



Tawny Frogmouth. David Free

A young Tawny Frogmouth reunited with its parents Photo by David Free

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In the news this month

Lake Claremont bushland has been a centre of bird activity this month. First came the rescue of a juvenile Tawny Frogmouth and then frequent visits from Red-tailed Black Cockatoos to the Cape Lilac tree at the edge of Strickland St. I spotted 16 cockatoos at one time on the tree. David Free has been a frequent visitor to the street and has taken some beautiful photos of the Tawny Frogmouths.

Although the planting season is over, the weeds continue to grow! The Monday weeding group is now meeting 7.30am every Monday. Norma should be contacted on 0413282515 to confirm the meeting place.

We will be one of the recipients of 'Local Matters' fund raising at Grill'd Café at the Claremont Quarter this month. We hope that members will take this opportunity to have a meal there! See details on page 11.

Tawny Frogmouth Rescue

Text by Hilary Heptinstall Photos by David Free and Terry Heptinstall

We had an unexpected visitor one Sunday last month. The family was here for dinner and our grandsons (just to be different) decided to take the route up the side path to our back door. They came racing back saying, 'There's a baby owl on the side of the path.' Of course we all went to investigate and I recognized it as a young Tawny Frogmouth. It could not fly and hissed when it was approached. The grandsons named him 'Twig'!

What were we to do? Contact Heidi Hardisty, of course! Heidi phoned the Society for the Preservation of Raptors Inc. for advice and they said that we should place it on a high branch of a tree in the hope that the parents would come and find it.



A forlorn 'Twig' on the side path

Eventually we managed to get the baby into a box to present to Heidi and Kevin McAlpine who came round with Zac Hardisty and a stepladder to reach a high branch on our next door neighbours' Red Flowering Gum tree. Zac climbed up and released the young raptor. (We live close to the Lake Claremont bushland so the Tawny Frogmouths probably came from there.) Heidi placed a chair across the street to sit and wait for action while have to confess that for me the attraction of Poldark on TV was too strong to resist!

I was very excited the next morning to find the young Frogmouth with both parents in the cleft of a branch of the tree and, a week later, they were still there. It is now a very photographed family with Heidi and David Free taking many photos, some of which are shown here.



©Tawny Frogmouth - David Free



©Tawny Frogmouth - David Free

It was very fortunate that a) the young bird was discovered before spending the night in the cold and b) that no prowling cat found it before we did. (Cats by law should be kept in at night.) The Society for the preservation of Raptors (08 6369 0705) are always ready to give help and information on injured birds of prey.

Turtle Rescue

Text by Nick Cook

This large female turtle was rescued at Lake Claremont. She was found by 2 young men, lying on her back, and surrounded by ravens. She had a small wound to her back leg but otherwise appears strong and healthy. We are arranging for veterinary care and, assuming a positive outcome, she will be released back to the lake. Thanks to TORRN (Turtle Oblongata Rescue and Rehabilitation Network) for assistance and Cloe from the Town of Claremont for the call.

Nick Cook with the rescued turtle



Can You Identify this Lizard?

Photo by David Free



David Free spotted this fellow sunning himself on a wall at the eastern boundary of the Lakeway development. It was late afternoon and he had been trying for some bird photos. He would be very interested if anyone can identify it. Contact details for FOLC are on the back page.

A Spectacular Caterpillar! Photo and text by Soozie Ross



Soozie spotted this beautiful caterpillar near the Lake. It is thought to be of the species *Trichiocercus sparshalli* which feed on various species of Myrtaceae including Silver Leaved Stringy Bark and White Ironbark. The caterpillars pupate in a silk cocoon in ground debris. There is a range of wing colours in adult moths.

Most are white, but specimens can be obtained from a light grey to a dark grey. The species is found over most of Australia

In Bloom This Month

Text by Heidi Hardisty Photos by Geoff Ross and Heidi Hardisty

This is the time of year that the Lake and its surrounds are at their best with such a beautiful variety of wild flowers, mostly planted by the FOLC over the last few years. For that reason, we are showing three lovely flowers this month!

