



Looking South across Lake Claremont Picture by Hilary Heptinstall

Soozie Ross with help of a group of Scotch College Year 10 boys has done a wonderful job of cleaning up the 'old shed' and turning it into a useable space. Read all about it on page 2.

We held our last weeding Busy Bee last month (see page 3) and from now on our focus will be on planting. There are four big community planting sessions coming up, starting with the Local Residents' Planting Day on June 11. Help is also needed to lay out plants at Saturday sessions on June 10 and 17.

Find out how you can help on page 7.



SHED RENOVATIONS – NEXT EPISODE

Text and pictures by Soozie Ross

Great news! We have made progress with the renovations/alterations to the shed in the park for use by the Friends group.

A group of strong year 10 Scotch College students assisted Soozie Ross to move storage shelves and cupboards into new positions, with the aim of freeing up useable space for FOLC.

The park vehicle (which we have use of under agreement with Town of Claremont) is going to be parked in the small dogleg part of the shed, with the shed doors on that side reincarnated to allow the vehicle to be driven in and out of the side door, freeing up the main part of the shed for us.



Before and after photos of the dog leg section

The storage of our equipment, which was moved from the dogleg section, is now housed at the back of the shed with a cleverly designed internal corridor, allowing the back of some cupboards to serve as display boards facing towards the main part of the room.



The side walls of the shed will be lined to allow semipermanent displays of educational material. These could be on topics like the life-cycle of the turtle or historic photos of the park when it was a rubbish tip. The central part of the shed can be used for gatherings and possibly educational sessions, such as with the school groups who are now so integral to the FOLC community.

With power and water now supplied to the shed, we have a wonderful place as a base for our events.

Heidi and Soozie are certainly happy to have been able to relocate the tools and refreshment equipment to a central location, instead of it taking over their homes! There is still plenty of work to be done and we will report on our progress in the future newsletters.

OUR BIRDS

Text and picture by David Free

Australian Hobby, *Falco longipennis*



Formerly called the Little Falcon, this species is similar to, but smaller than, the Peregrine Falcon. Longipennis refers to its long wings. Hobbys feed on grasshoppers and other large flying insects, and on birds; they have been known to take birds larger than themselves. Small mammals, including bats and rodents, are occasionally eaten.

Australian Hobby David Free

One bird has been around the lake for some time. Several times recently I have seen both this male and the slightly larger female. Although relatively widespread, the Hobby is an uncommon bird; we are lucky to have them in Claremont.

IN BLOOM THIS MONTH

Picture by Geoff Ross



Weed or Native?

Geoff Ross found this rogue plant growing in the revegetation area planted in 2013 on the north side of the park. So far, the FOLC have not been able to identify it. Can you guess what it is? We'll seek out the experts to find out and let you know in the next edition.

MOTHERS' DAY BUSY BEE MAY 14

Text and pictures by Nick Cook

We had a great turn out for our Mothers' Day Busy Bee. There were 18 volunteers ranging in age from Year 6 in Primary School to 97 years of age! They were a fantastic group of friendly and enthusiastic people.



We headed out onto the lake bed to bag the last (we hope!) of the Bushy Starwort weed that is now starting to flower. We filled about 14 bags.

The Monday weeding group will continue to mop up the stragglers but next month we turn our attention to the planting season.

Volunteers with collected weeds



The unusual find of the day was a large nest of Paper Wasps, one of our volunteers was very fortunate to spot the nest just before pulling some starwort.

Two of our volunteers were young girls volunteering for the first time with FOLC. They did really well and managed to collect golf balls and other rubbish as we moved through the lake bed. I explained some of the history of Lake Claremont as we went and the girls were quite horrified to learn that the site had been used for land fill in the 1950s and '60s. It was good to meet young people with an interest in the environment.

The weather held out for us and was perfect for getting some work done. We finished off with a well earned morning tea at the shed. Many thanks to Soozie and her team of cake makers!

A paper wasps' nest



Nick Cook shows a Bushy Starwort plant to some 1st time volunteers Picture by Mark Riseley



Volunteers enjoy their well-earned morning tea

TURTLE UPDATE *By Nick Cook*

(See the full story on Page 46 of the May 27 edition of the Cottesloe Post Newspaper)

May signals the start of our Turtle hatching season at Lake Claremont. The Friends of Lake Claremont would really like to hear from anyone who has sighted a hatchling. Please contact us on folc@gmail.com with your news and photos.



Many hatchlings will not survive their predators, the main ones being foxes, ravens, magpies and large wading birds. If you see a hatchling you can help by assisting them to the water's edge (near some cover).

