



Friends of Lake Claremont

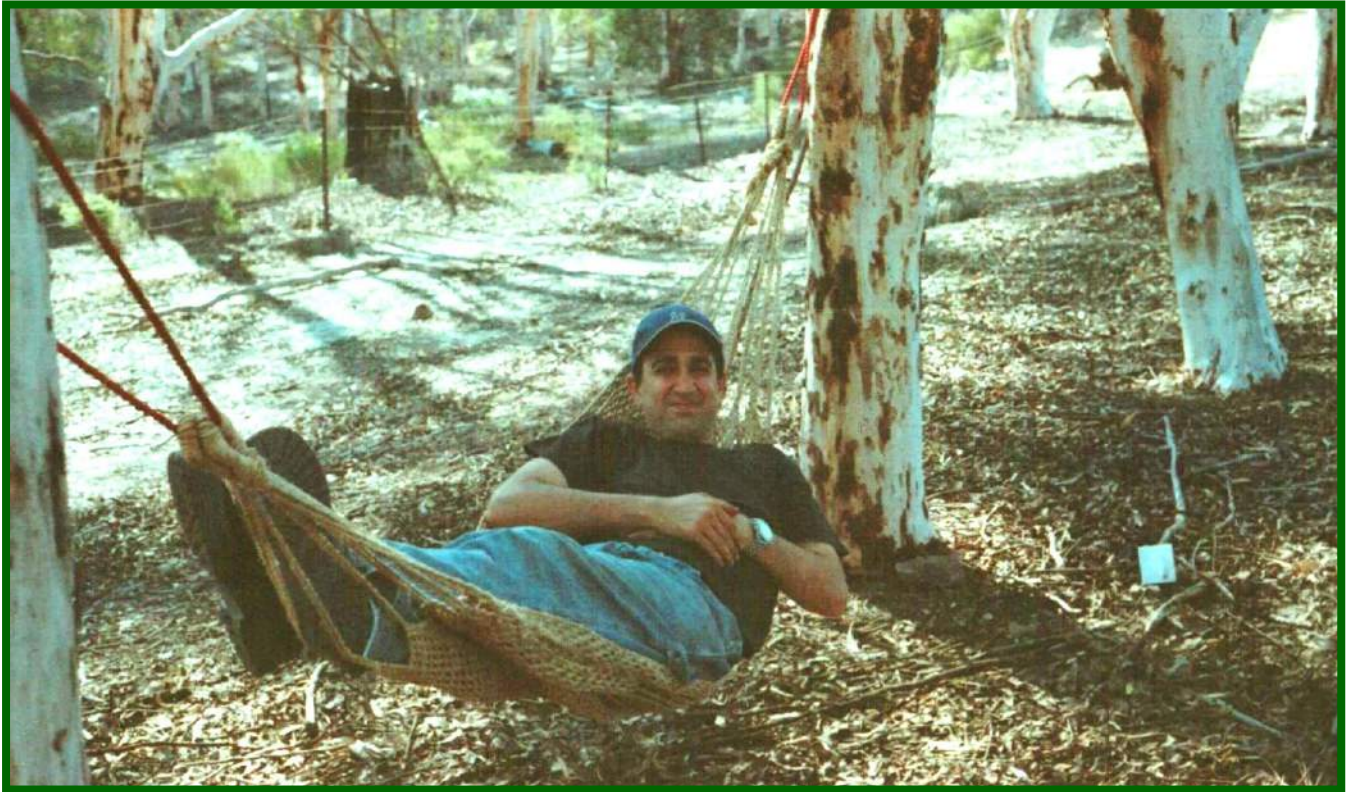


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Ted's Corner

Naeim Kashani



For those who may not know me, my name is Naeim Kashani and I was born in a Baha'i family in Iran - significance of this sentence later in the article. Firstly, I am humbled to have been asked to provide this article as I am well aware that there are many other volunteers who are much more active and involved than I am. However, having been asked, I put pen to paper... or finger to keyboard as is done these days to tell you about my life and my involvement with the Friends of Lake Claremont (FoLC).

