



Australasian Darter *Anhinga novaehollandiae* *Picture : David Free (See page 5)*

FRIENDS OF LAKE CLAREMONT CHANGES FOR 2018 *From: Hilary Heptinstall*

The FOLC Board has now held its last meeting for 2017. Heidi resigned from the Board as of December 31. She will, however, remain in the position of Planting Supervisor for 2018. She will come to Perth for six weeks to supervise the implementation of our NRM Grant for infill planting on the east side of the Lake and the SALP grant for infill in the remnant bush land.

The Board is very happy to announce that Nick Cook will take over as Coordinator of the Friends of Lake Claremont in 2018. Nick has been a tireless and enthusiastic worker for the FOLC for over seven years and it is wonderful that he has accepted this position. I know that he will have the full support of the membership. Nick can be contacted on 0401 376 085 or via the FOLC gmail account. He is also a great contributor to this newsletter and I look forward to working with him next year.

Following Heidi's announcement that she is moving interstate, the FOLC board put out a call to members interested in taking on leadership roles with the group. We are pleased to advise that Geoff Ross will be taking on the Year 10 Community service programme. Lance and Jenni Bannister Jones have already taken stewardship of the 'Adopt A Spot' programme and Delia Hendrie will be taking over the job of collating volunteer hours. There are still lots of jobs to be done so, if you think you can help, please contact a board member to discuss any possibilities.

BUSY BEE SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12

From : Nick Cook

We had a solid turnout for this month's Busy Bee with 17 volunteers in attendance. The task at hand was weeding. I spent about one and a half hours on Saturday looking around the park for areas that were in need of work. I have to say it was a bit of a challenge. The park is looking fantastic at the moment and the weed load is well down on what we collected last year. The Scotch College buffer was identified as needing weeding and a fair bit of litter was also collected.



We split the group into two on either side of the Scotch fence line. The second group worked the steep banks at the lakes edge. We always advise our volunteers to be very careful when working on steep or uneven ground but one volunteer still managed an unscheduled swim in the lake. I also fell foul of some Hardenbergia and took a dive down a section of the bank. The only damage done was to one's pride!

The group managed to fill around 18 bags of weed and litter before enjoying morning tea, which included fresh scones, cream and jam. Thanks to Soozie and Geoff Ross.



PICNIC IN THE PARK SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18

From : Hilary Heptinstall

Despite the forecast of thunderstorms and rain, this turned out to be a lovely sunny day and about 60 members attended our 'Picnic in the Park'. This was held to thank all our volunteers for their significant contribution to the restoring of the Lake Claremont bush. In particular it was a special thank you to our friends from the Sha Shatnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing to recognise the huge amount of work they have done over the last five years.



*Our lovely Sha Satnam ladies
Front : Ritu, Sheeta, Asha, Srishti Standing : Aman*



Claire Brittain with our caterers

The lunch was catered for by Ganges Indian Restaurant from Alexander Heights and we all enjoyed a beautiful three course Indian meal.

After the meal, Heidi thanked the Sha Satnam group for all they have done for the Lake and Vipin Mehta presented Heidi with a framed photo collection. *(below)*



Heidi with Gopal whose wedding she attended in India



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Claire Brittain thanked the Sha Satnam volunteers for their work at Lake Claremont over the years and presented them with a certificate of appreciation. She also thanked Heidi Hardisty for her enormous contribution over the last ten years and presented her with a gift from the FOLC. Heidi will be with us for a few more months so we have not said our final 'Goodbyes' yet!



Sanjeev Insan and Vipin Mehta with the FOLC certificate of appreciation



Claire presents Heidi with her gift



Lee Beavis took these photos of volunteers enjoying the occasion



OUR BIRDS

Text and photos : David Free

Australasian Darter *Anhinga novaehollandiae*

Last month I had a rare sighting of a male darter at the lake. This handsome bird prefers deeper water, and can often be seen on the river. Unlike cormorants, which grasp fish in their bills, darters stab prey with their sharply pointed bill.

