



Friends of Lake Claremont News August 2016



An Australian White Ibis at Lake Claremont Photo by Hilary Heptinstall

In the news this month

Planting has continued this month and it is good to have had such excellent rainfall. However, the wet weather has also been ideal for the growth of weeds and it has been necessary to organise hand-weeding sessions to ensure the success of our new plantings. You can read about our planting and weeding sessions later in this newsletter. I think everyone would agree that the Lake is looking beautiful this month and it is good to see a return of our birds and the hatching of chicks of many different species. David Free writes about the breeding season on page 2

Thank you to Heidi Hardisty

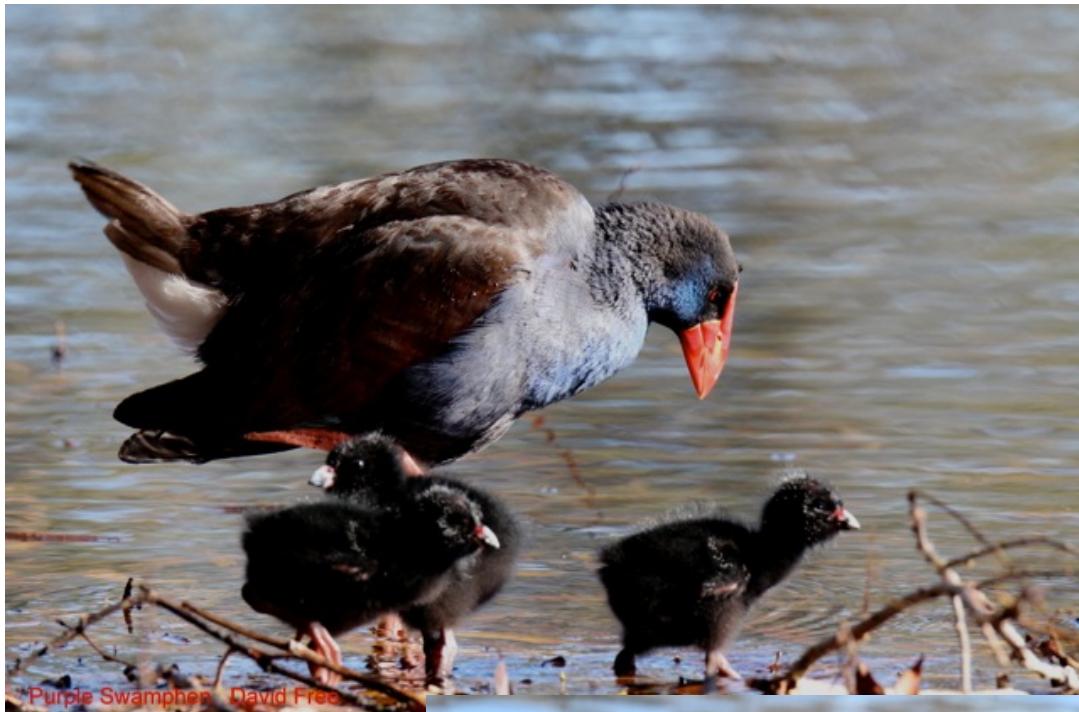
Thanks to Heidi from all of us for the fantastic effort that she has made (and continues to make) during this planting season. From ordering and awaiting delivery of plants, to organising volunteer planting sessions and school sessions, writing reports and taking photos, she works harder than many who have full time paid jobs! It was great to hear her speaking on the radio (720) last week about all that is happening at Lake Claremont with particular reference to Planet Ark and National Tree Day.

Our Birds

Text and photos by David Free

Breeding season has started again. Pink-eared Ducks have claimed possession of at least two of the nesting boxes. By the middle of July, seven pairs of swans were incubating or nest building. Brown Honeyeaters are busy calling for mates. The Reed-warblers have returned and will soon start loudly calling. Magpie-larks are busy gathering mud to construct their beautifully neat round nests, which they build high up in tall trees.

The Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*



Purple Swamphen David Free

A pair of Swamphens hatched three young in the first week of July. Not long afterwards I saw the parents feeding on one of our turtles, giving small morsels to their chicks.

Their nest site, in the south-east corner of the lake, is obviously highly desirable real estate; shortly after they moved out, another pair took over!



