



An Australian Coot Chick at Lake Claremont *Photo: Lee Beavis*

THE END OF THE PLANTING SEASON

The FOLC group held approximately 45 planting sessions this winter, including over 30 sessions with local school children. Each year the popular school program grows. This year, more than 800 children and 50 teachers participated from Scotch College, Christ Church Grammar School, Quintilian School, Methodist Ladies College, Freshwater Bay, Mount Claremont Primary School and JTC. Together they planted over 9000 seedlings!

The FOLC also held their 4 regular public planting days: Local Residents' Planting Day, Planting for the Birds National Tree Day and Friends Planting Day (Over 7000 seedlings were planted by 300 volunteers over the 4 days).

For the fifth year in a row, students from 5 local universities joined us for Uni Planting Day in August to celebrate National Student Volunteer week. Eighty-five students planted 2500 seedlings in under 2 hours!

We could not have done this without the support of the Town of Claremont. After 3 decades, we have completed the wetland buffer planting!

Thanks are due to Heidi Hardisty for organising these sessions and to Claire Brittain for obtaining the grants to buy plants. Also to the many FOLC members who have helped in so many ways and to Soozie Ross and her team for producing delicious morning teas.

TURTLE UPDATE

Text and photos : Nick Cook

We had a very good turtle day on Friday, October 6!

At 6.30 am I met the team from Natural Area Management and tagged along on a trapping session. The signs are very positive that we have a healthy population of turtles with a good mix of age classes. We caught a couple of quite young turtles today amongst others. I am very encouraged by what I have seen so far.



A healthy turtle at Lake Claremont

The day finished with a call from Zac Hardisty who writes, 'I was on my way to the bank but saving turtles is more important! An Australian raven had just flipped this long necked turtle and was attempting to eat it through its leg socket. She is safe and will be en route to get patched up. They are very tough and hopefully she can survive!'

Zac knew who to call and I collected the injured turtle to be passed on to vets and carers. Unfortunately our female turtle was too badly injured to be saved. She was carrying eggs! Only 2 of the eggs were deemed viable. They were harvested and will be incubated by the wonderful volunteers at TORRN.



The injured turtle

Many thanks to the Wattle Grove Veterinary Hospital for their great work.

BUSY BEE SUNDAY OCTOBER 8

Text and photos : Nick Cook

Now that the planting season is finished, our October Busy Bee was devoted to weeding. There was a terrific turnout with 16 volunteers attending, many of them young. We focused on the large flowering weeds in the wetland buffer area. The volunteers worked very hard and managed to fill 30 bags in 2 hours. A tremendous effort! Thanks to Soozie Ross for providing a lovely morning tea



Gathering at the Old Shed



Our wonderful volunteers with rubbish bags filled with weeds

WEEDS, WEEDS, WEEDS!

Text and photo : Jenni Banister-Jones

It has been a long winter, but with the late rains and now some sunshine, the weeds are growing ferociously! But as you walk around the lake, you'll notice along the fences large bags full of dead weeds waiting patiently to be collected by Angela Hine from Claremont Council.

The full bags are the result of lots of hard work by Norma Hay and her band of merry weeders! Monday weeding by Norma, Dot and Consie, plus monthly Sunday busy bees have all greatly reduced the weed load.



New 'Adopt-a-spotters' Geoff and Janet Vine

Adopt-a-spotters have also been beavering away in their patches, keeping them weed and rubbish free. We've had 4 members adopt spots in the last month – thank you Graeme and Grace, and Geoff and Janet (pictured). Removing weeds from this year's planting means the young plants won't have to compete for water and nutrients in the long hot summer ahead.

If you'd like to help out, please contact Norma (0413 282515) about Monday weeding, Lance & Jenni to adopt your own spot (Lance 0418 922885 or jennibj@iinet.net.au), or just turn up at the next busy bee on the second Sunday of the month.

YOUR LAKE NEEDS YOU!

Norma Hay has stepped down from her position as 'Adopt a Spot' organiser and we thank her for all her hard work with this programme. She will continue to be active with the Monday weeding group!

We are fortunate that Jenni and Lance Banister-Jones have agreed to take over as 'Adopt a Spot' organisers and hope many people will lend their support in this area. Ed

IN BLOOM THIS MONTH

Photo: Geoff Ross Text: Heidi Hardisty

Melaleuca seriata

This is a shrub which grows up to 1.0m high. It is one of 24 species of *Melaleuca* that occurs in the Perth region.



DATA LOGGER AT LAKE CLAREMONT

Text : Andrew Head Photos: Edith Cowan University

An Edith Cowan student has installed a data logger at Stirling Road park end of Lake Claremont to monitor water temperature and clarity as part of a study on frog species diversity and population at Lake Claremont and other wetlands in Perth. This study will continue over the next few months and should provide good insight into the frog species and population found at the Lake.



Data logger at Lake Claremont. Please do not tamper with the instrument.

Over the next few months the study also involves night surveys to carry out the identification of the frogs and density on transects through the lake and buffer areas. On completion of the study by the student, the Town will be provided with the final report.