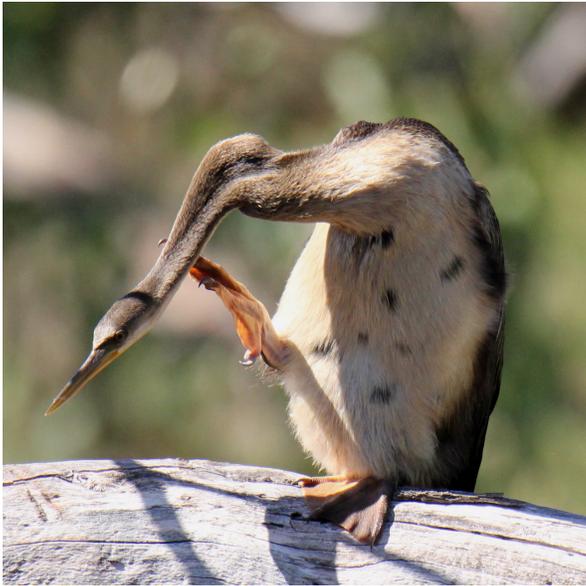


Male Australasian darter

They frequently lift their head and neck out of the water whilst their body remains submerged; this has led to them being called "snake birds" in parts of Asia.

Whilst the male is mostly shiny black, female birds have white underparts.

Female Australasian darter



IN BLOOM THIS MONTH

Photo : Geoff Ross Text: Heidi Hardisty

Chenille honey-myrtle *Melaleuca huegelii*

These flowers are very attractive to insects, including jewel beetles, butterflies, moths, wasps, native and introduced bees. The flower spikes are not quite terminal because the tip of the shoot continues to grow during flowering and the rest of the summer.



PAPERBARK GETS A TRIM

From : Heidi Hardisty

Tree contractors, Perth Tree Services, did a great job reducing the canopy load (<20% of the total canopy) on the paperbark resting on the FOLC shed. The work was done to prevent damage to the shed and the tree itself. The Freshwater Paperbark (*Melaleuca raphiophylla*) appears to be in very good shape. It is estimated to be 50 years old and is expected to live for another half century.

The Town of Claremont (TOC), who hired the tree contractors, are now going to wait and see how the tree goes and whether any further pruning work is required.

In the meantime, please refrain from using the 'shortcut' across the paperbark's root system. This has the potential to stress the trees' fragile root system. It would be appreciated if you could walk around the outer canopy of the tree. Cloe Dolan, TOC Field Officer for Parks and Environment, has placed bunting around the paperbark trunk denoting the area to avoid.



VOLUNTEERING

From : Nick Cook

Last month I led the FOLC monthly busy bee. It really stood out to me how many people stopped and took the time to say 'Thank you', 'Well done', 'Great job' etc to our group of volunteers :)

One lady said she thought what we do is amazing!

We don't volunteer to be thanked, we do it because we care about and LOVE our wetland but it is lovely to know that the community appreciates and supports what we do.

I've attended most busy bees over the last 7 yrs or so and it is not unusual for people passing by to offer encouragement and support but the number of people that Sunday was awesome. Thank you !

PS: BTW Busy Bee is 2nd Sunday of every month!!!!!! All are welcome.



Nick Cook



UPCOMING EVENTS

This is a quiet time of the year on site at the park, but we are still very busy behind the scenes: ordering plants for next year, scheduling the planting season, obtaining grants, administration etc.

2018 will be the last massive planting season at Lake Claremont; we will plant approx. 30,000 native seedlings next winter.

Calendar December 2017

January 2018

Day	Event	Time
Sunday Dec. 10 th	FOLC Busy Bee: Hand weeding/Shed Organisation	8:00 – 10:00 am
Sunday Jan. 14 th	FOLC Busy Bee: Hand weeding	8:00 – 10:00 am

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

The FOLC activities for 2017 are drawing to an end. It has been a most successful planting season and we have received a huge amount of help from Community members, School and University groups and our friends from the Sha Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing. We have also received great support from the Town of Claremont. We thank them all and send our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all FOLC members, our many volunteers and readers of this newsletter.



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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.

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

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



natural resource
management program

