



**Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoos at Lake Claremont in January**

*Photo by David Free*

The last two months have been fairly quiet for the Friends of Lake Claremont, though our monthly Busy Bees have been well attended. February will see a return to normal activity with our welcome barbecue on February 19. We hope that many of our members will be able to attend this.

Our first Night Chat for the year will be held on February 28. Thanks to Rose Senior and Greg Simpson for agreeing to coordinate our Night Chats sessions this year.

See details of these and other events later in this newsletter.

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## BUSY BEE ACTIVITY

### December Busy Bee

We carried out a hand weeding day in December. Seventeen people showed up and we weeded in two areas. Firstly north of the lake (mainly thistles) and secondly in the lake bed around the man-made 'peninsula' on the east side of the lake (Bushy Starwort).

Greg Simpson attended his last busy bee in December when his formal role as Bush Care Officer with the Town of Claremont ended. Fortunately we will still see him around as he is currently working on his PhD in Citizen Science with the help of the FOLC. (See Greg's article on page 6). Thank you, Greg, for your support and contributions to the restoration of Lake Claremont and we wish you all the best for your future endeavours.



*Heidi Hardisty and Greg Simpson*

The Town of Claremont's new Bush Care Officer, Angela Hine, came to help out ahead of her official start in January. She will be working two days a week. Welcome Angela!



*Weeders in action*



*Alice Thomas with Angela Hine*



## January Busy Bee

The hot weather didn't stop volunteers from coming along and having a very productive morning. Fifteen people turned up to remove Bushy Starwort (*Symphotrichum squamatum*), a tall herb with small daisy-like flowers, from the lake bed.

The weed can become quite invasive in wetlands and the Friends are helping to eliminate the weed from the area.

Photo from Florabase (Department of Parks and Wildlife)



*Symphotrichum squamatum*

Photos: S.M. Armstrong

## February Busy Bee

Our next busy bee will be held Sunday February 12th, 7:00 - 9:00 am. Due to the hot weather we will commence at 7:00 am (one hour earlier than normal) for February only. We will meet at 7:00 am at the old tin shed and depart shortly after 7am to the work site. The activity will again be hand weeding Bushy Starwort.

## GRANTS AND FUNDRAISING

Claire Brittain continues to work hard on obtaining grants for the FOLC. She tells me that we have been awarded a **State NRM Grant** for \$50,000 to revegetate areas on the Eastern side of the lake. Well done, Claire!

We participated in the **Grill'd Claremont Quarter** Local Matters program in November and were very pleased to receive a donation of \$100. We hope that members will support our local Grill'd. They really do make the most delicious healthy burgers!

## OUR BIRDS

*Text and photos by David Free*

Many beautiful Black-winged Stilts breed at our lake each year. Their nests can often be seen, sometimes not far from the shoreline. They favour using a mound or an old stump in shallow water but will also build on dry land. This series of photos, taken last summer, follows three chicks from newly hatched to five weeks old.



*Newly hatched stilt*



*Stilts at three weeks old*



*Stilt at five weeks old*



## THE NEW YEAR IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

*Text by Soozie Ross*

You should have received an email regarding your membership from the Membership Secretary Soozie Ross

The membership costs \$10 a year for individuals or \$20 for families.

27% of our members have chosen to pay ahead for 5 years and many others have chosen the two year option for membership. 5 yrs membership costs \$50 for an individual or \$100 for a family. Two years is \$20 for an individual and \$40 for a family.

Please consider the longer 2 or 5 year enrolment options as then you don't have to be asked to renew each year and it makes the membership secretary's job much easier.

If you have paid for 2 or 5 years then you should have received the email notifying you that there is no payment due this year.

All other members should have received an email asking for renewal now.

Changes in address and other details should be sent to Soozie Ross at [folc.wa@gmail.com](mailto:folc.wa@gmail.com)

If you are re-enrolling and paying by direct debit ( our preferred option) please also write an email to the above address so that we can tally up the deposit with your renewal.

Your membership allows us to apply for grants to buy plants which are then planted by volunteers. We need a certain number of members to enable FOLC to remain a Company and enable us to administer our own grants. The value of the grants we have received since 2009 is a staggering \$500,000. You and your membership are important to us because your support helps

## IN BLOOM THIS MONTH

*Photo by Geoff Ross*

***Macrozamia riedlei***, commonly known as zamia or zamia palm, is a species of plant in the Zamiaceae family. The Noongar names for the plant are baian, djiriji, koondagoor and quinning.

