



David Free writes about the Little Corella on page 6

The 2016 Planting Season

An update from Heidi Hardisty

The 2016 planting season got off to an epic start. In just 8 days planting in the remnant bushland was complete. Over 400 volunteers participated planting over 11,000 local native seedlings! The plants will help to regenerate the understorey beneath the existing tree canopy.

The FOLC won a 25th Anniversary Landcare Grant in 2015 from the Commonwealth Government to purchase the plants to restore the remnant bushland. Work commenced in the winter of 2015 when 1600 seedlings were planted and was then completed this year. As usual, the FOLC coordinated and led volunteers to plant them. FOLC used money raised by FOLC members at the Royal Show Parking, to hire the Conservation volunteers (CVs) to assist with planting extra plants purchased by FOLC, adding an extra \$4,000 value to this grant. The CVs planted more than 5000 seedlings.

Read more about the planting season on the following pages as well as forthcoming events and a report on the oblong turtle population..

Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing Planting Days Saturdays June 11 and 16



Volunteers from the Sha Satnam group

Text by Hilary Heptinstall Photos by Nick Cook and Terry Heptinstall

The Sha Satnam group kicked off our 2016 planting season working in the remnant bushland area on their first day. This is 3 hectares of the only original bushland left in Claremont. Over 99% of the original vegetation in Claremont has been removed. It was interesting to see that a 'Cockies Tongue', which had been planted last year, was thriving. A volunteer pointed out a very old Tuart tree, which was probably about 300 years old and here at the time of the first European settlers.



*Cockies
Tongue
planted last
year!*



*A very old Tuart
tree*

Local Residents Planting Day Sunday June 12

Text and photos by Hilary Heptinstall



Community Service and Duke of Edinburgh volunteers from Scotch College

On a beautiful sunny morning, the Local Residents' Planting Day was a great success. Over 80 people helped out. There was a preponderance of young people including students from Christ Church Grammar School, Scotch College, MLC and Iona. 1250 seedlings were planted in less than 1.5 hours. This capped off 3 days of planting with Christ Church and Scotch College students planting 400 seedlings on Friday and the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing planting 2000 on Saturday June 11. This gave a grand total of 3650 plants on our first weekend, approximately 10% of the years' predicted total of 37,000 A great effort!

The Lesterhuis family from the end of Strickland St, provided a venue for a lovely morning tea in their front garden with Margaret Richardson, Nancy Harrison, Cheryl Sampson and the Lesterhuis family donating delicious home-baked goodies. These were very much appreciated especially by the hungry teenage boys!



Dorit and Wim Lesterhuis

We were very fortunate that the rain came on Sunday afternoon to water in the plants and cleared in time for the Primary Schools planting week commencing the following day!



Phoebe Dyson, Maddie Barich and Olivia Pettit from Methodist Ladies College



Charlotte Martin Lauren Whitechurch Arielle Cass and Meg Hampton from Iona Presentation College

Primary School Planting Weeks

For 2 weeks from Monday June 13 to Friday June 24 we were pleased to welcome students from local primary schools to help with our planting. Schools that participated were Quintillian, Mount Claremont, Freshwater Bay, MLC Scotch College and John XXIII College.



Zac Hardisty demonstrates the technique of planting to Mount Claremont students



Students from the Quintillian School

The students were very keen and efficient and got through the planting in record time, Heidi and Zac Hardisty did a great job of teaching the students how to plant. Heidi also spoke to the schools about the history and biodiversity of Lake Claremont.

For the second time, year 11 students from John XXIII College attended a leadership program. In the morning the students did community service, with Heidi teaching them how to plant and instruct students. In the afternoon, they led the planting session of Year 5 students from Quintillian primary school. All really enjoyed the experience. I think this letter from Quintillian teacher Susan Beilby says it all!

Greetings Hilary,

We would like to pass on how much our students enjoyed today's planting session working with the Year 11s from John XXIII. Heidi and the helpers were lovely and we are very proud of the number of plants that we got into the ground.

Our two other classes that went to help this week also came back terribly excited about their achievements. It is wonderful to bring the students down and, when they recognise areas where they had planted the previous year, they feel very proud! We look forward to next year and planting another area.

Thank you

Susan Beilby

Year 5 Teacher

Youth Planting Day Saturday June 25



This was a new initiative this year with young people being invited to take part in planting as well as enjoying other activities. There was a good turn out for this event and hopefully the rain did not cast too much of a dampener on the proceedings.

Cath McAuley demonstrating planting on the Youth Planting Day

On Sunday June 26 a group of Scotch Brisbane House boys and parents attended a planting morning. This was much enjoyed for both the planting and the social aspects as the group members always enjoy catching up with each other!

Thanks again to Soozie Ross for the lovely morning tea.

