



*Southern Boobook Owl at the North of the Lake
Picture : Angela Hine*

Black Swans with cygnets Picture : Di Hann

The breeding season is now in full swing and some interesting birds have been spotted at Lake Claremont, including a species that is new to the area which was spotted by Lee Beavis. (See page 7) It is lovely to be able to share photos from walkers at the Lake like the ones above.

In the news this month

The planting season is drawing to an end after a very busy month. Heidi Hardisty has worked from 7.30am on many days with school students, community volunteers, university students, the Shah Satnam group and corporate volunteers. Soozie and Geoff Ross have done a wonderful job in providing refreshments on many occasions. You can read about some of our final planting days on pages 2-4.

FINAL PLANTING SESSIONS FOR THE YEAR

From: Nick Cook, Heidi Hardisty, Hilary Heptinstall, Soozie Ross

SHAH SATNAM JI GREEN S WELFARE FORCE WING PLANTING SESSIONS

The Shah Shatnam group joined us for two final sessions for this year. The first one on July 29 was an historic day! The entire edge of Lake Claremont has now been planted with native vegetation to enhance our conservation Category Wetland.



The Shah Satnam volunteers made a return visit to the Lake on a stormy day on Wednesday August 9. They planted 1020 native seedlings on the banks of Lake Claremont.

We really appreciate the efforts of our wonderful Sha Satnam friends and hope to see them all again next year!

Shah Satnam volunteers at work



COMMUNITY PLANTING DAYS

NATIONAL TREE DAY JULY 30

After a very wet week, the weather was beautiful for this huge planting day. There was a huge group of volunteers and about 2900 plants were in the ground by 12.00 noon. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers including those from the Tzu Ching foundation. (On right)



FRIENDS' PLANTING DAY AUGUST 13

Despite a poor forecast, we were very lucky to have a fine, sunny morning for our final public planting session for the year. There was a very good turnout and it was good to see that Ben Hodson had organized a large contingent of students from Christ Church Grammar School.



Paul Hardisy (on leave from Queensland) removing the mulch!

Geoff Ross's therapy session separating the two colours of the pots as they go to different Nurseries! !

UNIVERSITY PLANTING DAY AUGUST 12



This was another fantastic planting day at Lake Claremont! Eighty-five students from five universities planted 2500 native seedlings. Thank you so much to UWA Guild for organizing the event and to all who participated from the universities of Notre Dame, Curtin, ECU, Murdoch and UWA. The threatened rain did not eventuate and we had a sunny day with blue skies.

It is good to know that all our universities encourage leadership and volunteering and have coordinators in these areas.



Katherine Valvasori and Daniella Rethura, ECU leadership and volunteering coordinators



Students enjoying morning tea provided by Soozie and Geoff Ross



Planting next to the new Town of Claremont golf course has commenced

WHERE HAVE ALL THE TURTLES GONE?

Words : Nick Cook Pictures : Soozie Ross

This is a question that we hear often from members and park patrons. So far, the short answer has been “We are not sure!”

The Friends group have been investigating the local turtle population for the last 3 years in response to these community concerns. This has included recording sightings of turtles around the park both dead and alive, protecting turtle nests and investigating the threats that the turtles face. We have also participated in a number of rescues of injured turtles.



Oblong turtle

We started looking into the turtle population after a number of our members and local residents commented that they used to see loads of turtles around the lake but sightings had become rare. We approached the Town and they were very supportive of our efforts. We use the Snap, Send, Solve app to log carapace (turtle shells) found and the information (including GPS location and photos) is sent to and recorded by the Town.

The Oblong Turtle (*Chelodina Colliciei*) is unique to the South West of Western Australia. In 1996 it was listed as near threatened on the International Union for Nature Conservancy (IUCN) Red List. Little is known about local populations. The listing has not been reviewed although threats continue. Threats include increasing urbanisation (loss of habitat and interactions with cars and domestic pets), water quality and predation by birds and foxes. Investigations by the Friends suggest that Ravens and foxes are the most immediate threats to the lake's turtles.

A review of the Town's Lake Claremont Management Plan (LCMP) last year prioritised the need to assess the status of the lakes turtle population. FOLC believe it is important that the population be assessed in order to better inform the Town's management of fauna at the lake. We know plenty about the birds at Lake Claremont. The number and variety of bird species has increased significantly since revegetation works commenced. The main focus of activities at the lake has been revegetation but as we approach the end of major plantings the focus is shifting to other aspects of the parks management. The last thing we want to see is a local extinction because no one is watching. The turtles are an important part of the wetland ecosystem.

The Town of Claremont recently engaged Natural Area Consulting Management Services to conduct a baseline population survey of the turtles at Lake Claremont. They will conduct a trapping programme over the next few months. Turtles are caught in specialised traps, weighed, measured, micro-chipped and sexed before being released. Observations are also made regarding the overall health/appearance of the turtle and the location and vegetation type where it was caught.

