



Friends of Lake Claremont



Oblong Turtle at Lake Claremont

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FIRST PRIZE FOR FOLC!

Text by Heidi Hardisty



In order to foster a spirit of community the burger restaurant Grill'd in the Claremont Quarter has for some time been running a competition in which Grill'd customers vote which local community project they consider most worthy of receiving a \$300 donation. Customers vote by selecting a coloured bottle top (one colour for each of three local projects) and popping it in a jar. Second and third prize winners receive \$100 each. Guess what! We've recently learnt that FOLC won the Grill'd first prize for the month of September. Thanks so much, Grill'd! We will put the money to good use by purchasing weeding tools and hand trowels so that even more volunteers can work with us to enhance the natural beauty of our beloved lake even further.

IN BLOOM THIS MONTH

Photo by Geoff Ross, Text by Heidi Hardisty

This is the Chenille Honey myrtle (*Melaleuca huegelii*), a shrub that grows up to 3m high. Its flowers are attractive to insects, particularly butterflies and moths. It is similar to a mallee eucalypt, with a well-developed rootstock from which a number of stems often grow.



BIRD OF THE MONTH

Text and photos by David Free

Nankeen (Rufous) Night Heron: *Nycticorax caledonicus*

Nankeen Night Herons got their name from a buff-coloured cotton cloth from Nanking, China. The juvenile birds, however, are striped.

Although these birds are mainly nocturnal feeders at this time of the year, when the frogs are breeding in our lake, they can often be seen foraging during the day. They patiently wait for prey to move within range, or wade very slowly in shallow water. Frogs and tadpoles appear to be a favourite food - but I've seen one of them swallow a juvenile turtle (with some difficulty)!

The Night Herons are not present when our lake is dry. However, they can always be observed at Herdsman Lake and, on some evenings, on the Claremont jetty or along the river foreshore. They roost in trees with heavy foliage. Unfortunately one preferred site was recently lost because of the Bethesda Hospital development.



Nankeen Night-heron, David Free



Nankeen Night-heron, David Free

CELEBRATE LAKE CLAREMONT BIRD WALK

Text by Amina Sayed Photos by David Free

I enjoyed my first bird walk so much that I found myself with the bird watchers again at Celebrate Lake Claremont Bird Walk. I loved every minute of it. I was not in a hurry to take mental notes. The introductory crash course along with some browsing online has been helpful. However, most beneficial for me have been my solitary observations at various times of the day over the past few weeks. I can now identify the calls of the Stilt and the Swamphen.

► *Story continued on following page.*

Bruce Haynes and David Free were our guides for this walk. There are nine species of ducks around Lake Claremont of over 90 bird species found here. The Pacific Black Duck is the most common and prolific of the ducks here. They may have up to a dozen ducklings but usually only one or two survive. The ravens are particularly fond of them and the turtles too have a taste for them. David indicated that if all of them survived we'd be overrun with them.



▸ *Australian Shelduck*

David directed our attention to my favourite, the Australian Shelduck, some distance away. We were told that the trio had a missing member, a male who had been killed along with several of their ducklings by a dog a few weeks ago. I wanted to know how you could tell the male from the female. The answer was in the eye, I was told. The ones that have a white circle around their eyes are the females.

At one point, David set up the telescope and focused it on a Spotted Dove. I would have easily missed it with my untrained eye. It sat motionless on a dead paper bark tree and had a black neck patch spotted with white. Absolutely stunning!

Then we saw a pair of Grey Teal in the water with ducklings. David said that as the water began to dry they would move on to other waterways, like Herdsman Lake. We gradually made our way to the edge of the lake. David drew our attention to the sound coming from the thick patch of reeds. It was the Reed-Warbler, rare to see.

Next David challenged us to spot a nest on a tree. As he busied himself with setting up the telescope, a Magpie-lark flew right before us. It was definitely a warning sign – *Shoo away!* One by one we gazed into the sophisticated lens to see a small nest on one of the branches, with two baby Magpie-larks looking over.

It was the absolute highlight of a wonderful walk!

ROYAL SHOW PARKING FUNDRAISER 2015

Text by Nick Cook

For the past few years the Friends of Lake Claremont have been fortunate enough to be allocated Show parking duties by the Town of Claremont. We were again allocated the Golf Course Club House car park for four consecutive days.

▸ *Story continued on following page.*

Blessed with good weather and enthusiastic volunteers we parked over 680 cars, collecting over \$13,000 (of which FOLC receives approximately 70%). Although patron numbers for the Show were down this year, we benefitted from the proximity of the location to the Showgrounds. It's certainly a fundraising opportunity that's too good to miss.

