



*Black swans with cygnets at Lake Claremont Photo by David Free*

## The End of the Planting Season

This month has seen the end of a massive planting season at Lake Claremont in which nearly 38000 seedlings have been planted. Volunteers have included the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing, volunteers from our five universities, local residents, local primary school students, senior students from Scotch College and Christ Church Grammar School, members of the Tzu Chi Foundation and Kids Nature Club and, last but not least, the of the Friends of Lake Claremont. We extend our sincere thanks to all our wonderful volunteers and hope that we will see them again next year.

We have been fortunate that we have had mainly fair weather for our planting days with good follow up rain during the week.

Once again, many thanks are due to Heidi Hardisty for her tremendous efforts in coordinating all our planting events and to Claire Brittain for securing the grants, which allowed us to purchase plants.

*Read more about the planting season on the following pages.*

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## The Final Planting Sessions

*Text and photos by Nick Cook, Heidi Hardisty and Hilary Heptinstall*

### Shah Satnam Planting Saturday July 30 and Saturday August 6



*Removing the mulch!*

This wonderful Indian Group was back again on Saturday, August 6, planting 1600 native seedlings to help create native woodland. Thank you so much!

A super effort on July 30 by the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing. 1800 native seedlings were planted! We would have planted more but there were quite a few patches of thick mulch that had to be removed. Extremely hard work! But everyone chipped in and got the job done.



### A Special Thank You to the SHAH SATNAM JI GREEN S WELFARE FORCE WING

The Friends of Lake Claremont would like to acknowledge the stupendous contribution to our community by the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing.

This amazing group gives up much of their spare time volunteering to better society. This winter 'The Force' planted 14,000 native seedlings in 8 sessions at Lake Claremont, 37% of the total planting work. In their fourth consecutive year of volunteering with the FOLC, they have planted a total number of 65,000 native seedlings. What a super effort!

## National Tree Day Sunday July 31



*Volunteers dressed for the weather*

Despite the fickle weather, 87 volunteers of all ages (3-97) and from all parts of Perth braved the 'fresh' conditions and planted 2000 native seedlings on the mulched land bordering Alfred Rd. Thanks to the Tzu Chin Foundation and Kids Nature Club for joining the Friends of Lake



*A break from the rain!*



*Kids Nature Club lent a hand*



*Claire Brittain, our Company Secretary, getting her hands dirty!*

## University Planting Day Saturday August 13

This was attended by about 80 students from UWA, Murdoch, Notre Dame, ECU and Curtin Universities to celebrate National Student volunteer week. It was a beautiful sunny day and the students planted 2350 seedlings. Some of the strong, young men also removed some of the heavy mulch from the adjacent area ready for planting the following day!

We were pleased that a few students arrived early and were able to assist the laying-out team who were rather exhausted after wheeling barrows full of plants from the shed to the planting area!



*ECU student Mario Bejarano from Colombia laying out plants*



*University students planning on land adjacent to Alfred Rd  
Photo from UWA Guild*



*Curtin University Students Kanin Torcharoensuthiphol from Thailand  
and Wong Jin Yang from Malaysia*



*Student volunteers with Heidi Hardisty Photo from UWA Guild*

## Planting Season Finale! Public Planting Day Sunday August 14

We had a very good turn out for this session from local residents, students and Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing. The weather was perfect, 22 ° and sunny.

We achieved our mammoth goal of planting 3000 native seedlings to complete the planting season. A huge effort was needed to remove mountains of excess mulch. However, we succeeded with the help of many people. The day started early with FOLC members and local residents pitching in. Then the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing worked late in the day and would not stop until the job was done.

The SSJ was planting world wide today to enhance the environment and to celebrate Indian Independence Day and their Guru's birthday. Thank you to everyone for making this year's planting season another huge success.



*Heidi Hardisty with Sha Satnam and community volunteers.*

### A Very Special Thank You

One of the highlights of our planting and weeding sessions this season has been the lovely morning tea at the end of each morning. Thanks go to **Soozie** and **Geoff Ross** who have coordinated refreshments but many thanks are also due to our cake makers, **Susan Gebbie**, **Nancy Harrison**, **Margaret Richardson** and **Cheryl Sampson** who have produced such delicious treats for us! We hope that they will continue to feed us next season!

