



A Black-shouldered Kite at Lake Claremont - Photo David Free

In the news this month

By Hilary Heptinstall

March has been a fairly quiet month for the Friends of Lake Claremont before we come up to the busy planting season.

You can read in this newsletter about our 'Clean up Australia' Working Bee and March Night Chat. We have our regular Bird and Plant features from David and Geoff **plus** Ted's Corner!

Our new 'Volunteers Needed' column will become a regular feature, which we hope will receive a positive response!

We would encourage readers' responses to our articles and I would love to start a 'Letters to the Editor' section. <mailto:folc.wa@gmail.com>

'Clean Up Australia' Busy Bee Sunday March 13

Photos and text by Nick Cook

About 17 volunteers, including several young people and some new faces, turned up for this event despite it being a very hot day. People were given the choice of 'clean-up' or weeding with Norma Hay and Consie Wood.

We were very pleased to find far less rubbish than in previous years. This is possibly due to there being less building activity at the old Drive-in site. This has led to a reduction in the amount of litter in the remnant bush area.

The worst area was along the boundary with Scotch College on the edge of the wetland. The bulk of the litter consisted of food wrappers and drink containers.

9 bags of rubbish, weighing about 25kg, were collected and about the same number of bags of weeds.



Greg Simpson and Aernout Boere



Kevin Elliot

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One of the interesting things found that day was some animal droppings, which have yet to be identified. Perhaps members can help with this?



Joan Tocock on registration

Many thanks are due to all those who attended and a special mention should be given to Joan Tocock who worked on registration and to Soozie Ross for a lovely morning tea.

Our Birds

The Black-shouldered Kite – *Elanus axillaris*

Text and photos by David Free

On March 12th I took the camera to our completely dry lake to try to get photos of honeyeaters on the flowering eucalypts.

They weren't cooperating, but this Black-shouldered Kite, although somewhat skittish, allowed me to set up in time to get a take-off sequence. This beautiful raptor is closely related to very similar species, which are widespread globally.



They are commonly seen when the lake is dry; for the past several weeks there has been an adult and an immature bird around. They can be seen hovering whilst hunting for mice, and resting on the taller tree stumps between forays. Their preferred food is small mammals but they will also take smaller birds, large insects and lizards.

In Bloom this month

Text by Heidi Hardisty Photos by Geoff Ross

Berry Saltbush *Rhagodia baccata*



This is a straggling shrub of the coastal sand dunes. The flowers develop into deep-red berries that are eaten by birds like the silvereye.

Geoff also sent a very attractive close up photo of a tree trunk after the rain and suggested that readers might like to share similar photos. It would make a very attractive collection!!



Keeping Wetlands Wet

Text and photos by Rose Senior

On Tuesday 22 March a group of 18 Friends and interested community members enjoyed the night chat given by Professor Ray Froend from Edith Cowan University.



The focus of Ray's talk was on the changing state of Perth's wetland areas due to falling water tables. Using a variety of charts, diagrams and tables, Ray explained how the drying out of wetland areas has led to an overall thinning of vegetation, change in vegetation composition and the need for plants to rely increasingly on surface run-off as opposed to ground water. Ray's overall message was that the future for Perth's urban wetlands is not bleak, provided that additional water sources such as storm-water can be effectively harnessed.

At the end of his talk Professor Froend answered a range of questions posed by members of the audience in a full and detailed way. As usual a colourful spread of nibbles was provided by Soozie and Geoff Ross.



Ted's Corner

Alice Thomas: My Life in a Nutshell

We arrived in Fremantle in January 1961 as the Nanga Brook bush fires were burning. We had spent weeks on the ship and had passed through the Suez Canal and Bombay. We came as £10 POMS. Dogs (two Dalmatians) were £50 each. Soon after our arrival we stayed with a range of Dad's friends in Waroona.

Once there we didn't move on. A farm was purchased; ponies, dogs, sheep and poultry arrived. Soon afterwards we attended Waroona Primary School. Our biggest dread was getting called a "sissy". At the beginning the farm had no running water, no electricity, and no phone. Our ironing was done, for many years, by Dad or Mum using a flat iron.

After leaving school, I helped on the farm with the riding school that Mum had started before going off to England. Then for a great number of years I went to and fro between Aussie and England. Dad had numerous jobs. Once while moving a compost heap from the Church yard to a pensioner's garden nearby, I came upon human teeth and jaws. All rather unexpected and amusing! Daffodil picking was great fun with the local housewives.



Alice at Lake Claremont

In time I worked for an agency looking after the elderly in their houses. One had to take the rough with the smooth. This was mostly in the southern part of England. I did a lot of exploring and went to South America and beyond the Arctic Circle.

