



A Grey Teal family at Lake Claremont in April Photo by David Free

It is very unusual to see a family with ducklings at this time of year! You can read more about the out of season breeding from David Free on page 5 of this newsletter.

Heidi Hardisty writes about this year's winter planting season on page 6. Many community volunteers will be participating but FOLC members will be needed for the laying out of plants and acting as team leaders. See Heidi's article on page 6 for ways in which you can help.

Annie Falconer has coordinated volunteer hours for 2016 and gives interesting statistics on page 7. It is good to know that our total number of volunteer hours has increased in 2016.

Our Night Chat sessions will resume in May. See page 9 for details.

APRIL BUSY BEE

Text by Rose Senior

Photos by Rose Senior, Heidi Hardisty and Declan Hardisty

On Sunday 9th April, a glorious day, we had an extremely busy Busy Bee. 20 FOLC members and additional helpers pruned the Hardenbergia, (now rampant along some of the fence-lines), picked up pieces of bark and sticks where they were stifling seedlings, trimmed back the acacia where it had started to overhang the bike path, and weeded bushy starwort and thistles growing in the lake bed. An uncooperative dog-owner walked straight under the Moreton Bay Figs towards the lake with his unleashed dog, despite admonitions from FOLC members. He did, however, return soon after with his dog on a leash, looking the other way as he walked past us. All in all, an engaging morning for everyone!



Aernout Boere piling up bark and branches



Kevin McAlpine trimming acacias



Volunteers enjoying morning tea

At our morning tea outside the shed, at which we ate hot cross buns and other goodies supplied by Soozie Ross. Heidi and Nick gave announcements. Heidi told us about the big planting season this year (27,000 plants), which will nearly complete the greening of the wetland buffer area, including four public planting sessions. At these and other sessions volunteers will be needed to lay out seedlings in preparation for planting. Nick then updated us on the turtle situation, bringing along the carapaces of turtles that had been attacked. He highlighted the ongoing issue between dogs and turtles, pointing out that ravens were still the main predators.

TALK AT THE MURDOCH WILDFLOWER SOCIETY

Text and photo by Hilary Heptinstall



Heidi Hardisty at Lake Claremont

Heidi Hardisty spoke to the Murdoch Branch of the Wildflower Society of WA in April. Her subject was 'Restoring Lake Claremont: A Community Driven Project'.

In her talk she described the transformation of the Claremont Golf Course to woodlands. She focused in particular on pivotal moments in the recent history of Lake Claremont, including its designation as a Bush Forever site (2000), the establishment of FOLC (2003), the narrow decision to remove the long-9-hole golf course and retain all 23 hectares for the Lake and its surrounds (2009), and the incorporation of FOLC so that funding applications could be made.

Heidi explained that a further key factor that has enabled FOLC to achieve such spectacular success has been the development of a park concept plan by the Town of Claremont.

All those present found the talk inspiring and were very impressed with what we have achieved in the last 8 years. It is great that Heidi is able to share the FOLC experiences with members of other conservation groups.

BLUE SKIMMER *Orthetrum caledonicum*

Text and photo by Angela Hine



Information courtesy of Dept. Of Agriculture- MyPestGuideReporter app. as at 30/3/17.

Blue Skimmers are native to Australia and are widespread. Their larvae are living in water in swamps, pools and slow flowing creeks and can be a pest in hatcheries. Both adults and larvae are predators, adults are excellent flyers and catching flying insects while larvae are ambush predators, feeding on insect larvae, tadpoles and small fish in swamps.

I have personally found the MYPestGuide Reporter app by the Department of Agriculture to be a fantastic identifying tool for invertebrates.

Someone from DAFWA will generally respond within 48 hours with the ID and a bit of information, such as this dragonfly. And it's free!

ARE MAMMALS RETURNING TO LAKE CLAREMONT?

Text by Heidi Hardisty

An intriguing looking “tunnel” in the grass was spotted recently by Angela Hine, the Bushcare officer, as she did her weekly inspection of the remnant bushland. What could have made such a track? Although Ms. Hine noted it is similar to how quendas tunnel, possums, ducks, or rats are the most likely.

Kevin McAlpine, one of four FOLC board members, noted that there is at least one Brushtail Possum in the area. Possums burrow in dense vegetation, as they bound when they run and create small scrapings or diggings when looking for food. Kevin has also seen an Australian White Ibis in his yard digging holes in the lawn and garden. Pacific Black Ducks will burrow into



The “tunnel” in the grass Photo by Angela Hine



A quenda Photo from Wikipedia

Although quendas are believed to be long gone from Lake Claremont, there is a slim chance they could return on their own. So please report any native mammal sightings or signs of their diggings so our Bushcare Officer can check it out. Contact the Town of Claremont directly by email toc@claremont.wa.gov.au or use the SNAP SEND SOLVE app which can be downloaded free on your smart phone.