We should also like to thank **Bunnings** who donated our gloves and hand trowels this year and **Toyota** for providing the sausage sizzle on National Tree Day. We greatly appreciate the support of these organisations.

## Our Birds

*Text by David Free Painting by Pam Free*

### **Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura Australis***



This small duck is one of our less commonly seen birds. It is an Australian endemic and in WA it is confined to the south-west.

Whereas the female is a drab mottled brown, the male is very handsome. In breeding season his bright blue bill contrasts sharply with the glossy black head and neck. His stiff tail is sometimes held erect. They will nest in dense reed beds, and are reported to sometimes use old coot nests. Blue-bills are rarely seen in the air, so they probably travel at night. If threatened they will dive. Like Musk Ducks, they sit very low on the water. Omnivores, they feed mostly by diving.



## In Bloom this Month

*Text by Heidi Hardisty Photo by Geoff Ross*

This is a variation of a Senecio species, most likely Coastal Groundsel (*Senecio pinnatifolius* var. *maritimus*). Plants of the genus Senecio occur commonly within 300 km of the coast throughout Australia. However, their highly variable nature can make it difficult to identify the species in the field, even for a botanist.

## August Night Chat at the Lake

### Restoring remnant bushland in the State's south west

*Text by Rose Senior Photo by Terry Heptinstall*

On 23<sup>rd</sup> August Eddy Wajon gave a fascinating night chat to the Friends of Lake Claremont about the extensive work that he, supported by committed volunteers, has done to revegetate and restore biodiversity within the Chingarrup Sanctuary, a property that he and his wife have owned since 2002. The Sanctuary forms a strategic section of the Gondwana Link, a project aiming to reestablish remnant bushland and create a swathe of ecological connectivity linking Margaret River in the west to the Nullarbor in the east.

Eddy presented his talk with expertise and enthusiasm, revealing a huge breadth of knowledge about the range of flora and fauna that he has identified on his 570-hectare property (while admitting that there are still areas on which he has yet to set foot). To date Eddy has photographed 386 plant species, pointing out that these now need to be documented in a more systematic way, with areas divided into quadrants which will reveal the existence of further species.



*Eddy Wajon*

Eddy is an enthusiastic promoter of citizen science in which individuals identify frogs, spiders, lizards, small mammals, snakes and so on. He is also involved in banding birds and spoke proudly of the fact that, whereas five years ago there were only two sightings of malleefowl, now they can be seen every day to the point where they function as an icon for the property. Eddy then proceeded to imitate a malleefowl strolling along in a leisurely fashion, much to the amusement of the Friends.

Eddy shared with us not only his successes but also the challenges that he faces in an ongoing way. These include the fact that not all paddocks can be easily revegetated, the fact that fallen trees can sometimes destroy patches of delicate flowering plants such as the dwarf spider orchid, and the fact that fire is a constant risk, particularly where there are stands of mature banksias that need to be replaced by young trees.

In sum, Eddy's presentation, together with his slides, display of moths and stuffed fauna, and self-published books and calendars focusing on West Australian windflowers, was an inspiration to us all. Thank you, Eddy, for a most informative and entertaining talk.

## 2016 Planting Report 3

### State NRM Program – Creating Native Woodland

*By Heidi Hardisty*

The planting season is over! Nearly 38,000 seedlings were planted in 41 sessions with help of over 1400 volunteers. What an incredible effort by the FOLC and all the volunteers who participated!

The third and final phase of the planting season this year created two pockets of native vegetation on the north and east side of the lake. One pocket near the corner of Alfred and Davies Road included 4 types of Banksias which are a favourite food of the endangered Carnaby's Cockatoos. Low shrubs and ground cover were chosen for the location on the east side of the park in front of existing housing.

The new patches of vegetation will provide more habitat for the local fauna, such as insects, skinks, bobtails, and birds. The patches will also function as ecological corridors, facilitating the movement of some animals between local bush areas and also provide refuge for them in times of fire and disease. The plantings will help to maintain a seedbank of local plants and genetic diversity.

The funding to purchase the plants (15,210) for this project was obtained from the WA State Government through the State NRM (Natural Resource Management) Program. This is the fifth consecutive grant awarded to the FOLC.

