



August 2014 | Newsletter | Editor: Alexandra O'Neill

Friends of Lake Claremont



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Joan Tocock

Honorary Freeman

Joan Tocock, one of FOLC's most dedicated volunteers, was awarded Honorary Freeman by the Town of Claremont in July. This is the highest honour that the council can bestow on an individual. She was recognized for her many years of volunteer service in several community roles including: Meals on Wheels, the Claremont Museum, the Royal Agricultural Society, the Country Women's Association of Australia and of course the FOLC. Congratulations Joan, we are all very proud of you.

Joan thanked the town and made special mention of Lake Claremont stating "I hope it remains a park for everyone to enjoy forever."



Joan and 'Friends' celebrating her award at the Claremont Yacht Club.

Front Row L to R: Soozie Ross, Heidi Hardisty, Joan Tocock, Nick Cook, Back Row L to R: Linley Simmons, Norma Cook, Catherine McAuley, Henry Simmons

THE WINTER PLANTING SEASON CONTINUES....

It has been a fantastic planting season with plenty of volunteers and good rains to water in the plants. With over 40,000 seedlings planted so far, the bulk of the winter planting has been done, with only a couple of major planting sessions left. Not only have the FOLC coordinated and led volunteers to carry out their 2 major grant projects, but they have also been involved with 2 other special projects: hedging the dog off-lead area and enhancing the wetland buffer on the Scotch College grounds.

The volunteer coordination process is an enormous task that never ends. Already, planting sessions are being coordinated for the 2015 season. Heidi Hardisty is the main volunteer coordinator and runs most of the planting sessions with help from the FOLC members. Heidi's son, Zac Hardisty, was able to assist in supervising many of the sessions. And Hilary Heptinstall took on the task of scheduling the 14 sessions with local primary schools.

Thanks to everyone who participated!

Here are some of the highlights of the season. Check out our facebook page for heaps more photos!

Thanks to the "FORCE"

The stars this season were the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing. Dedicated humanitarian volunteers, we are grateful for their contribution to our community. In the four sessions they have attended, they have planted over 15,000 seedlings.



The "Force" with a few FOLC members celebrating their hard work after planting 5000 seedlings in one day.

The Conservation Volunteers

The FOLC have developed a strong partnership with the Conservation Volunteers of Australia (CVA). They joined us for 2 weeks in June planting over 10,000 seedlings! A crew of 7-10 people worked Monday – Friday supervised by the FOLC. In addition the CVAs set up corporate planting days with employees from Telstra and GHD.



The Conservation Volunteers planting a grevillea hedge around the edge of the dog off-lead area (corner of Alfred and Davies Roads). When mature, the native hedge will help keep dogs away from the road and be beneficial for wildlife, especially the honeyeaters. A row of Peppermint trees amidst the hedge was also planted. It should look stunning in a few years! The plants were provided by the Town of Claremont. Students from the Quintilian School and Scotch College also helped out.

Local School Support

We are lucky to have super support from the local schools in the area. Students have planted over 7500 seedlings to date! Thank you to the Quintilian School, Moerlina School, Mount Claremont Primary, Freshwater Bay Primary and Swanbourne Primary for each sending a class.



Special acknowledgements go out to Scotch College who are one of our biggest contributors and supporters. This year over 300 boys participated from years 6, 7, 9 and 10. Scotch College is also helping to enhance the wetland buffer with native seedlings along the edge of their playing fields. Heidi Hardisty and Bruce Haynes helped lead a few of the Scotch College classes in planting 1000 seedlings which the school provided.

Students from Moerlina School planting Knotted Club Rushes in the ditch leading down from Alfred Road to Lake Claremont.



Big Help Mob

The Big Help Mob were back for the 4th year in a row to create native woodland with funding from the State NRM (Natural Resource Management) Program. Over 3000 seedlings were planted in under



3rd Annual Church and Community Planting Day – June 22nd

Jessica Morthorpe (centre) from the Metro West First Third Churches helps the FOLC organize the annual Church and Community Planting Day every year.

Planting for the Birds - July 13th

Over 50 people joined in 'Planting for the Birds' in mid-July. Perth's many bush birds are struggling as the local flora is disappearing. By planting native trees and shrubs we are helping to provide food and homes for these birds so they can survive and live alongside us. The local community, the Shah Satnum Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing and employees from GHD and Main Roads all contributed to planting 2700 seedlings in 2 hours!