OUR BIRDS

Text and photo by David Free



A Buff-banded rail photographed in mid-April

Because of the heavy summer rains there has recently been water coverage in much of the lake. My wife Pam and I conducted the quarterly bird count at the end of February; many more water-dependent birds were recorded than would normally be seen in the summer.

We observed 37 species, well above our average summer count of 29 species.

As well as the Grey teal family pictured on the front page, several water dependant species have been tempted to breed out of season. I have seen young Swamphe, Coot and Buff-banded Rail, Rails are normally very timid and secretive, but a family can now be regularly seen foraging for insects near the path alongside Scotch college playing fields.

REGISTERED CHARITY TICK

Text by Heidi Hardisty



You will now see this new logo alongside the FOLC frog at the end of the newsletter: the Registered Charity Tick.

The ACNC has created the new “Registered Charity Tick” to help charities, like the Friends of Lake Claremont, show the public that they’re registered with the ACNC (Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission).

You can find the list of charitable organizations on the ACNC website here: [Charity Register](http://acnc.gov.au/charityregister).

2017 WINTER PLANTING SEASON

Text and photos by Heidi Hardisty

Another huge planting season is about to begin! The FOLC have won 3 major grants to purchase 27,000 native seedlings: one from SALP (Swan Alcoa Landcare Program), and two from the State NRM (Natural Resource Management) Program.



natural resource
management program



Restoration of the eastern buffer will continue this winter

The focus will be on restoring the eastern edge, or wetland buffer, of Lake Claremont. Shrubs and groundcover will be planted to create more habitat for local insects, reptiles and birds. The low height of the plantings will ensure a view of the lake is maintained.

A great deal of planning goes into coordinating the planting sessions and FOLC works very closely with Town of Claremont (TOC), local schools and other community groups to ensure success. As well as our own members, our planting sessions (June to August) are attended by local residents, school students, corporate and community groups.

We only plant species known to be indigenous to the area. Our tube stock is purchased from 3 nurseries: Apace WA, Plantrite and Men of the Trees. The seedlings are not watered but rely on the winter rains to establish their roots so they can survive the hot, dry summers.

Volunteers Needed

Local residents and members of the general public are welcome to join in any of our public planting sessions. We need 5-7 team leaders to help at each planting session. Plus we need help 1 hour prior to every planting session to set up and lay out the seedlings. Planting dates are listed below. More details can be found on our website or follow us on Facebook. If you would like more info or can volunteer please contact us directly by email: folc@gmail.com

Continued on next page

2017 Public Planting Days

The FOLC host 4 public planting days for the local and wider community. All are held on Sunday mornings, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. Team leaders (5-7) are needed to help run each session. And 6-8 volunteers are needed to help set-up from 8:00 – 9:00 am.

1. Local Residents' Planting Day - June 11th
2. Planting for the Birds – July 9th
3. National Tree Day – July 30th
4. Friends' Planting Day – August 13th

Planting with “The Force”



Since 2013, a very special group has contributed enormously to our restoration projects, planting over 10,000 native seedlings each year: the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing. This Indian expat group is a faction of the larger Dera Sacha Sauda, a social welfare and spiritual organization that preaches and practices humanitarianism.

Volunteers from the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force

In 2017, the FOLC will host 5 planting sessions with “The Force”, 9:00am to 2:00 pm. We need 6-8 people to help lay out the seedlings 8:00 – 9:00 am.

1. Saturday, June 10th
2. Saturday, June 17th
3. Saturday, July 8th
4. Saturday, July 29th
5. Monday, August 14th

Local School Planting Sessions

Scheduling of planting sessions with the local primary schools is well underway. So far students from Methodist Ladies College (MLC), The Quintilian School, Freshwater Bay Primary School, John XXIII College, Christ Church Grammar School and Scotch College are participating. Sessions will take place on Monday to Fridays, June 12th – 30th. It would be helpful to have 2-3 volunteers set up for a half an hour before each session (8:30 – 9:00 am, and 12:30 – 1:00 pm). Email us if you can help: folc.wa@gmail.com

FOLC 2106 VOLUNTEER HOURS REPORT

By Annie Falconer

The FOLC have led a record number of volunteers in making our park more beautiful. For the 2016 calendar year, 2577 volunteers contributed a total of 6,308 hours of their time looking after Lake Claremont. This includes over 127 on-the-ground volunteer sessions, most of which took place in the planting months of June and July.