It took twelve sessions in just over 5 weeks (mid-July to mid-August) to plant a total of 15,210 native seedlings. Once again there was a huge number of participants, 500 in total including 140 local students, 72 students from the 5 WA universities, the Tzu Chi Foundation and of course the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing. In the last 3 days of the planting season, 6000 native seedlings were planted and over 600 wheelbarrows of excess mulch were removed. What an incredible effort by everyone involved!

Planting Summary of Native Woodland Project (total number of seedlings planted per day):

1. July 9<sup>th</sup>: SSJ (Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing)(1300)
2. July 10<sup>th</sup> : Planting for the Birds (700)
3. July 21<sup>st</sup>: Methodist Ladies' College (MLC) YR 6 (480)
4. July 22<sup>nd</sup>: Methodist Ladies' College (MLC) YR 6 (480)
5. July 30<sup>th</sup>: SSJ (Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing) (1713)
6. July 31<sup>st</sup>: National Tree Day (2000)
7. August 5<sup>th</sup>: Scotch College and CCGS Yr 10 (800)
8. Aug 6<sup>th</sup>: SSJ (Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing) (1600)
9. Aug 7<sup>th</sup>: Christ Church Grammar School Year 10 (320)
10. Aug 12<sup>th</sup> : Scotch College and CCGS Yr 10 (500)
11. Aug 13<sup>th</sup> : University Planting Day (2350)
12. Aug 14<sup>th</sup>: 'Friends' Planting Day with the general public and SSJ (Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing) (2967)

*Continued on next page*

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## Planting Summary 2016:

Project	Total # of Seedlings	Grant Body
Remnant Bushland	11255	25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Landcare Grant
Wetland Buffer	11457	SALP
Native Woodland	15210	State NRM
Total	37922	

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## Rain at the Lake

*Text and photos by Nick Cook*

The storm drain is working as a stormy day watered in the recent mass plantings. The drain helps filter nutrients and chemicals from the run off coming from Alfred Rd and the surrounding sports oval and houses before it reaches Lake Claremont.



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Next Busy Bee

### Bushcare's Major Day Out

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2016

9:00 – 11:00 am Meet at 9:00 am Stirling Rd Park on the south side of Lake Claremont

One again the FOLC are participating in the annual event Bushcare's Major Day Out (BMDO) on 11<sup>th</sup> September. The FOLC encourage everyone to come down and discover Lake Claremont, a birder's paradise. The morning will start with a hand weeding session followed by an optional guided walk and free tea.

There are hundreds of volunteer Bushcare and Landcare groups around Australia meeting regularly to maintain their local natural areas. Their main activities are controlling environmental weeds, clearing rubbish, planting native species and reporting wildlife sightings. Most groups are supported by their local Council. BMDO aims to increase the awareness of this important work and to attract more volunteers to join these groups.



### Friends of Lake Claremont Night Chats at Lake Claremont

Tuesday September 27 2016 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Restoring Lake Claremont Heidi Hardisty.

The FOLC have been leading one of the most amazing restoration projects in Perth, transforming the old golf course into a beautiful parkland. In the past 6 years the local community group has won over \$500,000 in grants, leading thousands of volunteers to plant over 280,000 native seedlings. For her efforts Heidi Hardisty, the coordinator of the group, was presented the Individual Landcarer Award for WA in 2011 and the Pride of Australia National Medal in 2013.



Please join us. 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.

Calendar September 2016  
National Biodiversity Month

<b>Day</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>
Friday <b>Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Year 10 Community Service Program	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Sept. 5 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup>	National Landcare Week	
Wed. Sept. 7 <sup>th</sup>	National Threatened Species Day	
Friday <b>Sept. 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Year 10 Community Service Program	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Sunday <b>Sept 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>FOLC Busy Bee: Bushcare's Major Day Out</b>	9:00 – 11:00 am
Monday <b>Sept. 12<sup>th</sup></b>	FOLC Board Meeting	5:30 - 7:00 pm
Friday <b>Sept. 16<sup>th</sup></b>	Year 10 Community Service Program	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Sunday <b>Sept. 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Celebrate Lake Claremont</b>	10am-
Tuesday <b>Sept. 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Night Chats at Lake Claremont</b> Lake Claremont Pool	6:00 -7:00 pm Doors open at 5:30 pm

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

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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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[www.friendsoflakeclaremont.org](http://www.friendsoflakeclaremont.org)

Newsletter articles and photos from members are most welcome and should be sent to the editor, Hilary Heptinstall  
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