Planting in the Remnant Bushland - Summary (# of seedlings planted):

1. June 10th: Yr 10s Scotch College and CCGS (400)
2. June 11th: SSJ (Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing) (2000)
3. June 12th: Local Residents Planting Day: FOLC, Public, local students (1250)
4. June 13th: CVs (Conservation Volunteers) (1160)
5. June 14th: CVs (1455) , Quintilian School Yr 3 (2 classes) (560)
6. June 15th: CVS (935), Mt. Claremont Primary Yr 5-6 (480), Quintilian School Yr 4 (400)
7. June 16th: CVs (920), Scotch Yr 7T (80), John XXIII Yr 11 (720), Quintilian Yr 5 (480)
8. June 17th: CVs (320) (Then commenced planting in the wetland buffer).

So far this planting season 800 volunteers have planted 21,000 plants in 16 days! A great effort!

Our Birds

Text and photos by David Free

Little Corella, *Cacatua sanguinea*



Little Corella. David Free

This bird, now common in Claremont, was previously found only in the north-west. It was observed by William Dampier during his 1688 voyage. They appear to have slowly moved south, but some believe that the now large numbers in the metropolitan area may have originated from aviary escapees.

Little Corellas feed mainly on seeds, bulbs and grass roots. They nest in tree hollows.

These birds are very mischievous: they can often be seen playing on wires and ropes, and can cause damage to electrical cables.

Corellas form large flocks, sometimes tens of thousands of birds roost together. They can be very noisy in the evening and early morning.

Take care not to confuse this species with the Eastern Corella, which has more orange-pink colouration between eye and bill and also on the throat.

Happy Birthday to Joan Tockock!



Photo by Terry Heptinstall

Long time FOLC member, Joan Tockock, celebrated her 97th birthday in June. She is still an active member of the group and regularly walks to the FOLC meeting point on planting days to look after the check-in of planters. Very best wishes from all of us Joan, we think you are marvellous!

*Joan Tockock with her
97th birthday cake made
by Cath McAuley*

June Night Chat at Lake Claremont

Text by Hilary Heptinstall Photos by Terry Heptinstall



Rebecca Prince-Ruiz

Our June speaker was Rebecca Prince-Ruiz, the acting Sustainability Manager of the Earth Carers program at the Western Metropolitan Regional Council, who told us how, in 2011 she co-founded the Plastic Free July Challenge which has spread to over 85 countries.

In 2015 she was awarded a Churchill Fellowship of Australia and Rebecca travelled to the USA, the Netherlands, UK and Hong Kong to investigate innovative programs of raising awareness, management and solutions to the plastic pollution problem.

Only 20% of plastic sent to be recycled is actually recycled, Plastics tend to be down cycled rather than recycled with only one more use. Plastic does not break down, it breaks up into smaller pieces which may be ingested by other organisms. 80% of the plastic in the ocean comes from the land. A significant proportion of this comes from microbeads, which are present in cosmetics and body washes. They are not trapped in waste water and go directly into the ocean. There is now a focus on removing plastic from water upstream so that it does not reach the ocean.



A Shearwater with the plastic found in its stomach!



Colourful Plastic that Rebecca picked up on a beach in Hawaii

An app called 'Beat the Microbead' can be downloaded. When an item is scanned, it tells whether or not it contains microbeads!

Rachel asks that we support Plastic Free July and refuse to use single use plastic containers for some or all of this month.

For more details go to www.plasticfreejuly.org

This was a very interesting talk, which was very much enjoyed by all who attended and it gave us much cause for thought!

Night Chats at Lake Claremont July 26th 2016

Restoring Groundwater Levels in Perth Can It Be Done?



Groundwater levels in Perth are declining, contributing to the loss of our remaining wetlands. Dr Don McFarlane examines how treated wastewater could raise groundwater levels, revive lakes and make more water available for gardens.

Dr McFarlane is currently the Groundwater Hydrology Team Leader at CSIRO. He has more than 30 years' experience, including as a Director in both the Water and Rivers Commission and Department of Environment, and a coordinator of water research within CSIRO's Floreat Laboratories.

*Dr Don McFarlane,
CSIRO*

Please join us. Tuesday 26th July 5:30 -7:00 pm (Note earlier winter starting time).

Lake Claremont Pool Clubrooms. Enter off Davies Road or Main Pool Entrance. Doors open at 5:30 pm with refreshments. Talk commences at 6:00 pm. A gold coin donation is appreciated.

History in a Coffee Cup Thursday July 7 9.30- 10.30 am

History in a Coffee Cup FREE EVENT

Paul E. Hardisty - The Abrupt Physics of Dying

Claremont author Paul E. Hardisty will speak about his novel, *The Abrupt Physics of Dying*, shortlisted for the 2015 CWA Creasy Dagger award for best crime or thriller novel by a new author.

Thur 7 July | 9.30am - 10.30am
 Claremont Community Hub & Library (327 Stirling Hwy)
 For bookings - trybooking.com/206251 or ph: 9285 4353
 Morning tea provided • Bookings essential

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY:

FOLC member, Paul Hardisty will be talking about his journey to becoming a published author of fiction and his two novels *THE ABRUPT PHYSICS OF DYING* (a 2015 London Telegraph Thriller of the Year), and *THE EVOLUTION OF FEAR* (just released), at Claremont Library in Perth, Thursday July 7th at 9:30 – 10:30 am. Admission is free but bookings are essential. Morning tea is provided. If you are free, please come along. To book click here:

<https://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=206251>

Planting for the birds

Sunday 10th July 9 am - 12 pm
Lake Claremont Park



Help create habitat for our bush birds. Please meet at 9am on the east side of the park. Look for the FOLC yellow flag. Gloves, tools and tea provided. Wear closed in shoes and be prepared for rain. For more info contact Heidi M 0416 614 696.