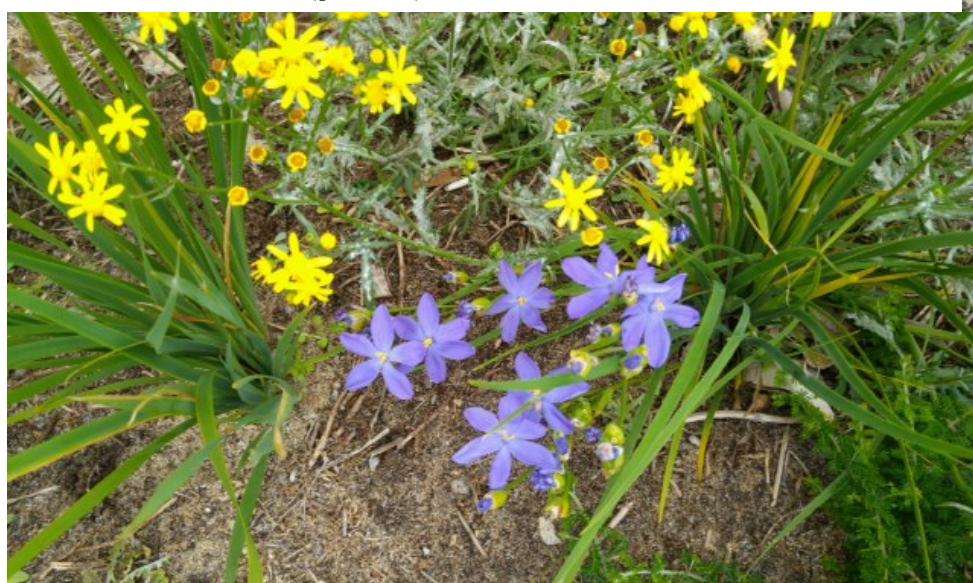


Melaleuca systema (left)

Melaleuca systema, commonly known as coastal honey myrtle is a plant in the myrtle family, Myrtaceae and is endemic to the south west of Western Australia.



(Below) Morning Iris *Orthrosanthus laxus* (purple), near Coastal Groundsel (yellow)



(Above)

Many - flowered Fringe Lily, *Thysanotus multiflorus*, planted in the wetland buffer this winter.

The Weeding Season

The weeds have grown extremely well this year due to the good winter rainfall. This has necessitated several weeding sessions and we have been very grateful for the help of various volunteers groups.

Singapore Students Weeding Session *Text and photo by Heidi Hardisty*

Thank you to Singapore students from Ngee Ann Polytechnic for visiting and volunteering at Lake Claremont. Heidi Hardisty led the group on a guided walk before the students filled up 15 bags with weeds. UWA Centre for English Language hosted the group for 2 weeks and we thank UWA for including us in their programme.



Weeding Session with Conservation Volunteers Tuesday October 11

On Oct 11, twelve Conservation volunteers spent the day at Lake Claremont cutting back native wisteria and hand weeding in the remnant bushland. Norma Hay with Heidi and Zac Hardisty led the group. They filled 41 bags with weeds mainly Whiteflower Fumitory from the remnant bushland. Thanks to all who participated!



Conservation volunteers, Rob (left) and Gordon (above)