Purple Swamphen David Free

In Bloom This Month

Text by Hilary Heptinstall Photo by Geoff Ross



Cockies Tongue *Templetonia retusa*

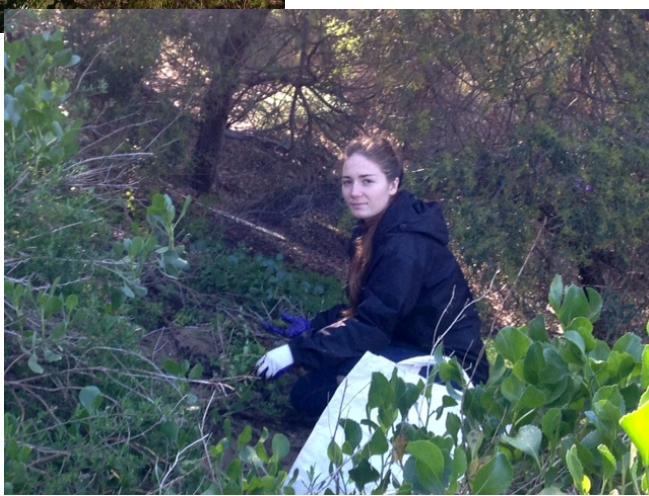
Geoff spotted this beautiful plant in the bushland at the end of Strickland St.

Cockies Tongue is a shrub that grows to about two metres tall (sometimes as much as four metres). It produces bright orange red pea flowers in late autumn, winter and spring, although flowering period varies according to geographic area. It attracts nectar eating birds and also butterflies

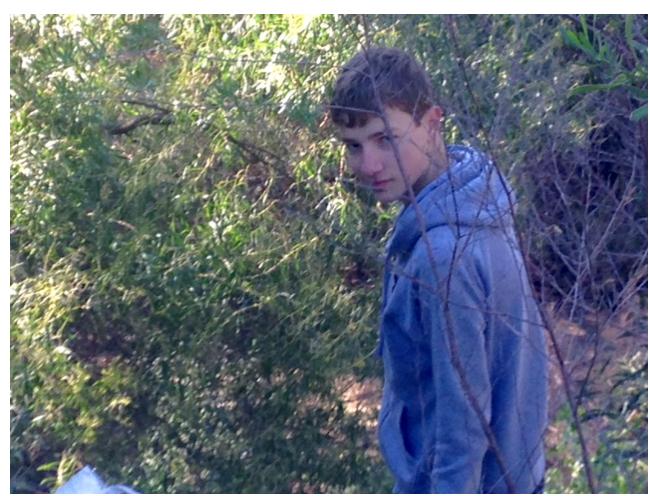


Weeding Session Sunday July 24

The weeds have been thriving in the recent wet weather, so Heidi organized a session in the bush just below the look out on the Lake Way Estate. It was good to see some young new recruits join the regulars. Ahren Den Ouden, a Year 9 student from Christ Church Grammar School is volunteering as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award activities, while Hannah Chapman, a Notre Dame University student became interested in working with FOLC while attending a recent planting session. The weather was perfect, cold, crisp and sunny and we all enjoyed the views from our weeding area!



Hannah Chapman



Ahren Den Ouden

Teds' Corner

Jenni and Lance Banister-Jones

We joined FOLC about 2 years ago. Although we don't live that close to the Lake we have always enjoyed cycling round it, watching the transformation of the area.

That could have been the extent of our involvement had we not started chatting to some bird photographers in the hide.

They told us about a nest where some black winged stilt chicks were hatching. We found it and watched in amazement as the mother gracefully stood up, and a small fluffy chick staggered out from underneath. She then gently subsided onto the nest again, and the process was repeated a short while later! After that we came back every few days to watch their progress, bought better binoculars, bumped into someone wearing a FOLC shirt and signed up!

While we still enjoy watching the birds, our main interest is with the revegetation and planting! We're keen gardeners! Lance produces an abundance of fruit and vegetables, shared with family, friends and anyone walking by!



Lance and Jenni cycling in New Zealand

Jenni has a "tree nursery" in our small back yard, growing and planting up to 1000 eucalypts a year for a farm near Northam.