Most sightings will likely be on the dual-use path that surrounds the Lake. Scotch College ovals are also a likely location. Cyclists and dog walkers should be aware that the hatching season runs from May to August and do their best to protect the hatchlings

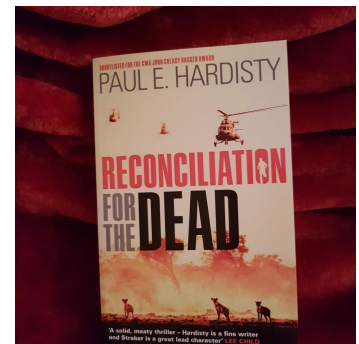
*A magpie with a hatchling
Picture from the internet*

LAUNCH OF PAUL HARDISTY'S THIRD NOVEL

Text by Hilary Heptinstall Pictures by Heidi Hardisty



Paul Hardisty at the book launch



Members may have noticed Heidi Hardisty's absence from FOLC events this month. There is a good reason for this. She has been in the UK for the launch of Paul Hardisty's third novel in his Claymore Straker series, 'Reconciliation for the Dead'.

The English book launch was held in London at Belgravia Books in May. It was a wonderful evening, with a special cake made by Paul's publisher, Karen Sullivan from Orenda. We hear that Paul has written his best novel yet! Members are invited to the Perth launch. This will be held at Subiaco Library on Monday June 26 at 6.00 pm. Copies of all three of Paul's novels will be available for purchase and light refreshments will be provided. Email paul.heidi@bigpond.com if you would like to attend.

MAY NIGHT CHAT

Text and picture by Hilary Heptinstall

A full house heard Mary Gray, President of the Urban Bushland Council of WA, speak on the subject 'Is bush forever really bush forever?'

Bush Forever was introduced in 2000 and is the strategic plan for the conservation of bushland on the Swan Coastal Plain. South West Australia is Australia's only global biodiversity hotspot (one of 35 globally) and Lake Claremont has national status. Many wetlands have been filled in but ours remains.

Perth's Banksia Woodlands are in a biodiversity hot spot. They are rich in species of flora, fungi and fauna but they under threat from fire, weed invasion, land clearing and ground water depletion. Our Carnaby's Cockatoo is heading for extinction due to its loss of habitat.

In 2012, John Day said that there would be an audit of sites but this has not really been achieved. The State Government is not willing to spend money on conservation although money is available in the Metropolitan Region Improvement Fund.

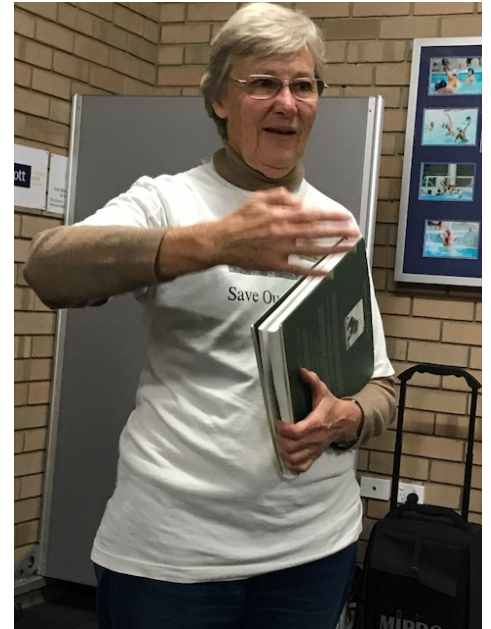
A State Government strategic assessment process was started in 2015 for the Perth-Peel Regions. It is referred to as Perth & Peel Green Growth Plan @ 3.5 Million. (The document is 3000pages thick!) This will give guidance for the Perth and Peel region with a population anticipated to reach 3.5 million by 2050. There have been no real results from this initiative yet.

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. They went onto the Federal Government priority list on December 2016.

The State Government produced the draft *Green Growth Plan*, which ignored and deceptively unravelled Bush Forever as a strategic plan.

Mary encouraged all present to visit their local MP and to call for (among other things) an end to land clearing and the destruction of nature. She handed out leaflets with advice on how to do this. They are available from FOLC.

It was a very interesting evening and Mary answered several questions from the audience at the conclusion of her talk. We now all appreciate the great work that the Urban Bushland Council of WA is doing. Thank you Mary!



Mary Gray addressing the audience

THE PLANTING SEASON BEGINS!