OUR BIRDS

Text and photos by David Free

New Holland Honey Eater

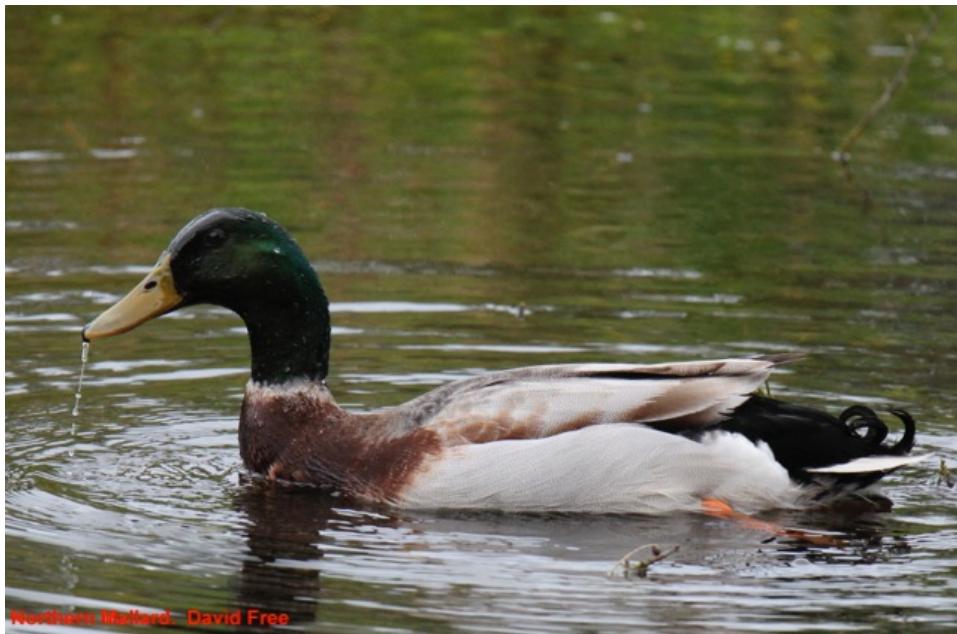
Philidonyris novaehollandiae

Honey eaters are loving the red bottlebrush (Callistemon 'King's Park special'). I snapped this New Holland Honey Eater. These birds, like other bush birds, are becoming less common in Perth because of the continued clearing of native vegetation.



New Holland Honeyeater. David Free

An Unwelcome Visitor



Northern Mallard. David Free

On 8th October morning I spotted a duck that I had not previously seen at the lake. It was a Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) a northern hemisphere species which was introduced to Australia in the 1880s. Mallards are a problem because they can hybridise with our native Pacific Black Duck. It is reported that in New Zealand pure black ducks have virtually disappeared as a result of interbreeding. The Mallard strain is dominant and in time the characteristics of the black duck are lost. Fortunately Mallards are comparatively rare in Perth. Kevin McAlpine tells me that he has seen them before at our lake, although not in recent years.

HISTORY HAS BEEN MADE

Text and photos by Soozie Ross

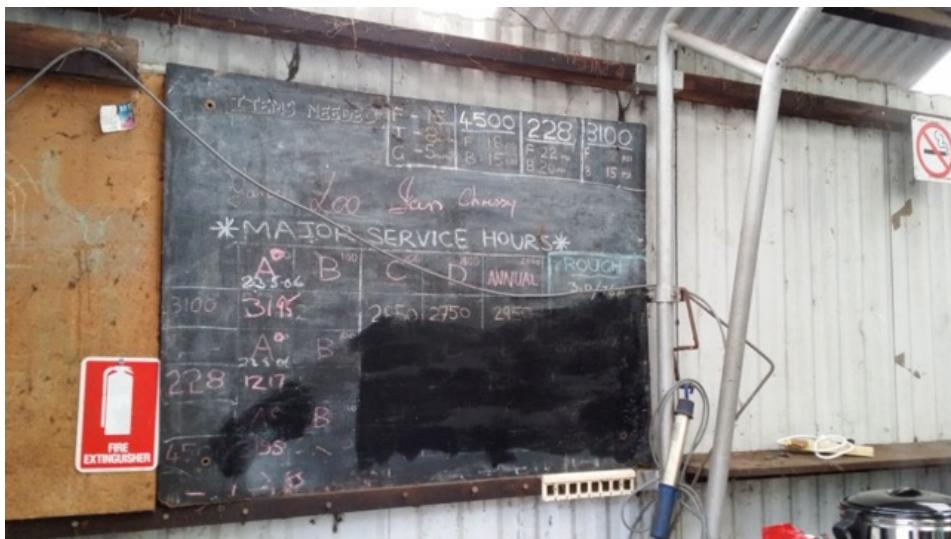
Sunday October 9th was an historic day. With the newly installed power and water supplies, we were able to use the old shed in the park to host the inaugural morning tea.