Several years before the revolution in Iran, my family and I migrated to Sri Lanka where my siblings and me continued our schooling in this island paradise. After the revolution in 1979, the Baha'is of Iran were severely persecuted by the new government and what was previously a covert persecution was now government sanctioned. The administration confiscated two of our houses and stopped any income arriving to Sri Lanka. This meant that going back to Iran wasn't an option and we needed an alternate country to settle in as our stay in Sri Lanka was temporary. Of course we weren't the only ones, many Baha'is in Iran had not only lost their personal possessions but were expelled from their jobs, imprisoned and several hundred executed solely for their beliefs.

• *Continue reading on the following page*

So, like many other Baha'is, we applied and were subsequently issued permanent residency in Australia. Perth has been home for over 30 years now and we count our blessings to be here. The irony is that the core belief of the Baha'is is "unity of humankind", unity does not imply sameness and diversity is highly encouraged. Very much like the FoLC, where we are all from varied backgrounds having a common vision. Some other Baha'i principles are: "Equality of men and women", "elimination of all forms of prejudice", "one common global language" (as well as ones mother tongue) and "one common currency" are to name a few.

My involvement with the FoLC happened 11 or 12 years ago when as Baha'is we were looking to participate in a community building project and the council suggested the FoLC. Dear Soozie was tirelessly organizing the group and every month we'd get together, plant or weed or have an information session very much like we do today. The Claremont council wasn't that supportive and any request would take a long time to implement (like getting rid of the reeds). Finally, Vicky was employed as a bush care officer, which was the start of change. With the redevelopment of the drive in site, the removal of half the golf course and with Heidi at the helm it's full steam ahead. A while ago, an attempt was made at photo monitoring some key points, unfortunately due to lack of current technologies and experience it wasn't sustained. This is being revisited again and the three new sites plus 24 others (27 in all) are being photographed on a biannual basis. Hopefully by June 15, we'll have a mobile App that will make this process easier.

From a personal point, several years ago we purchased a property west of Toodyay which will hopefully become a low maintenance hobby farm in the years to come. Currently we have about 70 Pomegranate trees in various stages of growth and hopefully can make them less and less reliant on irrigation. Toodyay is very beautiful this time of the year, the road meanders through lush rolling hills with sheep and cattle farms dotted on either side of the road and Toodyay town is well worth a visit (which I tend to do at least once a week).

IN BLOOM THIS MONTH

Since the end of July there have been swathes of bright yellow bursting out through the Lake Claremont bushland. The pretty Prickly Moses (*Acacia puchella*) was the first to flower and a couple of days later all the Acacia (or wattles) were joining the show. The photo shows the *Acacia puchella* flowering through the fence with an *A. cyclops* or *A. saligna* to its left, an *A. lasiocarpa* to the right, and a splash of yellow from another unidentified Acacia in the far background. In addition to looking great, this prolific flowering is restocking the natural soil seed bank that will turn the Lake Claremont bushland into a functioning natural ecosystem.



Photo and text by Greg Simpson.



OUR BIRDS

Pink-eared Duck (*Malacorynchus membranaceus*) is endemic to Australia and is widespread where suitable water bodies are present. Like the Australian Shoveler, it feeds by filtering water and soft mud with its specially shaped bill.

Last spring they used some of our newly installed nesting boxes for breeding. The typical clutch size is seven but, as with other ducks, there is a heavy loss to predation. Males and females are alike.

Photo and text by David Free.

FIRMLY PLANTED

The planting season came to a close with 4 more events: National Tree Day, Planting with the Uni Students, Bring One Get One Tree and Indian Independence Day. And then good luck with the rain to water the seedlings in.

It was a tremendous success with the Friends of Lake Claremont coordinating hundreds of volunteers and leading all the planting sessions. Look out for the report in a couple of months after Annie Falconer has time to tally up the volunteer statistics.