Text and pictures by Heidi Hardisty

The Friends of Lake Claremont have kicked off the planting season with the help of year 10 students from Scotch College and Christ Church Grammar School on May 26th. The boys planted 360 native seedlings on the bank of the wetland during their regular Friday afternoon volunteer session which lasts one and half hours. The focus of the planting season this year will be the restoration of the eastern edge of the lake edge, or wetland buffer as it is known. The plants chosen will be low in height to maintain a view of the lake. The plantings will help protect nesting sites of birds and provide food and shelter for many other creatures



Planting along the wetland bank under a paperbark tree



More planting by the Year 10 boys

UPCOMING EVENTS

LOCAL RESIDENTS' PLANTING DAY SUNDAY JUNE 11

This will run from 9.00 am to 12.00 midday and volunteers may stay for as long as they like. Meet at the east side of Lake Claremont, wear closed shoes and a hat and bring rain gear just in case it rains! Tools, gloves and refreshments will be provided. **We really need your help at this event!**

Laying out plants	8.00-9.00 am (5-6 people)
Team leaders for planting	8.30-11.45 am (5-6 people)
Clean-up after event	12.00 -1.00 pm (2-3 people)

We also need 5-6 volunteers to lay out plants on Saturday June 10, Saturday June 17 and school days from June 12 – 23 between 8.00 - 9.00am at all sessions.

If you would like more information or would like to volunteer please contact us on folc@gmail.com



NIGHT CHAT ON TUESDAY JUNE 27

6.00 pm at Claremont Aquatic Centre. Doors open for refreshments at 5.30pm

Urban Birds: Winners and Losers in the Suburbs

Have you noticed an increase in birds around Lake Claremont in recent years? At the June Night Chat, ecologists Mike and Mandy Bamford will talk about Perth's birdlife and how different species cope in the altered landscape of our city

Mike and Mandy will discuss their long-term study of urban birds and how groups such as the Friends of Lake Claremont are making a difference. Find out what you can do to help keep birds in our suburbs.

A gold coin donation towards the cost of refreshments would be appreciated.

*Mike and Mandy Bamford
Picture by Josh Bamford*


A poster for 'Community Planting Days' by the Friends of Lake Claremont. The top section shows a group of people in high-visibility vests working in a field. Below this, the text lists the dates and times for four planting events: June 11th (Local Residents' Planting Day), July 9th (Planting for the Birds), July 30th (National Tree Day), and August 13th (Friends' Planting Day). It also provides the time (Sundays 9:00 AM to 12:00 Midday) and meeting location (east side of the lake). The bottom section encourages joining the Friends of Lake Claremont for restoration projects, lists what to bring (enclosed shoes, hat, long sleeves, rain jacket) and what is provided (gloves, tools, sunscreen, refreshments), and includes contact information for Heidi Hardisty. Logos for the Town of Claremont, natural resource management program, and Friends of Lake Claremont are at the bottom.

Community Planting Days
Help Enhance Lake Claremont.

June 11th – Local Residents' Planting Day
July 9th – Planting for the Birds
July 30th – National Tree Day
August 13th – Friends' Planting Day

Sundays: 9:00 AM to 12:00 Midday. Stay as long as you like.
Meet at 9:00 AM on the east side of the lake.

Join the Friends of Lake Claremont as we continue one of the largest restoration projects in Perth.
Please wear enclosed shoes. Bring a hat, long sleeves and rain jacket if needed.
Gloves, tools, sunscreen and refreshments provided.

For more information contact Heidi Hardisty
Ph: 0416 614 696 Email: folc.wa@gmail.com
www.friendsoflakeclaremont.org

TOWN OF CLAREMONT
natural resource management program
FRIENDS OF LAKE CLAREMONT

Calendar June 2017– PLANTING SEASON

Day	Event	Time
Monday June 5 th	World Environment Day	
Friday June 9 th	Year 10 Community Service Program - Planting	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Saturday June 10 th	Planting with the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing	9 am to 1 pm
Sunday June 11 th	Local Residents Planting Day Lake Claremont	9:00 – 12:00 pm
June 12 th – 16 th	Planting with Local School Students	9:00 am to 11:30 pm 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Friday June 16 th	Year 10 Community Service Program - Planting	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Saturday June 17 th	Planting with the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing	9 am to 1 pm
June 19 th – 23 rd	Planting with Local School Students	9:00 am to 11:30 pm 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Friday June 23 rd	Year 10 Community Service Program - Planting	1:30 - 3:00 pm
June 26 th – 30 th	Planting with Scotch College Year 7 Students	8:30 am to 10:30 pm 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Tuesday June 27 th	Night Chats at Lake Claremont Claremont Aquatic Centre	Doors open at 5:30 pm Talk 6:00 -7:00 pm

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.

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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