Continued on next page

The data collected will not only produce an estimate of the population size but, just as importantly it will give a snap shot of the population structure. This will give us clues as to the longer term viability of the population. Turtles can live beyond 50 years, if there are low levels of recruitment (successful breeding) then the population is vulnerable to a crash as the population ages. We have reported sightings of hatchlings and nesting activity over the last couple of years but these sightings are still rare. We are very happy that the Town has engaged consultants to provide some solid information.



Some trapped turtles



Natural Area Management Staff at work

SWANS AT LAKE CLAREMONT

This swan is living dangerously by nesting so close to the edge and pathway. TOC has put up some temporary signage to remind dog walkers to keep their pets on the lead in this area.



OUR BIRDS *From : David Free*

I always enjoy spring at the lake; a most rewarding time of the year, when parent birds strive to rear the next generation. By August 5th the first hatchings of Swans and Shelducks had appeared. A week later there were at least two pairs of Pink-eared ducks with young. There are several more Swans incubating and, judging by mates in close attendance, more Pink-ears on the way from our nesting boxes. The cygnet being helped to feed is a bit over two weeks old.



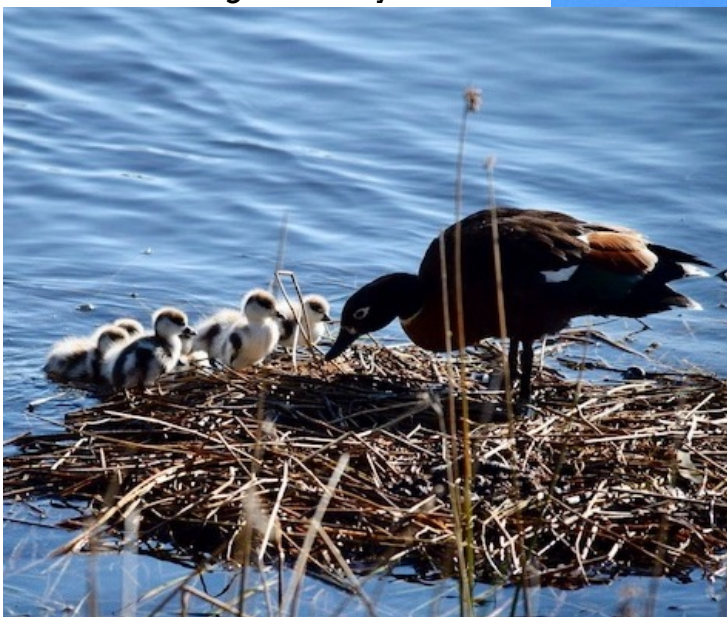
Swan with cygnet Picture : David Free

During the month Lee Beavis spotted a Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx basalis*) in the revegetated area. This bird is widespread but uncommon. Pam and I eventually saw it at our lake at the end of August and heard its call. It is an interesting addition to our list of birds.

Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo Picture : Lee Beavis

From the editor

I met Lee Beavis, while walking at the lake recently. She was instantly recognisable by her camera with very large lens! She was busy photographing this family of Shelduck ducklings and had just taken a photo of the elusive Variegated Fairy Wren.



Shelduck and ducklings resting on a swan's nest



Variegated Fairy Wren Pictures : Lee Beavis

AUGUST NIGHT CHAT

From : Hilary Heptinstall

There was a large audience at our August Night Chat for John Horsfall's talk on 'Noongar Bush Medicine: Medicinal Plants in WA's South-west'.

John started his presentation by showing a lovely 'Welcome to Country' video. He described how he had his first contact with an Australian Aboriginal Community in 1963 when he worked on Groote Eylandt in the northern Territory.

He had a background in herbal medicine and an interest in bush medicine and Lectured at the Centre for Aboriginal Studies at Curtin University in 2007. While at Curtin, he felt the need for a book that described all the plants that were used by indigenous people in medicine and looked for an Aboriginal author to help him write one. He met Vivienne Hansen, who had vast knowledge, passed on by Noongar elders. She could not be with us because she is presently planting sandalwood in the North of the state.



Noongar people of the Bibbulman Nation occupied an area from Northam to the South-west of the State. Lake Claremont was an important area as animals fed at the Lake and were a good food source. The Noongar people made bread from nuts and berries 40-50 thousand years before the Egyptians did!

Many plants found at Lake Claremont were used in medicine. The crushed leaves of Eucalypts acted as anti-bacterial poultices and relieved congestion due to colds, while their gum was used as an ointment for sores. Banksia flowers soaked in water provided a sweet liquid used for coughs and sore throats. A concoction of leaves from The Graceful Honey Myrtle was taken internally to treat upset stomachs and indigestion while tea tree oil was good for curing tinea. Gum from the Grass Tree was used to relieve diarrhea and constipation. Acaceas, Sandalwood, Quandong and Snottygobble also had many uses.

John's beautifully illustrated book (pictured above) gives full details of the many uses of 90 different species of plants.

John sold out of books at the Night Chat, but books can be obtained from the UWA Publishing website by googling 'Noongar Bush Medicine'. The book costs \$34.99 and postage is free.