This plant is endemic to Western Australia and its nuts have been successfully used as food by Indigenous Australians after proper processing - however eaten raw by European explorers it incurred poisoning.



*A flower developing on a zamia palm at Lake Claremont*

## CITIZEN SCIENCE

*Text by Greg Simpson*

I was honoured to speak about my citizen science research as part of FOLC's 2016 AGM evening. My talk was strategically positioned between the meeting and the barbeque that followed. This is a summary of my presentation that I was commissioned (press-ganged ☺) to write by your newsletter editor Hilary Heptinstall!



There is a long tradition of interested amateurs (unpaid citizen scientists) contributing to the collection and analysis of ecological data, especially for the bird observations with FOLC's own David and Pam Free being a case in point. One of the most famous naturalists of all time, Charles Darwin undertook his voyage on the Beagle as the captain's unpaid guest. The observations Darwin made on that voyage provided the foundation for his famous '*The Origin of Species*' and his lesser known '*The structure and distribution of coral reefs*'.

In the opening decades of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the availability of personal computers, high-speed internet access and the development of smartphones and tablets has seen an explosion in citizen scientists volunteering to assist with research in the diverse fields of astronomy, chemical and drug testing, ecology, history, mathematics and medicine to name but a few.

A recent report of the US Environmental Protection Authority concluded that '*Citizen science is already contributing to science and natural resource and environmental management and policymaking. ... Citizen science also provides benefits beyond science, offering the opportunity for an open discourse based on scientific knowledge that more people can access, understand, and trust. ... Citizen science can increase scientific and environmental literacy and extend public involvement with natural resource and environmental managers and other decision makers in decision making.*'

My 21<sup>st</sup> century activities have focused on gaining a Bachelor of Arts specialising in economically, environmentally and socially sustainable urban development and a Bachelor of Science in urban ecology. With a strong interest in these complementary fields, it is not surprising that the opportunity to be involved in the internationally significant wetland restoration at the Lake Claremont conservation and recreation space attracted me to working at the Town of Claremont.

Two years ago, Murdoch University offered to pay me to research citizen science at Lake Claremont, which was an opportunity too good to pass up. Now I research and write on the historical environmental and recreational significance of Lake Claremont and develop projects to monitor and promote how this important mixed-use public open space contributes to both the conservation of native biodiversity and the urban liveability of the Claremont region.

I will of course need plenty of enthusiastic citizen science volunteers to help with that work. When you are not planting with Heidi or weeding with Norma, it would be great to have you

Further details will be on the FOLC website and in your newsletter.

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## MANAGING OUR BIRDS

*Text by Heidi Hardisty*

Three top experts spoke on Bird Management at a seminar hosted by Perth NRM (Natural Resource Management) in December.

Mike Bamford, consulting ecologist and artist, discussed the challenges of sharing our suburbs with the birds. Although there are a few “winners” with development, like Red Wattlebirds and Ravens, there are far more “losers” that cannot survive in highly altered landscapes. To prevent losing the variety and numbers of our native birds, he stressed it was vital to minimise urban sprawl and do infill wisely, making better use of public space, road verges, and private and community gardens.

If we really value birds, private gardens should provide habitat, as Mike and his wife Mandy have done. For over 26 years they have monitored the bird population in their own garden and watched how the bird assemblages have changed as their garden has grown and matured. We should also help to protect birds from other threats like cats, which can cause local extinction in sedentary birds such as fairy-wrens. One of the easiest ways to help is to keep cats in at night (now a Perth by-law).

Geoff Barrett, Regional Ecologist for the Department of Parks and Wildlife, then spoke on “Pest Birds in the Metro Area” pointing out that some of the pests are acclimatized species from the eastern states, like the Rainbow Lorikeets, while others are native species like the Australian Raven, Corella and the Galah. It is important to note that all native species are protected. DPAW is always looking at alternative ways of control to avoid culling. There has been recent success controlling Baudin’s Cockatoos from damaging orchards. Nets placed over apple trees have been very beneficial, helping to prevent bird attack while decreasing the temperature in the orchards therefore giving better quality apples and yields.