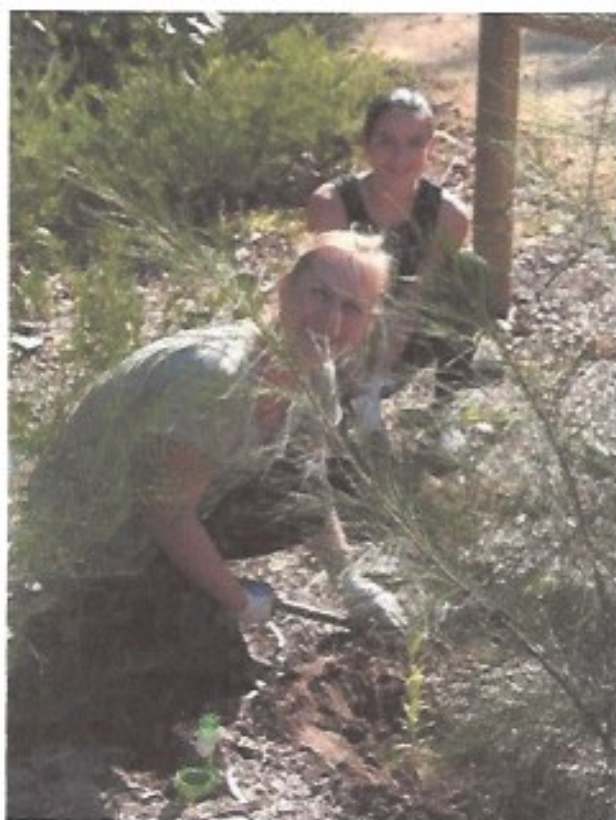


Corporate Planting Days – Thanks to all who participated!



Top: Woodside employees creating woodland – State NRM Project. Thank you to Volunteering WA for organizing the event.

Right: Thanks to employees from FUGRO-TSM who join us every year.



Telstra employees restoring the wetland buffer on the Community Environment Grant- Caring for Our Country Program

More photos and acknowledgements on the following page!



GHD and Main Roads' employees along with the Shah Satnum Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing joined the community event "Planting for the Birds".

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The FOLC would like to extend their sincere appreciation for everyone who volunteers and supports our planting projects. In addition we like to thank our own members who without their leadership, the planting days would not happen. Special thanks go out to Heidi Hardisty, Zac Hardisty, Bruce Haynes, Hilary Heptinstall, Nick Cook and Soozie and Geoff Ross for the reviving teas.

And of course thanks to Claire Brittain for applying for and winning the grants!

Donations:

Thanks to Bunnings Claremont for donating 60 pairs of gloves this year.

Thanks to Woodside for a \$200 donation to buy more planting and weeding tools.

GUESS HOW MANY HOURS WERE WORKED BY VOLUNTEERS IN 2013?

As you know, when you attend Lake Claremont to volunteer you're asked to register for the event by recording your name on a sign-in sheet. At the end of the event the number of hours worked by each person is also recorded.

We have started to input and analyse this information on spreadsheets and have just completed doing so for the 2013 calendar year. We are pleased to be able to tell you that over 1,100 different volunteers contributed a total of over 6,000 hours to helping to look after the lake in that year.

This is an extraordinary effort and your gift of time and labour is greatly appreciated. So don't forget to complete a sign-in sheet when you arrive to work at the lake so that we can continue to keep a record of your invaluable contribution.



LAKE CLAREMONT SPECIAL EVENT: GUIDED WALK OUR LOCAL WETLANDS - WONDROUS PLANTS GALORE

Saturday August 23rd

1-3pm

Please meet at 1pm at the south end of Lake Claremont, Stirling Road Park, Claremont.

We are delighted to welcome world renowned Bronwen and Greg Keighery as guides for a special walk around Lake Claremont this August. We will discover the amazing plant diversity of our local wetlands and why it is so important to protect and enhance what we have left.

Over 200 of the 600 plant species found in the western suburbs are only found in wetland areas. To lose these would cause a major decline in local plant diversity and the associated animals.

The Keigherys have a particular affinity for the western suburbs having lived in Subiaco for over 40 years, Bronwen spending her childhood in Floreat as well. They walk frequently in the bushland remnants of the area and are finalising a checklist of all known native plants for the region. Bronwen was a Principal Environmental Officer at the EPA and led the conservation plan for Perth (Bush Forever). Greg is a Senior Principal Scientist with the Department of Parks and Wildlife, has undertaken Botanical Surveys throughout Western Australia and has published extensively on the native and weedy plants of the State.

The walk is free, but places are limited. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

Email folc.wa@gmail.com, or call M 0416 614 696

OUTFOXED

There is one less fox to harass the wildlife at Lake Claremont. An adult female fox was caught here in early July. The Town of Claremont employs Animal Pest Management Services to do the trapping.