I believe that everyone enjoyed the experience, not only of being car-park attendants but also of exchanging friendly words with Show visitors and catching up with fellow volunteers. A big thank you to everyone! Without your help this major fundraiser would not have been possible.



▶ Lance and Jenny Bannister-Jones with Nick Cook

Some of you may have noticed that this year cars were also parked in the park, on parts of the old Golf Course. For the record, FOLC did not support this solution to short-term parking issues caused by the NE Precinct Development.

OCTOBER 11TH BUSY BEE

Text by Rose Senior

October 11th proved to be a very busy busy bee. We met at the south end of Strickland Street at 8.00 am (our new summer start time), with Joan Tocock sitting in her accustomed chair and taking down names as efficiently as ever. We were 17 volunteers in all (including two new local residents), split into two groups to target flowering thistles and fumitory in particular. We found that finding the roots of fumitory involved detective work, since its long runners spread throughout big shrubs and often had its roots hidden underneath a different shrub altogether. Fortunately, once located, the roots pull out easily.

▶ *Story continued on following page.*

After filling 12 bags of weeds we went back to Soozie and Geoff Ross's house in Strickland Street for fresh scones and cream and a general socialising session. Thanks Soozie and Geoff for the superb hospitality you offer from inside your spacious garage! And thanks of course to Norma Hay for her ongoing commitment to organising our collective effort to keep weeds in check.



Nick Cook stumbled across this little bobtail lizard while inspecting one of our Adopt a Spot weeding sites.



▶ *Ling Lei with Henry and Linley Simmons*

ORGANIZING THE FOLC SHED

Text by Heidi Hardisy



▶ *Sally McMaster in the shed*

For about a year now, I have been on a mission to tidy up the shed and create space to store FOLC gear. After a few major clear outs, a kind offer was recently received by Sally McMaster of Bunnings in Claremont to provide sturdy storage shelving and create tool racks. On 30th September, Sally arrived with her gifts ready to assemble.

▶ *Story continued on following page.*



Luckily we had help from the Conservation Volunteers and HBF employees who were volunteering with the FOLC on the same day. It took nearly a full day to get all the gear neatly in place. What a great effort!

Volunteers from HBF helped tidy the shed and spread mulch for planting next year in the remnant bushland



▶ Heidi shows off two new shelves installed



▶ Conservation volunteers lend a hand organising the shed

NOVEMBER NIGHT CHAT

Guest Speaker: Local vet Tony Vigano

Topic: Dogs and the Good Citizens' Programme

Tuesday November 24th

6:30 - 7:00 pm Lake Claremont Golf Club, 7 Lapsley Road, Claremont

Doors open at 6:00 pm

In November, our guest speaker will be local vet Tony Vigano, practice owner of the Swanbourne Veterinary Centre. He will talk about responsible dog ownership and how proper training and control of your dog is better for the community and the environment. Tony joined the practice on graduation from the Melbourne University in January 1969, and apart from a period 1973-1976 spent in the UK has been involved ever since. He completes 47 years in practice at the end of 2015.

▶ Story continued on following page.

Tony is a past president of the WA Division of the Australian Veterinary Association (1984). He was the inaugural chairman of the Australian Veterinary Boards Council (1999-2001) and a member of the Veterinary Surgeons' Board in WA from 1988-2003, being chairman from 2001-2003.

At the end of the talk there will be chance to chat and enjoy light refreshments. RSVP for catering purposes by October 24th folc.wa@gmail.com A gold coin donation will be appreciated.



NOTICE OF AGM

Invitation to Members:

Friends of Lake Claremont AGM & Barbecue

Sunday 29th November 5 - 7 pm

Special Guest: Ed Swinhoe Topic: Foxes at Your Front Door

12A Myera Street Swanbourne

Please set aside the date for our annual FOLC AGM. We will welcome special guest Ed Swinhoe, a student from Murdoch University, who will speak on his Master's project of tracking fox movement in the Western Suburbs. The FOLC have kindly offered financial support for his research.

R.S.V.P. by 25th Nov. Email: folc.wa@gmail.com

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

FOLC Busy Bee and Tea

Sunday

8th November

8 - 10 am

FOLC Board Meeting

Monday

9th November

5:30- 7 pm

"Night Chats at the Lake" with local vet Tony Vigano

Tuesday

24th November

6:30 - 7:30 pm

Weeding Day with the Conservation Volunteers

Wednesday

25th November

8:30 am - 2 pm

► *Story continued on following page.*

FOLC AGM and

Barbecue

Sunday

29th November

5-7pm

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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.

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