We've joined the "adopt-a-spot" program. Last summer many plants died in our sloping area, and it became a shortcut for bikes, thus losing both mulch and topsoil. This year, the council put a pile of mulch nearby, and with the help of friends, we spread it before replanting. With good rains this winter, we're hoping it will survive the summer!

We are also Rottnest Voluntary Guides, and enjoy showing tourists round the many exciting spots on the island. It also gives us another opportunity to learn about the ecology of the island, and how they are making it more sustainable.

Before we had so much "free" time, Lance worked as an accountant, and Jenni as a consultant ergonomist. Our second careers now focus on sustainability (Lance) and ecology & conservation (Jenni). It's exciting to be involved with FOLC so we can learn and put our new knowledge into action!

2016 Planting Report 2 *From Heidi Hardisty*

Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP) – Restoring the Wetland Buffer

The epic planting season continued with restoring the wetland buffer on the east side of the lake from mid-June. Most of the project was complete by the July 2nd with a total of 11457 seedlings planted. The plants consist of a variety of groundcover and low shrubs which will add more habitat for wildlife, provide protection (a buffer) for the birds nesting in the lake bed and leave lovely views of the wetland.

The funding was obtained by the FOLC through the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP). SALP is a Community Landcare Grants Program Funded by Alcoa of Australia and Department of Parks and Wildlife. The Program was established in 1998 with a \$1.25 million, five year commitment from Alcoa to provide community groups with a simple process to access funding for a wide range of environmental activities within the Swan and Canning catchments. The Swan River Trust (Parks and Wildlife) joined the program in 1999.

There were 15 separate planting sessions spread over 10 days with over 350 local school students involved. As reported in the last newsletter, the FOLC held a special Youth Planting Day on June 25th which was coordinated by Perth NRM (Natural Resource Management). The Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing attended three sessions and planted over 5000 native seedlings.

Planting Summary in the Wetland Buffer (total number of seedlings planted per day):

1. June 17th: CVS, Yr 10s Scotch College and CCGS (480)
2. June 18th: SSJ (Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing) (1720)
3. June 20th: Freshwater Bay YR 4-5, YR 5-6 (560)
4. June 21st: Freshwater Bay Yr 5-6, Scotch College Yr 7 (2 classes) (840)
5. June 22nd: MLC Yr 3 (2 classes) (840)
6. June 23rd: Scotch College Yr 7 (4 classes) (660)
7. June 24th: Scotch College and CCGS Yr 10 (480)
8. June 25th: Youth Planting Day (1200)
9. June 26th: Scotch College Brisbane House , SSJ (Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing) (2997)
10. July 2nd: SSJ (Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing) (1680)

There are an additional 159 seedlings that will be planted in the wetland buffer in August to finish off this particular project.

Planting has commenced on the third project of creating native woodland on the northeast side of the park. Read more about this in the next report.

Project	Total # of Seedlings	# Seedlings Planted	# Seedlings Left to Plant
Remnant Bushland	11255	11255	0
Wetland Buffer	11616	11457	159
Native Woodland	14280	2960	11320
Total	37151	25672	11479

Highlights from the July Planting Sessions

Text and photos by Heidi Hardisty

Planting for the Birds Sunday July 10



At this session, we planted the area on the east side of the park, north of Elliott Rd in front of the houses. This area will consist of low shrubs and ground cover only. It is part of a project to create patches of habitat for our wildlife such as insects, skinks, frogs, birds, etc. These patches will also function as ecological corridors which assist the wildlife moving from one natural area to the next, increase the native seedbank and provide places of refuge when other natural areas are stressed (e.g. if disease takes hold or a bushfire occurs in Bold Park). The project is funded by the State Government, through the State NRM (Natural Resources Management) Programme. Planting for this project will also take place near the corner of Alfred and Davies Rd later this year and will include trees to create a small patch of native bushland.

Wetland Buffer Planting



Paul and Declan Hardisty ready to welcome volunteers

Methodist Ladies College Back for More!

