



Swan Lake Ballet *Picture: Terry Heptinstall*

The weeders have been out in force in February with two successful Busy Bees starting at 7.00 am to avoid the heat. Next month we will revert to the usual starting time of 8.00 am.

Congratulations to Claire Brittain on securing a grant of \$8977.50 from the Swan Alcoa Land Care Programme. This will be used to infill plant the remnant bushland this winter. See page 5.

We are still looking for a Night Chat Coordinator! See details on page 6.

BUSY BEE SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11

From : Nick Cook

At the request of volunteers, we tried an earlier start time of 7.00 am this month to beat the heat. Sixteen volunteers joined us for this session. We had hoped to attack the bushy starwort on the lake bed but last month's rain meant that the area was completely under water!



A small group went in search of Fleabane to hand weed. The rest of the group pruned back Hardenbergia (on the Eastern buffer) from the pathways in preparation for mulching the path edges. The volunteers then mulched a section of the main path. FOLC aspires to minimise the use of chemical weed control at Lake Claremont. By heavily mulching the path edges, we minimise the interaction between the public, their dogs and contract sprayers.



Volunteers clearing the Hardenbergia

We finished up back at the shed for a well deserved morning tea, thanks to Soozie and Geoff Ross!

OUR BIRDS

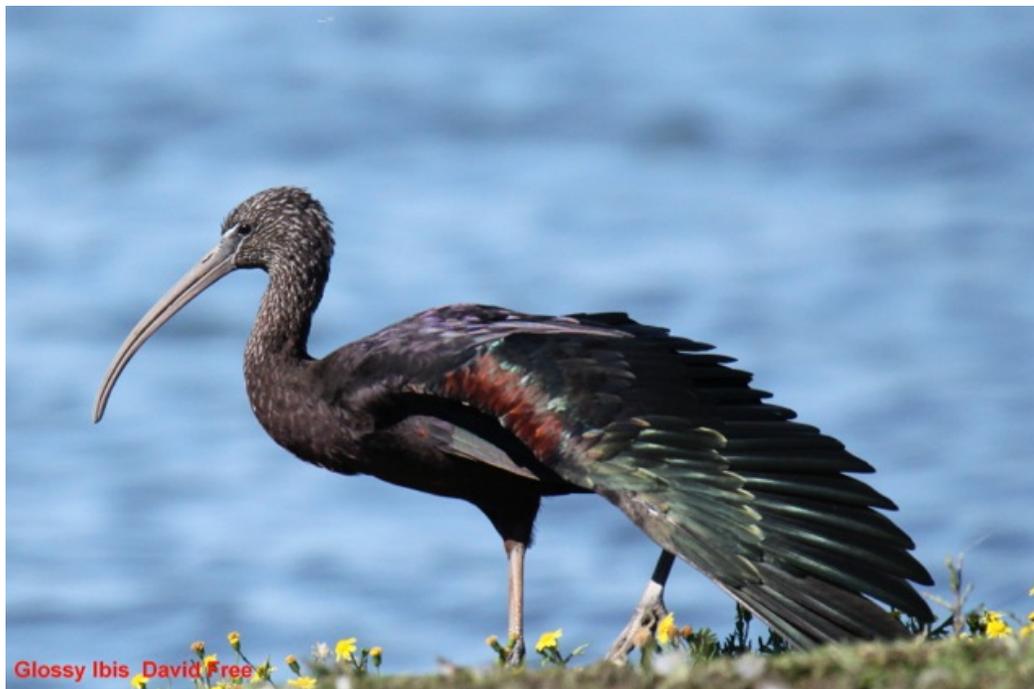
Text and pictures : David Free

Glossy Ibis, *Plegadis falcinellus*

The Glossy Ibis is smaller than the White and Straw-necked Ibis, the other two species seen in Australia. It is also much less common, and rarely seen at our lake. However, following January's unseasonal rainfall, there have been a few birds visiting. Because of its nomadic habits, this bird is sometimes called the wandering ibis.

