



Lake Claremont after the April rain

Photo Nick Cook

'In the News' this month

By Hilary Heptinstall

It was good to see the Lake starting to fill after the early April rain and to see a return of some of our birds.

This newsletter contains details of many forthcoming events.

May events include our 'Adopt a Spot' afternoon tea, and regular Night Chat session. The planting season will commence in June and there will be many opportunities for our members to become involved. Local Primary School planting sessions will take place in June as well as a 'Youth Planting Day'.

You are also invited to attend a book launch in which Heidi Hardisty is involved and to attend a workshop on Western Weeds

April Busy Bee

Text and photos by Rose Senior

A group of FOLC members enjoyed a happy and productive weeding session in the North West corner of the lake bed on Sunday 10 April. They were accompanied by young mum Angela Phatouros and seven-year-old daughter Phoebe.



Angela and Phoebe

Angela and Phoebe enjoyed the weeding experience so much that Angela wants her family to adopt a spot sometime soon.



The objective of the session was to uproot as much as possible of the new growth of the invasive weed Wild Aster (also known as Bushy Starwort), whose presence only came to the attention of FOLC at the end of 2015. Between December and March, FOLC concentrated on removing the well-established plants, while this month's busy bee provided the opportunity to focus on removing the smaller versions of the plant - together with their seed heads that were about to be dispersed by the wind.

Our regular volunteers enjoyed the morning tea at the end of the session and Norma Hay's home-made muffins were particularly welcome!



Waiting for coffee at Café Espresso

Our Birds

Text and photos by David Free

Two Turtle Doves



Laughing Dove, *Streptopelia senegalensis*

The Laughing Dove, *Streptopelia senegalensis* and the Spotted Dove, *Streptopelia chinensis*, were both introduced to Perth in 1898. The Laughing Dove is a native of Africa and Arabia, and the Spotted Dove's home is India and South-east Asia. Both species are now well settled in our south-west.

The Spotted dove is slightly larger and is easily identified by the chequered patch on the back of its neck. These birds are seed eaters; I am aware that some Claremont residents like to feed them in their gardens. They build untidy, insecure, twig nests and the usual clutch size is two. By watching them call, one can soon distinguish their different songs.



Spotted Dove, *Streptopelia chinensis*

Let the Planting Begin!

Text and photo by Heidi Hardisty

The planting season is near. And it's going to be epic! The Friends of Lake Claremont will lead over 1000 volunteers to plant 37,000 native seedlings this winter. We'll need all the help we can get and hope to attract many new volunteers to lend a hand.



We will host many public and school planting sessions from June to August with the most popular days as follows:

1. Local Residents Planting Day – June 12th 9am -12pm
2. Planting for the Birds – July 10th 9am to 2pm
3. National Tree Day – July 31st 9am to 2pm
4. Uni Planting Day - August 6th 9am to 1pm

We have also partnered with Perth NRM, who has put together a great new initiative: “Youth Planting Days”. See story below.

Check out other planting dates on the [FOLC website](http://friendsoflakeclaremont.org) <http://friendsoflakeclaremont.org> under the events calendar. Details and planting locations will be added closer to the events.

Please consider joining in!



We need volunteers to help publicise our events by making posters and distributing them, registering people on the day, setting up, cleaning and putting away tools, and helping with tea. Please contact us now if you can help with any of these tasks: <mailto:folc.wa@gmail.com>

Youth Planting Days – A New Initiative

Ages 16-30 years

June 25, 2016 @ 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Lake Claremont, Australia

The FOLC have partnered with Perth NRM (Natural Resource Management) who have created a great new initiative called “Living Perth”.

“Living Perth” encourages participation in creating and maintaining a healthy, sustainable environment. In particular, the scheme aims to engage young people in volunteering, like planting, to help reduce the effects of environmental degradation and climate change. Perth NRM has 3 Youth Planting Events planned with local groups this winter.



The [Youth Planting Day](#) at Lake Claremont will be held June 25th. The FOLC hope to attract up to 100 young adults. Planting seedlings, which will help to reduce carbon levels and improve the living environment for future generations. Each individual effort we make to help regenerate our lakes and parks can make a huge difference!

Are you aged 16-30 and want to make a positive impact locally, globally? Sign up at <https://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=193274>



The FOLC would like to acknowledge and thank our 3 major grant funding bodies this year:

1. **Swan River Trust and Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP)** – Wetland Buffer
2. **State NRM (Natural Resource Management)** – Creating Native Woodland
3. **25th Anniversary Landcare Grant** – Restoring the Remnant Bushland

April Night Chat at Lake Claremont – Foxes at Your Front Door

Test and photo by Hilary Heptinstall

We were pleased to welcome Ed Swinhoe as our speaker this month. Ed, who is working on his Masters degree in Biosecurity at Murdoch University has previously spoken at our AGM in November about his work with Claremont Council and the City of Stirling in tracing the movement of foxes and the efficacy of control.