A total of 59, 316 native seedlings were planted in 2014 in 5 separate projects (including April plantings):

- Creating Native Woodland – 35720 – Plants funded by the State NRM (Natural Resource Management) Program
- Restoring the Wetland Buffer: 20496 – Plants funded by the Australian Government’s Caring for Our Country Program - Community Environment Grant
- Hedge around dog off-lead area: 1700 – Plants funded by the Town of Claremont
- Scotch College Wetland Buffer: 1000 – Plants funded by Scotch College
- Remnant Bushland Infill: 400 – Plants funded by the WMRC Earth Carers

The Friends of Lake Claremont would once again like to acknowledge all the participants and supporters, especially the local community and the Town of Claremont.

NATIONAL TREE DAY

Once again we celebrated National Tree Day at Lake Claremont welcoming back the Tzu Chi Foundation who participated for the third year in a row. They made up almost half of the group, an impressive 83 volunteers. It was tough digging but the goal to plant 2000 seedlings in under 3 hours was reached. Half way through the work, Soozie and Geoff revived everyone with a wonderful tea. Across Australia, over 1 million seedlings were planted in the annual event which takes place on the last Sunday in July.



Creating native woodland on National Tree Day. To purchase the plants for this project, the FOLC won a grant through the State NRM (Natural Resource Management) Program.

UNIVERSITY VOLUNTEERS WORKING TOGETHER

Initiated by Volunteering Queensland, National Student Volunteer Week (NSVW) aims to celebrate, encourage, enable and recognise student volunteering across Australia.

On 4 -10 August 2014, a wide variety of events, activities, forums and awareness raising campaigns led by higher education providers and schools took place nationwide.

This NSVW, Western Australia held the largest event in the country with a collaborative, cross-University tree-planting day. On Saturday 9 August, around 100 student volunteers from UWA, Murdoch, Curtin, ECU, and Notre Dame descended on Lake Claremont to plant 2000 native seedlings in less than 2 hours. This was the second year in a row that all 5 Western Australian Universities held the event at Lake Claremont.

The event was coordinated by Adnan Visram, Chair of UWA Guild Volunteering and past Editor of the FOLC Newsletter, along with Katie O Halloran, Coordinator of the Murdoch Volunteer Hub. This event was only possible with the immense support of community groups Conservation Volunteers and the Friends of Lake Claremont. Adnan Visram, who is a student volunteer in his final year of a Law degree, said "If all you get from four years at University is a degree, you've missed the whole point of University."

This major event was complimented by smaller events at each individual University, such as a volunteer fair at ECU and a sundowner at Murdoch. Murdoch Volunteer Hub Coordinator Katie O Halloran said "It's important that NSVW makes student volunteers feel appreciated for their contributions to the community."



Planting in Unison

BUSY BEE AND BRING ONE GET ONE TREE

As usual, the FOLC got together the second Sunday morning of the month. The tasks were simple, plant and weed, but a bit special. The FOLC received 400 seedlings courtesy of the WMRC Earth Carer's initiative: Plastic Free July - Bring One Get One Tree. Western suburbs patrons were encouraged to bring a reusable coffee cup to their local participating cafes instead of using a disposable cup. In exchange, a local bushcare group received a native seedling.

The FOLC seedlings were planted in the remnant bushland to help restore the steep slope beneath the Lakeway housing development. While most of the 20 volunteers planted, loads of weeding got done too by Norma and a few others. Thanks again to Soozie and Geoff for serving tea.

If you haven't volunteered before, why not come out to our next busy bee, Sunday September 14th for Bushcare's Big Day Out?



Plantings in the remnant bushland may remind people to use less plastic and reduce waste thanks to the Earth Carers

INDIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

The 'Force' was with us again for the last planting session of the year. The Shah Satnam Ji Green 'S' Welfare Force Wing is an Indian based volunteer organization dedicated to humanity. The Perth faction of Indian ex-pats chose to celebrate Indian Independence Day (August 15th) at Lake Claremont by planting seedlings and enhancing our community. It didn't take long for this experienced group to plant 1500 seedlings (mostly dry land rushes) in the ditch that runs from Alfred Road to the lake. The 'Force' has planted over 17,000 seedlings for us this year. The FOLC and the Town of Claremont greatly appreciate their enormous contribution and look forward to their help next year.