"We reckon there was just the one getting around but will continue [to monitor] to see if there is any other activity" said Shane Butcher, the Operations Manager of the pest control company.

It is vital to keep foxes out of the Lake Claremont area especially during swan and duck breeding season. Foxes can wreak havoc stealing eggs and killing cygnets and ducklings. If you see a fox please report it to the Town of Claremont 9285-4300.



Caught! A Female Fox at Lake Claremont

TURTLE TIME AT LAKE CLAREMONT

By Nick Cook

Regular visitors probably know that there is a resident population of native Long Necked Turtles (*Chelodina Oblonga*) at Lake Claremont. It's at this time of year that turtle eggs hatch and the baby turtles emerge from their nest and make a mad dash for the water. They are most vulnerable to predation from foxes, Raven's, and unintentionally by curious dogs at this time. Two foxes were trapped at the lake in the last month.

Not a great deal is known about the long necked turtles. The TOC and FOLC would like to know more about the local population and need the help of lake users and visitors. Anecdotally, turtle sightings at the lake are less common than in previous years, we want to know why. What can you do to help?

Please report any sightings of turtles at Lake Claremont to TOC (by email or phone) and/or FOLC (folc.wa@gmail.com, our website or Facebook), take note of time, date, location and weather conditions. There is also a free mobile phone app (ask your teenager) available called Snap, Send, Solve that can be used to take a photo and send to TOC.

If you see a hatchling heading towards the water, take a few minutes and escort it to the water's edge. This small act may increase its chance of survival by up to 90%. If you see a turtle walking away from the lake it is likely a female heading for a suitable nesting spot, if possible mark the nest, take a photo and alert the town staff asap.

If you are walking your dog please observe the signs which delineate on lead and off lead areas. Dogs are curious and it's natural that they will want to investigate a scurrying turtle!

Help from the public will assist us to learn more about these cute little guys and help us to protect them from predators.

OUR BIRDS

Australian Shoveler (*Anas rhynchos*). With the welcome rains filling the lake again, our ducks have returned. Ten species have been seen over the years and I'll feature some of them in the coming months. The very handsome Australian Shoveler is endemic to Australia and New Zealand. As it is said to prefer permanent water bodies, we are very fortunate to be able to enjoy seeing them every winter and spring. They feed on microorganisms, filtering them from water or soft mud with their specially shaped bills. The female is on the left, male on the right.

Article and photo by David Free.



IN BLOOM THIS MONTH

Spider net Grevillea (*Grevillea preissii*) is a small shrub which is endemic to Western Australia. The red flowers appear between early winter and early spring. It grows to between 0.3 and 1.2m high.

Photo by Hiedi Hardisty.



Like us on facebook!

Had a great moment at Lake Claremont? Why not like us on Facebook and post your picture and story?

<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

NOTICES

- **Adopt-a-Spot is here!**

Individuals, families and school/community groups are encouraged to join the program to adopt a small 'spot' of the Lake Claremont Park to keep it weed and rubbish free. To register your interest please email us: folc.wa@gmail.com

- **Special Event: Walking with the Experts – August 23rd**

A special guided walk around Lake Claremont will be led by world renowned biologists Greg and Bronwen Keighery Saturday August 23rd 1:00 – 3:00pm.

Entry is free! Register now: folc.wa@gmail.com

- **Swanbourne Primary School Run for Fun September 14th - 8:30 am – 3pm**
- **Bushcare's Major Day Out September 14th – FOLC Busy Bee and Guided Walk 9am – 11am**
- **Celebrate Lake Claremont September 21st - Stirling Road Park 10am -1pm**
- **FOLC Busy Bee – Sunday August 10th – Planting Weeding**



August

2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Year 10 Community Service Program - Weeding	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 Year 10 Community Service Program - Planting	9 University Planting Day - 10am - 1pm
10 FOLC Busy Bee - Planting/Weeding - 9-11am	11 FOLC Board Meeting - 5:30 pm	12	13	14	15 Year 10 Community Service Program - Weeding	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 Guided Walk: Our Local Wetlands - Wondrous Plants Galore 1- 3pm
24	25 Adopt-a-Spot- Weeding by CVA 9am - 1pm Keep Australia Beautiful Week	26 Keep Australia Beautiful Week	27 Keep Australia Beautiful Week	28 Keep Australia Beautiful Week	29 Keep Australia Beautiful Week	30 Keep Australia Beautiful Week
31 Keep Australia Beautiful Week						

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