Ed Swinhoe (centre) with Murdoch University supervisors Dr Peter Spencer and Dr Halina Kobryn

Foxes are declared pests, which must be destroyed. They have been very successful in adapting to urban life and are found on all continents except Antarctica. The reasons for their success include being omnivorous, being the right size, being able to live alone or in a group and not being under threat from predators. They can eat a variety of food including human refuse, fruit and live animals including mice, rats, pigeons, water birds and turtles. They are known to hide in the typha at Lake Gwelup during the day, which gives them access to feeding areas at night.

Ed's project aims for improved understanding of fox movement and evaluation of the efficiency of current control strategies. Ed will track foxes by trapping them humanely and then fitting electronic collars, which allow them to be tracked. FOLC have sponsored Ed by providing 2 tracking collars at a cost of \$4,600.

Ed showed us the progress of a collared juvenile, very mobile, fox nicknamed Fiery Jim. Using a series of moving dots on a map, his movements were tracked over several months. He was shown moving from Cottesloe to Lake Gwelup via West Coast Highway and Trigg. Fiery Jim moves quickly and has been shown to travel 2.5 km in 30 minutes!

Going forward Ed hopes to work on improving management strategies. FOLC members are asked to be on the lookout for foxes and to use 'Snap. Send. Solve' to send any photos taken.

Visit by Forest Red-tailed cockatoos

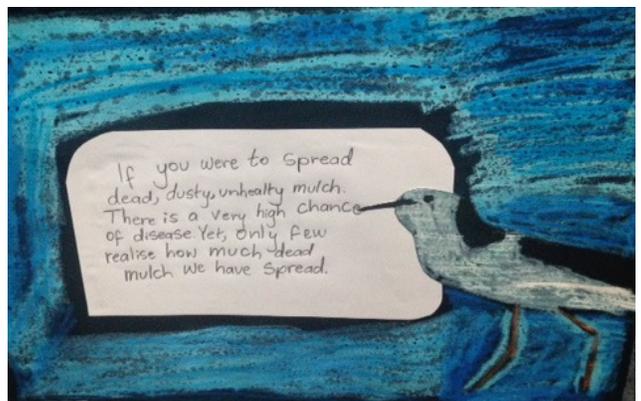
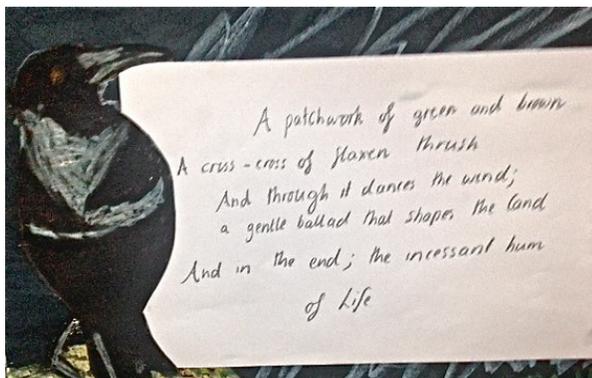
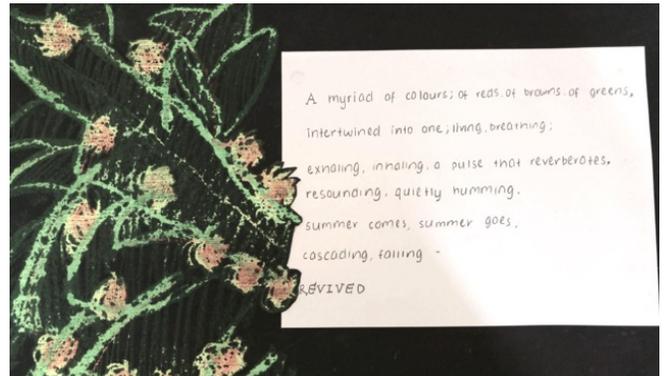
A family of Forest Red-tailed cockatoos was seen at Lake Claremont in April. This family regularly visits the area to forage. They eat the seeds of the invasive Cape Lilac tree. It is speculated that the Forest Red-tailed cockatoos have recently moved back into the Western Suburbs looking for food and roosting sites as their habitat elsewhere continues to be cleared. Black Cockatoos are very clever birds. They have learnt to strip the poisonous flesh off the Cape Lilac berries to get to the seeds below!