OUR BIRDS

Text and photos : David Free

White-necked Heron, *Ardea pacifica*

At this time of the year, when the frogs are breeding, we get a few heron species visiting our lake. The White-necked Heron is a handsome bird and is much less commonly seen than the smaller White-faced Heron. They move slowly in shallow water searching for their prey. Herons also feed on small terrestrial animals.



White-necked Heron. David Free

Raven, White-necked Heron. David Free



On 21st October I saw one of these birds chased from its perch by an Australian Raven!



White-necked Heron, Raven. David Free

TALES OF RED-TAILS' TAILS

Text and photos : Rose Senior

On Tuesday 24th a large group of Friends gathered in the Club Rooms of the Claremont Aquatic Centre for the last of our 2017 monthly night chats – to listen to Margaret Owen speak on the topic of her beloved Carnaby's Red-tailed Black Cockatoos.



Margaret Owen



*Margaret shows the male
(red and black) and
female tail feathers*

Margaret conveyed her enthusiasm and passion for these beautiful birds through her spectacular photos and personal observations. We learnt of the birds' needs for nectar, seed and water located near their roosting sites, and that the Carnabys at the Hollywood site take advantage of the reticulation-filled funeral urns in the nearby cemetery. Margaret explained that both female and juvenile male red-tails have the same orangy-striped tail colouring, while males have the spectacular red-striped tail feathers that we so readily recognise. We also learnt that males regurgitate for females as part of their courting rituals.

The audience was particularly interested in Margaret's projection of a map, which showed how many subdivisions have been created in areas adjacent to the Underwood Avenue Bushland. In Margaret's view a major culprit is UWA, which has left a narrow buffer zone surrounding its land and engaged in bush destruction, while failing to implement weed management practices.

Margaret noted approvingly that, after the disastrous bush fire of January 2014, bushland trees soon began regenerating through re-growth and from seed with forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoos seen eating jarrah seeds the day after the fire. This highlights the fact that, provided we continue to campaign strongly against the further destruction of remnant bushland in our locality, we will continue to enjoy our red-tailed visitors for many years to come.

MOUNT CLAREMONT PRIMARY SCHOOL CENTENARY CELEBRATION

Text and photo : Heidi Hardisty

The FOLC joined in the Mount Claremont Primary School Centenary Celebrations, Sunday 22nd October. The FOLC gave away 100 native seedlings in keeping with the theme. It was a wonderful community event and the hundreds attending were not disappointed. There were bouncy castles for the young children, displays and dioramas of the school's history by the students, a professional dance troop dancing to the tunes through the past decades, and even the Scotch College Pipe Band. It was lovely to be part of it!

Ro Johnston setting up the FOLC stall at Mount Claremont Primary School



FOLC AGM

Text and photos : Hilary Heptinstall

This was held at the Hardisty residence on Sunday October 29 and was a very pleasant social occasion. We all appreciated Paul and Heidi's hospitality.

Nick Cook chaired the meeting. With her forthcoming move to Queensland, Heidi announced her retirement from the board. Former Claremont Councillor, Karen Wood, was elected to take her place. Claire Brittain, Nick Cook and Kevin McAlpine will remain on the board though, after many years of service, Kevin is happy to step down if anyone is interested in replacing him!



Continued on next page

The FOLC Board- Heidi Hardisty Nick Cook and Claire Brittain (Apology - Kevin McAlpine)

All reports were accepted and it was agreed that we retain our current auditor and insurance scheme. It was suggested that we might need to look at insurance for items in the shed.

In her Coordinator's report, Heidi thanked the Town of Claremont for their support and also the many FOLC members who have made the year so successful

We now have 190 members and Annie Falconer has reported that over 2000 volunteers have contributed over 5700 hours of work from January to September this year. (Delia Hendry will take over Annie's position next year.)

Next year will see our final mass planting season, for which Heidi will return to WA for 4-6 weeks to help run.

Claire Brittain thanked Heidi for her passion and drive, in recruiting volunteers and presented her with a certificate of Life Membership of the Friends of Lake Claremont. The meeting concluded with drinks and delicious nibbles.



Heidi Hardisty with her certificate

GRANTS UPDATE

From : Claire Brittain

SALP Grant 2018 Funding Round

The 2018 Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP) Program's Steering Committee recently completed its assessment of funding applications and provided recommendations to Perth NRM and funding partners, Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Alcoa World Alumina Australia, for endorsement.

The Friends of Lake Claremont were awarded \$8,977.50 (ex GST) for restoration of the Wetland Buffer on the east of Lake Claremont.

We are applying for a variation to infill plant the Remnant Bushland now that we have finished the Wetland Buffer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Calendar November 2017

Day	Event	Time
Sunday Nov. 12 th	FOLC Busy Bee: Hand weeding	8:00 – 10:00 am
Saturday Nov. 18 th	FOLC Party in the Park – thank you to our volunteers	12:00– 2:00 pm

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



Compost
in
Claremont

FREE COMPOST WORKSHOP

Come to our FREE workshop and learn the secrets to simple, hassle-free home composting.
Turn your kitchen and garden scraps into rich compost for your garden!

When: 9:30am–11:00am Sunday 12th November 2017
Where: Claremont Park, 288 Stirling Highway, Claremont.
www.earthcarers.org.au
 Phone: 9384 4003

First 15 residents from the Council areas below receive a free Compost Kit.



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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