Unmistakable, their purple-brown greenish plumage is iridescent in sunlight.

Glossy Ibis probe the mud for aquatic invertebrates; they also feed on insects and seeds.



IN BLOOM THIS MONTH

Picture: Geoff Ross Text: Angela Hine

***Grevillea vestita* or *Trident grevillea*.**

Geoff spotted this plant at the base of the stairs, coming down from the drive in site on the Lakeside. Although it occurs on a more occasional basis, it is native to the Perth region. Heidi Hardisty says that we have not planted this species at the Lake so it has probably come up on its own, perhaps from seed brought in by birds. That's great!



TURTLE NEST FOUND

From : Nick Cook

On Friday afternoons during school term FOLC runs their Year 10 Community Service Program with boys from Scotch College and Christchurch. A couple of weeks ago the boys were spreading mulch along the path edges between the living stream and Strickland St. This task is an important part of our efforts to reduce the use of herbicide at the lake.

One of the boys came across a shallow turtle nest less than 1 metre from the path edge. This is the first nest that has been reported in the Northern section of the park (that I am aware of), although I have previously seen a fair bit of turtle activity in this area and suspected that it was a likely nesting location.

If you find a turtle nest anywhere in the park or surrounds please make a note of the exact location (perhaps mark it by laying a couple of sticks over the spot and make a note of any significant nearby features) and contact FOLC ASAP. If you have the Snap, Send, Solve app, you can use this to record the GPS location and notify the Town. Please don't disturb the nest/eggs as the viability of the eggs can be affected by rotation or movement. If we can locate any turtle nests, we can then cover them with plastic mesh and prevent predation by foxes.

20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SWAN ALCOA LANDCARE PROGRAMME

From : Claire Brittain

Board members, Zac Hardisty and Claire Brittain, recently attended the annual SALP Funding Breakfast. This program is celebrating its 20th Anniversary and has had a major contribution in restoring the Swan Canning Catchment area. SALP was established to provide community groups with a simple process to access funding and is a joint initiative of Alcoa of Australia, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and Perth NRM. Since its inception in 1998, SALP has provided more than \$8 million in funding to community groups, with volunteers contributing 180,000 hours of their time to deliver over 1300 catchment restoration projects. SALP's successes have been recently acknowledged with the 2017 Landcare Award and the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety Awards for Excellence.



Claire and Zac with the Minister for the Environment, Stephen Dawson and The Managing Director of Alcoa Australia, Michael Parker

FOLC were presented with a grant for \$8977.50 for the 2018 SALP Grant Program to infill plant the Remnant Bushland on the Western side of Lake Claremont. Planting will commence in May/June. This is the 4th SALP grant that FOLC have received.



PETS IN THE PARK

From : Nick Cook

FOLC has been invited by Town of Claremont to participate in "Pets in the park" on Sunday 18th March between 8am and 12pm at Claremont Park. This event promotes responsible dog ownership. We will be setting up the marquee and a display.

We will be talking to people about our conservation efforts and hope to sign up some new members.

Please come and say 'Hello' to us if you are in the area.

SMOKING CEREMONY Friday February 16

Text : Nick Cook Picture: Town of Claremont

Last week Claire Brittain and Nick Cook were privileged to have an opportunity to meet with the Traditional Owners of the wetland and participate in a Smoking Ceremony being held at the site of the Henshaw swale project.

Lake Claremont is a Registered Site of Significance to the Noongar (Nyungah) people. The Smoking Ceremony was conducted by Iva Hayward-Jackson. Iva spoke very passionately about their deep feeling of connection with the wetland and shared some stories of their Dreaming as well as their memories of the area. He talked about the vital importance of preserving and caring for the environment and shared their pleasure at the restoration/revegetation efforts being made by Town of Claremont and FOLC.

The Henshaw swale is being constructed to divert storm water that currently runs directly into the wetland into a swale that will filter and clean the water before it gets to the wetland.

It was an honour to have the chance to speak with the Traditional Owners. Thanks to Roina Williams (Consulting Anthropologist) and ToC for facilitating our inclusion.