Variegated Fairy-wrens (male shown) have recently returned to Lake Claremont due to revegetation work.

National Tree Day 2016

Sunday July 31st 9am to 12pm

Help enhance nature! Come along to one of the most popular events of the year. Register on the PLANETARK National Tree Day website: <http://treeday.planetark.org/site/10011329>

This year we will be planting near the corner of Alfred and Davies Roads, creating a corridor and habitat for our local wildlife. Grant funding through the State NRM programme was obtained by the FOLC to purchase plants.

Meet at 9am - northeast side of the park. Look for the FOLC yellow flag. Gloves, tools and tea provided. Wear closed in shoes. Dress for rain.

Volunteers are needed to help set up from 8am to 9am plus team leaders for planting. Respond to folc.wa@gmail.com if you can help.

Oblong Turtle Update

Note: After our report on turtles in the last newsletter, Nick made use of some injury enforced home leave to update the situation! Ed

Our highest priority at FOLC has been the extensive and ongoing re-vegetation works at Lake Claremont. Two major objectives of this work are to improve the water quality at the lake and to provide increased habitat for birds and other native fauna. Our efforts to date have been very successful on both these measures.

However, there seems to be a marked decline in turtle activity in the area in recent years. It was once common for numbers of turtles to be seen nesting in surrounding residential gardens and for hatchlings to be seen making their way to the water body en-masse. Turtles were reliably observed at the bird viewing structure along the South West side of the lake. These sightings have become increasingly rare!

So, for the last 2 years I have set about trying to understand as much as possible about our resident Oblong Turtle population. This has involved research, discussions with residents, academics and Town of Claremont (ToC) staff, the collection and cataloguing of dead turtle carapaces and the recording of live sightings of both adults and hatchlings. In 2015 we managed to protect 3 nests from possible predation.



The Oblong Turtle (*Chelodina colliei*) is listed with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as “Near Threatened”. They are found exclusively in the Southwest of WA. Threats to our turtles include urbanisation/loss of habitat, predation and climate change. Our turtles are long lived (estimated up to 60 years lifespan) but not prolific at reproducing. This means that individual populations are very vulnerable to ‘shock’ events, be they climatic or anthropogenic, and have a limited ability to recover from such events.

One of the biggest threats at Lake Claremont is predation by the native Australian Raven and feral foxes. The ravens have become particularly adept at flipping turtles over and disembowelling their prey. I have seen groups of 4-6 ravens attacking turtles as they emerge from the water. Between September and January, gravid females are particularly vulnerable as they search for a suitable nesting site. Once their eggs are laid, the fox becomes the primary threat to the next generation of hatchlings.

This turtle was attacked by Ravens and was later euthanised

Continued on next page

Approximately 80-90% of turtle nests are predated by foxes, around half within 48 hours of the eggs being laid.

Hatchlings emerge from their nests from May onwards after about 220 days of incubation. It is at this stage that they again become vulnerable to predation from ravens and other large water birds such as the Ibis.

In the last 3 years we have received several reports of turtle hatchling sightings at the lake. I see this as a sign that the revegetation efforts by ToC and FOLC are having a positive effect on our turtle population by providing protection from predators and suitable nesting sites. The ToC's efforts in fox management have probably also contributed.

Going forward, a baseline survey of the turtle population should be conducted as a high priority. This will be a critical step towards understanding not only the current size of our resident turtle population but also in identifying trends in population growth or demise. This information can then be used to better inform management strategies to preserve these unique and ancient native turtles.

Calendar July 2016 - Plastic Free July

Day	Event	Time
Saturday July 2 nd	Planting with the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing	9 am - 1 pm
Saturday July 9 th	Planting with the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing	9 am - 1 pm
Sunday July 10 th	Plastic Free July Planting for the Birds	9:00 – 12:00 pm
Monday July 11 th	FOLC Board Meeting	5:30 - 7:00 pm
Friday July 22 nd	Year 10 Community Service Program - Planting	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Sunday July 24 th	Hand Weeding	9:00 – 11:00 am
Tuesday July 26 th	Night Chats at Lake Claremont Lake Claremont Pool	5:30 -7:00 pm Doors open at 5:30 pm
Friday July 29 th	Year 10 Community Service Program - Planting	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Saturday July 30 th	Planting with the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing	9 am - 1 pm
Sunday July 31 st	National Tree Day	9 am – 12pm

Check out the yearly calendar on the [FOLC Website](http://www.friendsoflakeclaremont.org) to find dates of future events.
www.friendsoflakeclaremont.org

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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.

www.friendsoflakeclaremont.org

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