At last we have a real home for the Friend's group and we are celebrating! The shed has been used for storage of lawn mowing equipment for the Town of Claremont up until now and we have only had a corner to store equipment such as trowels etc. The Town of Claremont now has a new contractor for lawn mowing and, as they bring their own equipment, they have allowed us to use more space in the shed.. Heidi no longer has to take the tools over to her house, which must be quite a relief!

We had to do some cleaning up before we could relax and enjoy our morning refreshments!



The sink – before and after



Historic blackboard markings about to be removed so we can use as our own

Continued on next page

Historically I have provided morning teas in all manner of places. Originally when the FOLC was formed in 2003 we were revegetating and managing only the island on the west side, remnant bushland and lake edge on the western side. It made sense to base ourselves in the west and I used an old trolley which I picked up from the side of the road in the "bulk waste" collection to carry the morning teas. Sometimes I would host refreshments at my house in Strickland St, and in recent times we have used the shade provided by my garage and even the neighbours carport.

Since the friends group now has input all over the park and there is less emphasis on the western side it makes sense to have a base in the shed. I have moved all of the mugs, trolley and other equipment over there. It also means that anyone can run the refreshments and I can have a holiday without feeling guilty!

I have always thought that the social interaction provided by sharing morning tea to be of paramount importance for the people working in the park. Quite often volunteers are spread out some distance from each other and are not able to have much of a conversation while working. A good catch up, and well-deserved rest after the job is done is great for our group cohesion.

I should explain the history of scones jam and cream. We all know Joan Tocock and only a couple of years ago she would make strawberry jam from the fruit at the local growers market. Geoff started to make scones to accompany the jam and it would be finished off with lashings of whipped cream. Unfortunately these days Geoff's routine involves going for bike rides on Sunday mornings so we have missed out on the fresh scones (there's a hint for anyone who likes baking!)



Joan Tocock having the first coffee in the shed



Henry Simmons, Heidi Hardisty, Alice Thomas and Joan Tocock enjoying refreshments in the shed

I think we would all like to thank Soozie and Geoff Ross for their tremendous effort in providing us with refreshments over the years. It is much appreciated! Ed.

PERSONAL STORIES OF THE LAKE

Text and photo by Rose Senior

The 25th October Night Chat provided a fascinating event in which five contributors shared information and personal stories with the group. Bruce Haynes reminded us of the general background to the establishment of the Friends of Lake Claremont - before giving his apologies and leaving for a Claremont Council Meeting. Liz Prendergast, Joan Tocock, Peter Illidge (whose email contribution was read aloud by Nick Cooke) and Soozie Ross then spoke in turn.



Joan Tocock, Eric Boon and Nick Cook share their memories

What was so nice about the evening was that individuals' personal stories sparked memories of sounds, smells and images in other people's minds: wild irises growing in profusion, boys cooking potatoes on small fires, children swinging from the paperbark trees overhanging the lake, the noise of croaking frogs and buzzing mosquitoes and so on. The lake (then of course known as Butler's Swamp) was clearly a playground for young people in the 50s and 60s, with Liz recalling early memories of coming down to the swamp with her brothers, making canoes out of corrugated iron and waterproofing them with tar collected from the road in jam tins. As someone said, "Those were the days when we did things without permission".

People had lasting memories of the rubbish tip, recalling that it functioned as a magnet for small boys, described fondly by someone as "dreadful little urchins covered in mud". Somewhat disturbingly, Peter Illidge's email explained that the tip was a repository for not only domestic but also industrial waste. Peter recalled a large tanker rolling up to disgorge chemicals, saying that raw sewage, fluorescent tubes, hospital waste, confiscated weapons and not-quite-empty drums of DDT also found their way to the tip. Fortunately, as Bruce had explained at the beginning of the session, the tip was eventually quickly and cheaply covered over by the golf course.

At the end of the evening Soozie handed round a collection of old bottles (including brown-ribbed poison bottles) that she'd salvaged from the roots of an old tree that had tipped over – a fitting end to a companionable evening in which many memories had been shared.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Text by Soozie Ross

A meeting called “Behind the Scenes” was held at Heidi Hardisty’s home on Tuesday October 18.