Lake Claremont Reflections

This month, Scotch College students hosted the Australasian and East Asian Region April 16 **Round Square** conference for students 12-14 years. The theme was 'Life on the Edge'.

Heidi Hardisty led 3 groups of students who volunteered in 3 educational workshops. The students created access for Oblong turtles under existing fences and also spread mulch to prepare the grounds for winter planting. They were introduced to Western Australia's unique biodiversity including Lake Claremont.



With the help of Pam Walter, a former art teacher, the children created posters depicting their thoughts and reflections on the morning's activities.

Upcoming Events in May/June



Friends of Lake Claremont Invite You
to:

Afternoon Tea

Sunday, 22nd MAY 3-4 pm
Stirling Rd Park Lake Claremont
All welcome

ADOPT-a-SPOT TODAY!

Come along and hear about the
FOLC's successful Adopt-a-Spot
program.

RSVP for catering purposes:
folc.wa@gmail.com

May 2016 Night Chat at Lake Claremont

Restoring Banksia Woodlands: Can It Be Done?

This month Pawel Waryszak, PhD Candidate in Ecology at Murdoch University, will explore the challenges of restoring Banksia Woodlands, giving us tips to guide our work at Lake Claremont.

His research investigated the use of topsoil transferred from cleared Banksia Woodland to rehabilitate ex-farm land, offsets purchased by WA land developers.

Pawel Waryszak is also the President of the Wildflower Society WA – Murdoch Branch.

Please join us. Tuesday 24th May 6:00 -7:30 pm at Lake Claremont Golf Club. Doors open at 6:00pm with refreshments. Talk commences at 6:30 pm. A gold coin donation is appreciated.

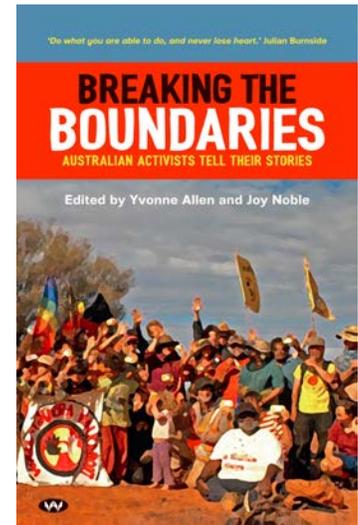


Breaking the Boundaries: Australian activists tell their stories

What makes an activist? A new book looks for answers in the personal stories of 46 Australians, young and old, fighting to be heard in a range of areas including human rights, gender issues, and the environment. One chapter, written by our very own Heidi Hardisty, tells the story of the plight to save Lake Claremont.

The book launch will be held on Wednesday, June 1, 2016, 6 PM - 8 PM at Bar Orient, 39 High Street Fremantle. Come along and meet some of Perth's most dedicated activists. All welcome.

Find out more at <https://www.facebook.com/events/634240066728010/>



Workshop: Volunteers Guide to Wetland Weeds

Volunteer Capacity Building in NRM series

The Volunteers Guide to Wetland Weeds workshop will focus on identifying weeds commonly found in wetlands of the Perth region, how to effectively remove them, and building partnerships with land managers for a unified weed management approach.

Community workshop Saturday, 14 May, 2016

Canning River Eco Education Centre, end of Kent St, Cannington

Registration: 9.15 Workshop: 9.30am-1.30pm (Morning tea and lunch provided)

Cost: \$30 per person

For more information and a link to register online,

<https://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=179194>

Calendar May 2016

Day	Event	Time
Friday May 6 th	Year 10 Community Service Program	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Sunday May 8 th	FOLC Busy Bee and Tea Lake Claremont	8:00 – 10:00 am 10:00 am Tea
Monday May 9 th	FOLC Board Meeting	5:30 - 7:00 pm
Friday May 13 th	Year 10 Community Service Program	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Sunday May 15 th	Adopt a Spot Tea Stirling Road Park	3:00 – 4:00 pm
Friday May 20 th	Year 10 Community Service Program	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Sunday May 22 nd	International Day for Biological Diversity	
Tuesday May 24 th	Night Chats at Lake Claremont Lake Claremont Golf Club	6:30 -7:30 pm Doors open at 6:00 pm
Friday May 27 th	Year 10 Community Service Program	1:30 - 3:00 pm

Check out the yearly calendar on our website- www.friendsoflakeclaremont.org

Had a great moment at Lake Claremont? 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.

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