Many people attended only one session. However, many of the core volunteers attended numerous sessions. The Total Number of Volunteers is the total number of people who attended any given session.

The Friends of Lake Claremont contributed a total of 2,866 hours for both admin and field work while members of the public including the Conservation Volunteers, the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing, volunteers from various corporations and students from many different schools and universities contributed the remaining 3,442.

Special thanks to Heidi Hardisty who remains the driving force behind the FOLC and the organisation of all the volunteers and while she has slowly been able to delegate some of her responsibilities she still contributes far and away the most hours of her time. Thanks also to Claire Brittain without whose continuing successful grant applications the FOLC would not have the funds to carry out as many planting projects as it does.

As always, a HUGE thank you to all the volunteers who give up their time to work at Lake Claremont and I hope you continue to bring your friends and families down to enjoy this very special green space that you have helped to create.

Summary of Volunteer Hours			
Year	2014	2015	2016
Total No. Volunteers (including multiple attendees)*	1849	1981	2577
Total No. Individual Volunteers ⁺	1031	1110	1214
No. of Volunteer Sessions	106	132	127
FOLC Volunteer Hours	1755	2291	2866
All Other Volunteer Hours	3877	3560	3442
Total Volunteer Hours	5632	5851	6308

⁺ Total No. of Individual Volunteers is the total number of different people who volunteered throughout the year. (Those who volunteered multiple times are counted only once.)

On behalf of all the members I should like to thank Annie for the great work that she has done in coordinating volunteer hours. Ed

UPCOMING EVENTS

NIGHT CHAT TUESDAY MAY 23 6.30 pm at Lake Claremont Aquatic Centre

Is 'Bush Forever' really bush forever? By Mary Gray

Bush Forever was introduced in 2000 with the theme of 'Keeping the Bush in the City'. It is 'a policy position of the Government to guide decision-making and to protect and manage Bush Forever Sites....' Further, as a whole-of-government initiative, '... it seeks to establish a representative system of protected areas.' It was to be implemented by 2010.

But has this been achieved? In September 2016, the threatened status of our Banksia Woodlands was formally recognised by the federal government's listing under the EPBC Act as an *endangered* ecological community. Also the state government produced the draft *Green Growth Plan* which ignored and deceptively unravels Bush Forever as a strategic plan.

Come along and hear what has happened, what is still happening, and what needs to happen to stop the loss of our biodiverse bushland.



Mary Gray is an Environmental Scientist with a degree in Agricultural Science from Melbourne University, a Graduate Diploma in Environmental Science from Murdoch University, and a Masters degree in Science (Environmental Science) from Murdoch. She is an honorary Life Member of the Wildflower Society of WA and is currently president of the Urban Bushland Council WA Inc.

SHARING NOONGAR CULTURE WITH PERTH

Interested in learning more about Noongar culture? Consider joining a walk about the six seasons, organized by Perth NRM. The location of each walk varies, following the trail that Noongar people would have once walked during the year, from the coast to the hills and through the wetlands.

The next walk will be at Hestor Park in Langford on the 3rd of May, for the *Djeran* season, the first rains, so bring your rain coat and walking shoes. To book your spot, or to find out about the other planned walks go to the Perth NRM events page

<http://www.perthnrm.com/2017/03/noongar-six-seasons-walk>.



This striking new logo relating to dogs can now be seen on the footpaths around Lake Claremont.

Calendar May 2017

Day	Event	Time
Friday May 5th	Year 10 Community Service Program	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Friday May 12th	Year 10 Community Service Program	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Sunday May 14th	FOLC Busy Bee and Tea Lake Claremont	9:00 – 11:00 am
Friday May 19th	Year 10 Community Service Program	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Monday May 22nd	International Day for Biological Diversity	
Tuesday May 23rd	Night Chats at Lake Claremont Lake Claremont Aquatic Centre	6:30 -7:30 pm Doors open at 6:00 pm
Friday May 26th	Year 10 Community Service Program	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Monday May 29th	FOLC Board Meeting	5:30 - 7:00 pm

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

Like us on facebook!

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

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

Newsletter articles and photos from members are most welcome and should be sent
to the editor, Hilary Heptinstall
heptins@bigpond.net.au 0411 052 329