The highlight of my travelling days was going to Calcutta, my favourite city. There I worked for Mother Theresa, although I did not see her! Later I went with a convoy to Romania taking AID: a new Ambulance, medical supplies and much needed equipment. The country was in a bad state in November 1990. Everyone had a pigeon in the garden waiting for Christmas!

I have ended up in Nedlands, a real eye-opener after a life of living in the country. Some modern thinking leaves much to be desired. Some people love to chop down trees, which aren't replaced.

Soon after arriving in Nedlands I stopped at the notice board by the lake and read that volunteers were needed and what sorts of things they did. So I thought I would give it a go. Great to see the so-called LAKE being put back to how it should be. All very rewarding. A great crowd of people come along to help. There is a good contrast of ages and backgrounds. Basically they have one thing in common: a great love of nature and trying to restore the area after human hands have mucked it up. The morning teas are wonderful. A big thank you Soozie and Geoff for doing all that hard work year in and year out.

My life in a nutshell!

A Labour of Love:

Report on Volunteer Hours 2015

Text by Annie Falconer

Can you imagine the state of Lake Claremont and its surrounds without all the work done by volunteers? Let's not go there! Instead, a HUGE thank-you to all the volunteers and I hope you continue to enjoy bringing your families down to this very special green space.

After completing the Report of Volunteer Hours for the 2015 calendar year, I can now tell you that 1,110 different volunteers contributed a total of 5,851 hours of their time towards looking after Lake Claremont. This was done over 132 volunteer sessions throughout the year with the most taking place in the planting months of June and July.

The Friends of Lake Claremont contributed a total of 2,291 hours for both administration and physical work while members of the public including the Conservation Volunteers, the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing, volunteers from various corporations and students from many different schools and universities contributed the remaining 3,560.



Zac Hardisty supervising volunteers at Lake Claremont

As we know Heidi Hardisty is a driving force behind the FOLC and the organisation of all the volunteers but I would like to make special mention of her 20 year-old son, Zac whose name appeared time and again on the sign-in sheets and more often than not as a supervisor. Thank you for your commitment Zac, which I think goes way beyond the call of duty!



This Month's Position: Poster Designer

Role: Design Posters for Monthly and Annual Events

Skills Required: Graphic Arts Background or skill in poster design. Must be competent with Word, Adobe or other suitable publishing programs.

Time Commitment: 2-4 hours per month.

Help with Morning Tea on April 10

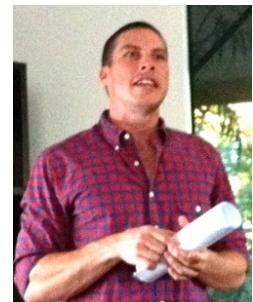
Please can you make it possible for Soozie to have a weekend away?.

Soozie would like to accompany the scone maker (aka Geoff) over East for his work, which means being away on the friends group next scheduled activity session April 10th.

Just as a one-off, can anyone assist with the refreshments on that day? Soozie can provide all the gear for the event and scones are not mandatory (-:
Phone 0422 668 620. Thank you.

April Night Chat at Lake Claremont: Foxes at your Front Door

Very little is known about how foxes move throughout the Perth metro area. Ed Swinhoe hopes to change this. He is currently tracking the movements of foxes in the Western Suburbs and beyond as part of his Master's degree in Biosecurity at Murdoch University.



Foxes are a declared feral species and a significant threat to native wildlife. In regards to Lake Claremont, fox predation is an issue for our birdlife and the Oblong Turtle population.

Ed Swinhoe

Please join us in April as Ed updates us on his progress in this very important study.

Tuesday April 26th Claremont Golf Club Lapsley Rd, Claremont
6:30 – 7:30 pm Doors open at 6:00 pm with light refreshments
R.S.V.P. folc.wa@gmail.com

Calendar April 2016

Day	Event	Time
Friday April 1st	Year 10 Community Service Programme	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Sunday April 10th	FOLC Busy Bee ad Tea Lake Claremont	8:00 – 10:00 am 10:00 am Tea
Monday April 11th	FOLC Board Meeting	5:30 - 7:00 pm
April 12th – 14th	Student Volunteering- Scotch College International Conference	9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Tuesday April 22nd	Earth Day	
Tuesday April 26th	Night Chats at Lake Claremont Lake Claremont Golf Club	6:30 -7:30 pm Doors open at 6:00 pm
Friday April 29th	Year 10 Community Service Programme	1:30 - 3:00 pm

Had a great moment at Lake Claremont?

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

CONTACT

E-mail:
folc.wa@gmail.com

Phone: (08) 9384
2820

<http://friendsoflakeclaremont.org/>

POSTAL ADDRESS

Friends of Lake
Claremont Ltd.

P.O. Box 837
Cottesloe WA, 6910