Heidi Hardisty thanking John Horsfall at the end of his talk

IN BLOOM THIS MONTH

From Geoff and Soozie Ross

Soozie and Geoff spotted these beautiful flowers while walking at Lake Claremont.



Trachymene coerula Picture : Soozie Ross

Trachymene coerula known as the Rottnest Island Daisy or Blue Lace Flower. Some jewel beetles feed on the flowers.



Hakea trifurcata : Picture Geoff Ross

Hakea trifurcata known as Two-leaf Hakea or Kerosine Bush) is a perennial shrub, endemic to south-west Western Australia.

Flowers appear between April and October, being nectar producing with a strong sweet scent.



IDENTITY NEEDED

David Free took this photo of a furry caterpillar at the lake. Can anyone identify it?

FACEBOOK UPDATE

Welcome to all our new FB friends, we gained 24 new ones in the first week in August. We now have 700 FB followers and this week our posts reached over 8000 people!

Readers are encouraged to become friends on Facebook to get regular updates of the FOLC activities. There is always plenty going on at Lake Claremont, much of it behind the scenes.

A WALK IN THE PARK



Heidi Hardisty led a group of Chinese students from Northwest Agricultural and Forestry University on a guided walk around Lake Claremont this month. The NWAUFU is a public university located in the Northwest region of China not far from Xi'An.

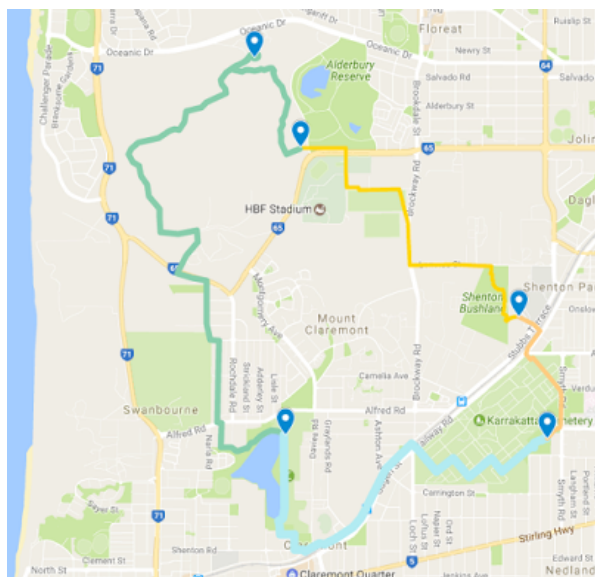
It has a history going back to the 1930s, as a centre of agricultural teaching and research. The walk was organised by the UWA Centre for English language.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BUSH TO BEACH WALK

The annual Bush to Beach Walk is on Sunday September 10th. The walking group will be at lake Claremont for refreshments at the shed on the eastern side of the lake from about 12.30. There will be a guided tour on offer during their hour-long visit to the area. Friends of Lake Claremont are invited to meet with the Bush to Beach walkers at the shed to offer a welcome and hospitality. If you wish to join the whole walk registration is required.

<http://bushtobeachwalk.blogspot.com.au/2017/06/2017-bush-to-beach-walk.html>



The formal organised walk begins and ends at Shenton Bushland. It stops for morning tea with the Friends of Hollywood Reserve. Then a BYO picnic lunch at Lake Claremont with tea and coffee provided at the shed on the eastern side by Friends of Lake Claremont. There is an optional tour of the Lake Claremont revegetation projects. Afternoon tea is at the top of Reabold Hill before returning to Shenton Bushland around 3.30. Along the way the walk visits a number of regeneration areas as well as passing through bushlands at spring flowering time.

The walk follows sections of the recently created Whadjuk Walk Trails network - using the Karak Bidi trail from Hollywood Reserve to Bold Park and the Bush to Beach Trail back to Shenton Bushland.

SEPTEMBER NIGHT CHAT

Tuesday September 26 at Claremont Pool

Members will be informed by email of the speaker and topic once this has been confirmed.

Doors open at 5.30pm Talk commences at 6.00pm

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

Calendar September 2017

National Biodiversity Month

Day	Event	Time
Friday Sept. 1st	Corporate Day & Year 10 Community Service Program with Year 7s	9:00 am -2:30 pm 1:30 - 3:00 pm
Sept. 5 th -11 th	National Landcare Week	
Wednesday Sept. 6 th	Landcare Corporate Day	9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Thursday Sept. 7 th	National Threatened Species Day	
Friday Sept. 8th	Year 10 Community Service Program with Year 7s	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Sunday Sept 10th	FOLC Busy Bee	9:00 – 11:00 am
Monday Sept. 11th	FOLC Board Meeting	5:30 - 7:00 pm
Friday Sept. 15th	Year 10 Community Service Program	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Sunday Sept. 17th	Celebrate Lake Claremont	10am- 1:00 pm
Tuesday Sept. 26th	Night Chats at Lake Claremont 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.

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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natural resource
management program