The final speaker was Mike Lohr, a PhD candidate looking at the possible causes for the decline of boobook owls in southwestern Australia. His talk focussed on how Anticoagulant Rodenticides (rat poisons) can affect bird management.

What is an Anticoagulant Rodenticide? It is a Vitamin K antagonist, which stops blood clotting in the animal and causes it to bleed (internally) to death. There are 2 types of this poison:

### First Generation (FGARs)

- Break down fast
- Require multiple consecutive feeds
- Rodents have developed resistance



*Mike Lohr with a Boobook Owl*

## Second Generation (SGARs)

- Persistent in liver tissue
- Single feed is lethal
- Walking dead conundrum – it can take up to 7-10 days for the animal to die

The effects of SGAR on birds can be devastating. Death of raptors, like owls, can occur from primary and secondary exposure, i.e., from eating the bait directly or eating the poisoned rat and over time resulting in bioaccumulation and biomagnification of the poison within the birds.

Other sub-lethal effects on birds are also known, such as a decrease in eggshell thickness, possible effects on bone density and increased parasitism. Sub-lethal haemorrhaging could also lead to increased predation and accidents.

Much more study is needed and SGARS should be used with extreme caution. SGAR legislation is closely controlled in Canada, England, and the European Union where these poisons are only administered indoors, in lockable bait boxes, by licensed pesticide applicators. Unfortunately in Australia, these poisons are widely available and can be set by anyone, anywhere. The effects on our birdlife may be disastrous. Please consider using alternatives like snap traps.

The slides for these talks are available through Perth NRM. Please email [folc.wa@gmail.com](mailto:folc.wa@gmail.com) and let us know if you would like to receive the links to these talks.

The next Perth NRM seminars will be held in mid-March (Management of Sediments) and April 7<sup>th</sup> (Management of Dieback). All are welcome. This is a great chance to hear the latest knowledge in biodiversity management. All Friends of Lake Claremont members are invited to attend. An email confirming the details will be sent out soon.

*A Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo at Lake Claremont in January*

*Photo by David Free*





## UPCOMING EVENTS

## FOLC SUMMER BARBECUE

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR WHERE WE SAY THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR MEMBERS SO PLEASE JOIN US WITH YOUR FAMILIES FOR A BARBECUE.

WHERE : STIRLING ROAD PARK LAKE CLAREMONT

WHEN : 19TH FEBURARY 5 - 7:30PM

RSVP BY THE 12ST OF FEB  
FOOD AND DRINKS PROVIDED. PLEASE INCLUDE  
NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING FOR CATERING  
PURPOSES.



EMAIL : folc.wa@gmail.com  
TELEPHONE : 0416 614 696



## February Night Chat at Lake Claremont

February 28th 2017

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Stirling Road Park

Title: Nyungar Knowhow

Speaker: Neville Collard

Please join us for a very special evening with Neville Collard. Neville will share with us local Nyungar knowledge passed on through the generations. There will be ample time for discussion. To mark the occasion, we will host the event outside, on the south shore of Lake Claremont at Stirling Road Park. Refreshments served from 6:00 pm. Please bring along a camping chair or picnic rug to sit on. A gold coin donation is appreciated.



Calendar February 2017

Day	Event	Time
Thursday February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	World Wetlands Day	
Friday February 11 <sup>th</sup>	Year 10 Community Service Program	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Sunday February 12 <sup>th</sup>	FOLC Busy Bee and Tea Lake Claremont	7:00 – 10:00 am
Monday February 13 <sup>th</sup>	FOLC Board Meeting	5:30 - 7:00 pm
Friday February 17 <sup>th</sup>	Year 10 Community Service Program	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Sunday February 19 <sup>th</sup>	FOLC Summer Barbecue Stirling Road Park	5:00 – 7:30 pm
Friday February 24 <sup>th</sup>	Year 10 Community Service Program	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Tuesday Feb 28 <sup>th</sup>	Night Chats at Lake Claremont Stirling Road Park	6:00 -8:00 pm

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

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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.

**CONTACT**

E-mail: [folc.wa@gmail.com](mailto:folc.wa@gmail.com)

Phone: (08) 9384 2820

Fax: (08) 9383 4213

**POSTAL ADDRESS**

Friends of Lake Claremont Ltd.

P.O. Box 837

Claremont WA, 6910

[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 [heptins@bigpond.net.au](mailto:heptins@bigpond.net.au) 0411 052 329