Teachers from MLC were so pleased with the Year 3 planting session run by the FOLC in June, they asked if they could bring their four classes of Year 6 students to plant. They were in luck! We had fallen behind in the planting schedule and welcomed the extra help. Heidi ran two special sessions in July for 79 students. The girls were lovely and did a splendid job planting 960 plants over two mornings. The native seedlings, a mixture of low shrubs and groundcover, were planted on the east side of the park, creating more habitat for wildlife such as insects, frogs, skinks and birds. What a super effort!



Heidi Hardisty addressing the MLC girls



*A Great effort
despite the damp
weather!*



July Night Chat at Lake Claremont

Text by Hilary Heptinstall Photo by Terry Heptinstall

A large audience attended our July Night Chat session on July 26 to hear Dr Don McFarlane, from CSIRO, speak and they were not disappointed.

He asked the question 'Can we safely restore groundwater and lake levels around Perth?' and made special reference to Lake Claremont.

Since 1975, average temperatures have increased by about 0.5°C and rainfall has decreased by 10-15% mainly in autumn. In particular heavy rain has decreased. Months with more than 200mm now occur once a decade when they used to occur 5 to 8 times per decade. The effect of low recharge on groundwater levels is cumulative – storage in the Gnangara mound, of which Lake Claremont is part, has been declining at about 45 billion litres per year! Salt water is encroaching as ground water levels decrease.



Don McFarlane addressing the audience

It is essential that we maintain our lakes. From a commercial view point, it is estimated that, if all our lakes dried up, the value of real estate would diminish by 4 billion dollars! More importantly, it is estimated that lakes and green space reduce temperatures considerably.

Possible ways of increasing ground water levels are

1. Managed aquifer recharge, which involves adding treated wastewater directly to aquifers. This benefits wetlands and private bore users. Treated wastewater can be added all year round. There is no need for storage and little treatment is needed. Water flows to existing extraction networks thus reducing costs.
2. Treated wastewater may be piped directly to local government reserves. This gives more control over water quality (chlorination) and may have more immediate community acceptance.

Both these options are currently being evaluated. This was a fascinating talk, we all learned a lot and the audience had many questions to ask. We will follow further developments with interest.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friends Planting Day

This will be held on August 14th from 9:00 – 11:00 am. We hope to see many of our FOLC members there!

August Night Chat at Lake Claremont

Restoring the Southwest

Chingarrup Sanctuary and Gondwana Link

This month Eddy Wajon will speak of the amazing restoration work that he and his wife, Donna, have been doing on Chingarrup Sanctuary since 2002. Their 571 ha block has an estimated 500 flora and 550 fauna species.

This talk will describe some of the most spectacular features and biodiversity of Chingarrup Sanctuary, the revegetation activities that have been undertaken on the property, and the benefits these activities have had for the local and regional environment.



[Eddy Wajon](#)

Eddy Wajon is an environmental and water treatment consultant with a passion for flora and fauna.

He has more than 40 years' experience in water and wastewater treatment, environmental and sustainability management, and environmental impact assessment.

He has written, published and distributed four Colour Guides to the Spring Wildflowers of WA covering different regions including the South West and the Pilbara which have had combined sales of 45,000 since 1999.

Tuesday 23rd August, Claremont Swimming Pool, Davies Road, Claremont

6:00 – 7:00 pm

Doors open at 5:30 pm with light refreshments

A gold coin donation is appreciated

Calendar August 2016

Day	Event	Time
Wednesday Aug 3 rd	FOLC Guided Walk for Chinese Agricultural Students	9:00 – 11:00am
Friday Aug 5th	Year 10 Community Service Program - Planting	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Monday Aug 8th	FOLC Board Meeting	5:30 - 7:00 pm
Friday Aug 12th	Year 10 Community Service Program - Planting	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Saturday Aug 13 th	Uni Planting Day	9 am - 1 pm
Sunday Aug 14 th	Friends Planting Day	9:00 – 12:00 pm
Monday Aug 15 th	Planting with the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing	10am – 2:00 pm
Tuesday Aug 23 rd	Night Chats at Lake Claremont Lake Claremont Pool	5:30 -7:00 pm Doors open at 5:30 pm
Aug 22 nd – Aug 28 th	Keep Australia Beautiful Week	
Sunday Aug 28 th	Hand Weeding	9:00 – 11:00 am

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

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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.

POSTAL ADDRESS

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