The 'Force' was with us celebrating Indian Independence Day and the last planting session of 2014

ADMIRERS FROM AFAR

Hi Everyone,

I just wanted to write and let you know that I am so pleased to see what you are doing with Lake Claremont (or the swamp, as we used to call it as kids back in the late 1960's).

During those days there was a rubbish tip at the Alfred road end of the lake, which our parents banned us from. However, kids being what they are, we used to get down there on every opportunity that we had.

We used to pick up newly hatched Long Necks from the sand hills beneath what was then the Lakeside Drive in. We used to carry them down to the water's edge and watch them drop in and swim away.

At that time there was also a large reed bed at the same spot.

We used to catch small fish from the lake and keep them in goldfish bowls. An activity that would be frowned upon nowadays.

I would love to know what type of fish they were.

We also used to retrieve golf balls from the water and sell them to the golfers for 10c each.

The lake used to look beautiful from what is now called Mount Claremont. A very dark blue with almost white tree stumps projecting out of the water.

My wife and I visited Perth for the first time in over 40 years in January 2013.

I was somewhat dismayed at the lack of water in the lake (also the loss of water from the lakes at Yanchep).

However, I realise that times have changed since the 1960's and drought conditions are having a major effect on such places.

I am so encouraged by what the Friends of Lake Claremont are doing and I would love to become a member. Obviously there is nothing physical that I can do from here in Luton, England, but maybe my membership fee would go a little way to helping things along.

We are hoping to re-visit in 2016.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Long

Cr. Bruce Haynes – fish were probably introduced Gambusia to control mosquitoes



NOTICES

Adopt-a-Spot

Now that the planting season is over our full attention is turning to weeding. Individuals, families and groups are encouraged to adopt a kitchen sized plot in the park at Lake Claremont to keep rubbish and weed free all year long. All it takes is a monthly visit. Gloves and instruction provided.

For more info please contact Heidi M 0416 614 696 or email: folc.wa@gmail.com

Celebrate Lake Claremont Spring Fair

- Sunday 21st September 10am -1pm
- Stirling Road Park

Spring down to Lake Claremont for this fair with an environmental flair, discover some great tips for sustainable everyday living. Great environmental kids' activities.

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



Celebrate Lake Claremont

Great tips for sustainable everyday living

**Woodworking
Activity**

Face painting

**Constable Care
stage show**

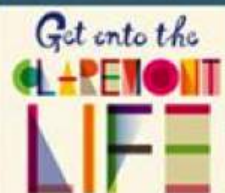
Rock Art

Damper Making

Bird Watching Tours

Organic Coffee

And much more fun for the whole family!



Sun 21 Sept · 10am to 1pm

Lake Claremont, Stirling Rd Park

www.claremont.wa.gov.au

Join us for



Bushcare's

Major Day Out

Join experienced Bushcarers and those who've never tried Bushcare before. Help us rid our bushland of weeds and help our native plants thrive. And enjoy a short guided walk of discovery...

9:00 to 11:00 am

Sunday 14 September 2014

Lake Claremont

Meet at 9am Strickland St. cul-de-sac

Morning Tea provided. Bring a hat, wear sturdy shoes and sunscreen. Tools and gloves will be provided by



For more info: M 0416 614 696



September

2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 Year 10 Community Service Program – Weeding	6
7 National Threatened Species Day	8 FOLC Board Meeting – 5:30 pm	9	10	11	12 Year 10 Community Service Program	13
14 FOLC Busy Bee – Bushcare’s Big Day Out – 9 – 11am – Weeding and Guided Walk Swanbourne Primary School Fun Run and Fair- 8:30 am – 3:00 pm	15	16	17	18	19 Year 10 Community Service Program - Weeding	20
21 Celebrate Lake Claremont Spring Fair - 10 am – 1 pm – Stirling Road Park	22 Adopt-a-Spot- Weeding by CVA 8:30 am – 2pm	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

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