A group of 14 people attended this very interesting event. A variety of members of the Friends group spoke about their roles in the organisation “behind the scenes”. This was very illuminating as there are so many ways in which people contribute to the running of the group, and so many people



We need a variety of roles filled and it is wonderful when members become inspired to take on a role or to suggest a new idea, with which they can help. Some of the roles that were presented to the group over the course of the evening included:-

Website manager; volunteer hours collator; cake making team; bird photographer and leader of bird walks; school group supervisor; fundraising; Monday weeding group organiser; turtle carapace and information collector; facebook organiser; representatives on the Lake Claremont Advisory Committee; writing articles for media; collating pages for Adopt a Spot instructions; sorting “bird series” greeting cards into packs for sale; formatting and editing the newsletter; scheduling primary school planting; organising Adopt a Spot and supporting those who choose to work independently; printing and laminating posters; putting up posters in park and libraries; laying out plants before planting events; supervising planting groups; making refreshments for volunteers; making the original “Friends of Lake Claremont” banner; taking photos at events; taking photos of flowers for the newsletter; membership secretary; hand delivering newsletters to those not on email; taking six monthly photographic record of growth of revegetated areas for use with grant funding feedback; book keeping; banking; grant applications; business activity statements and more!

We are of course astounded by the amount of work, which Heidi puts in! Her hours would equate to more than a full time job! I have not included her roles in the above list, as they would take up more than two pages!

If anyone wants to help behind the scenes in any small way, it would be a great to share the load around. Please ask for more information or tell us what might inspire your participation in some way. New ideas are welcomed and you may find it very satisfying to become more involved and work with amazing people, whether “behind the scenes” or in the park.

SALP GRANT

The Friends of Lake Claremont have been successful in obtaining another grant to plant the wetland buffer at Lake Claremont. It is from Swan River Trust/Alcoa for \$18,071.46 including GST. This will be for planting in 2017

'LOCAL MATTERS' AT GRILL'D CLAREMONT QUARTER

We've been selected to participate in Local Matters at Grill'd Claremont Quarter this November! Local Matters is the Grill'd community donation program that sees each Grill'd restaurant donate \$500 back into the community every month. The donation is split between 3 local community groups \$300 / \$100 / \$100.

HOW YOU CAN HELP?

We'd love your support in receiving the highest \$300 donation! Simply head to Grill'd Claremont Quarter during November for a burger and pop your Local Matters token in our jar. The group with the most tokens at the end of the month receives the largest donation.

It's a simple (and delicious) way to show your support!

You'll find us on a jar at Grill'd Claremont Quarter, The Lane, 23 St Quentin Ave.

FOLC AGM *Text and photo by Hilary Heptinstall*

This was held on November 2 at the Hardisty residence. The board of management (pictured) was elected unopposed and the current auditor and insurer were retained. Reports were presented. We are in a very healthy position financially having received \$70,888 in grants and \$10,000 in fundraising this year. The latest grant applied for is for research into the oblong turtle in conjunction with Murdoch University.

Members were asked to read the Lake Claremont Management Plan on the Town of Claremont website and to make comments before November 30.



The Board of Management - Nick Cook, Claire Brittain, Heidi Hardisty, Kevin McAlpine

Heidi Hardisty in her coordinator's report said that we are leading one of the largest restoration projects in Perth. We have received \$500,000 in grants in the last 7 years. This year has seen 2000 people involved in 42 planting sessions including 20 school sessions, local residents, University students, Conservation volunteers and the wonderful Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force. She thanked many FOLC members for the work that they do and tribute will be paid to them in our final newsletter for the year. The meeting concluded with Nick Cook thanking Heidi

After a break for drinks, the meeting concluded with a very interesting talk from ToC Bushcare Officer, Greg Simpson, on his Murdoch University PhD project 'Citizen Science' which starts from the 'Bottom up' and builds on local knowledge. More about this in the next newsletter!

Calendar November 2016

Check out the yearly calendar on the [FOLC Website](#) to find dates of future events.

Day	Event	Time
Sunday Nov. 14 th	FOLC Busy Bee: Hand weeding	8:00 – 10:00 am

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Why not like us on facebook and post your picture and story?

Friends of Lake Claremont facebook page

<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.

www.friendsoflakeclaremont.org

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