L to R: Corrie Christopher Bodney, Claire Brittain, Liz Ledger (ToC CEO), Iva Hayward-Jackson, Nick Cook and Bella Bropho.

NIGHT CHAT COORDINATOR POSITION

We are still looking for a volunteer to fill the position of **Night Chats Coordinator**. At present, Heidi is carrying out the role from Townsville, which is difficult for her! Details of this position were given in the February Newsletter. It involves liaising with speakers, explaining the purpose and format of the Chats to them, collecting their abstracts, biodata and publicity photos, and ensuring that everything goes smoothly on the night. It also involves sending advanced publicity to the Post Newspaper, liaising with the Board for speakers and Hilary over material for the Newsletter – and checking with others involved that everything is in place.

Rose Senior (0435 077 442 or rsenior@iinet.net.au) is very happy to meet to discuss details with any interested members (2 people working together could work well!)

EXTRA BUSY BEE Sunday February 25

From: Nick Cook

This morning we held an extra weeding session. Once again we started at 7.00 and attacked the Bushy Starwort on the lake bed.

A smaller group of 8 volunteers did an amazing job. These guys are the "A Team" when it comes to hand weeding. They were led by Norma's 'midweek weed crew'.

We worked for 2 hours and collected at least a ute full of weeds. Well done everyone!!

We finished off with a great morning tea including a birthday cake for Norma Hay. Happy birthday Norma!

Our next busy bee is our regular 2nd Sunday session on March 12. There will be an 8.00am start. We will be holding our annual Clean Up Australia Day event. We hope to see you all there!



Weeders in action



Soozie Ross with a birthday cake for birthday girl, Norma Hay!

FEBRUARY NIGHT CHAT Neville Collard - Nyungar Knowhow

Text : Rose Senior Pictures : Terry Heptinstall and Soozie Ross

For our first Night Chat of 2018 Aboriginal elder Neville Collard gave us an overall flavour of his culture in a relaxed, informal talk which took place on the south shore of Lake Claremont. The atmosphere was evocative, with the sun setting over the lake, corellas wheeling overhead, and the Moreton Bay figs looming ever larger and darker as night fell. Well-prepared people wrapped themselves in jackets or snuggled under rugs as the temperature dropped.

This was Neville's second talk for the Friends of Lake Claremont and he followed his usual format, interspersing information about traditional Aboriginal practices with personal memories and insights. We learnt, for example, of the location of campsites and scarred trees around Perth, how venomous snakes behave, and how in his view politicians are like cockatoos – both making lots of noise but getting little done.

With his ability to straddle cultures and relate comfortably to Australians of all backgrounds (having worked in both the Police force and the WA government for many years) Neville is in a unique position to share his know-how with others. He concluded his talk by saying, "It's no good me taking stories to the grave".



Nick Cook introducing Neville to the audience



Neville addressing the audience



Members of the audience relaxing in the outdoor location

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH NIGHT CHAT

The speaker for the March Night Chat session has not yet been determined but members will be notified by email before March 27.

Calendar March 2018

Day	Event	Time
Friday March 9th	Year 10 Community Service Program – Clean Up Day	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Sunday March 11th *	Clean Up Australia Day Lake Claremont	8:00 – 10:00 am 10:00 am Tea
Friday March 16th	Year 10 Community Service Program	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Wednesday March 21st	International Day of Forests	
Thursday March 22nd	World Water Day	
Friday March 23rd	Year 10 Community Service Program	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Saturday March 24th	Earth Hour	8:30 – 9:30 pm
Tuesday March 27th	Night Chats at Lake Claremont Pool Clubrooms, Lake Claremont Aquatic Centre	Talk 6:30 -7:30 pm Doors open at 6:00 pm
Friday March 30th	Year 10 Community Service Program	1:30 - 3:00 pm

* Please note that 'Clean Up Australia Day' is celebrated a week later than the national event due to clashes with the WA long weekend.

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

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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

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

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



natural resource
management program

