedlings

To celebrate National Student Volunteer week, over 60 students from 4 universities (UWA, Murdoch, Curtin and ECU) joined together to plant 2000 seedlings on the wetland buffer August 10th. We hope to see them back again next year.



Why Your Dog is This Little Fella's Worst Nightmare

Oblong turtles in the Perth metropolitan area are at risk from dog owners who allow their dogs off-leash.

The Perth-based Turtle Oblonga Rescue and Rehabilitation Network has expressed concern at the number of dog attacks on turtles.

The Turtle Oblonga Network's Chair, Ruth Haight, said that many of the turtles admitted into care were as a result of dog attacks. "As well we are seeing many animals with old scars resulting from punctures by canine teeth" she said. "Recovery for turtles attacked by dogs is both expensive and lengthy. We only see the turtles which are lucky enough to be rescued. How many aren't rescued and simply crawl away and die a slow, painful death?"

"The problem caused by unleashed dogs is much bigger than we had realised. A dog off-leash is not under control; by the time the owner has reached the dog it has already injured the turtle. When dogs attack turtles, their canine teeth penetrate the shell, usually puncturing the turtles' lungs with the result that the turtles will drown if not rescued, and treated."

Ms Haight said that a common misconception is that a turtle's shell is akin to a suit of armour; that they're impervious to injury when, in fact, the opposite is true. "A turtle's shell is living bone which is easily broken and punctured." she added.

"It has been the experience of the Network's members that dog owners who walk their dogs off-leash invariably believe that their dog "wouldn't hurt anything" or that the dog "is under control"; a false belief which results in many turtles and bobtails lizards being unnecessarily injured."

"Dogs cannot resist reptiles; they can't help themselves but their owners can." said Ms Haight.

Protecting our turtles is one reason why dogs are required to be leashed at all times unless in a designated off-leash area, or at a dog beach.

What to do if you find a turtle:

www.turtleoblonganetwork.org.au

If you find an injured turtle please contact

Ruth Haight

Mob 0424 727 411,

alternative 0448 974 036

Email secretary@turtleoblonganetwork.org.au



Calendar February 2013

Day	Event	Time
Friday Jan 31 st	World Wetlands Day Conference – Bibra Lake	9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Saturday Feb 1 st	FOLC Members Barbecue Stirling Road Park	5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Sunday Feb 2 nd	World Wetlands Day	
Sunday Feb 9 th	Guided Walk: Lake Claremont – A wetland of great significance	7:45 am – 9:00 am & Tea
Monday Feb 10 th	FOLC Board meeting	5:30- 7:00 pm
Friday Feb 14 th	Year 10 Community Service Program	1:30 – 3:00 pm
Friday Feb 21 st	Year 10 Community Service Program	1:30 – 3:00 pm

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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Lake-Claremont/159586380873009?ref=hl>

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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