

MAY AT LAKE CLAREMONT



A Grevillea sparkling in the May sunlight at the Lake Photo : Geoff Ross



An endangered Carnaby's Cockatoo feeding on the cones of a Rottne Island Pine at Lake Claremont

Photo : Pavla Walsh

Up to 40 of the endangered Carnaby's Cockatoos have been seen foraging at the Lake in May.

Read also about the Spotted Pardalotes seen by David and Pam Free this month on page 4.

TOWN OF CLAREMONT VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Text : Nick Cook Photos : Geoff Ross

Congratulations to all of our members!

On Friday May 25 the Town of Claremont hosted their inaugural Volunteer of the Year Awards function. For the first time the Town has created 4 categories and awards to recognise outstanding achievements in volunteering in Claremont.

The Volunteer Team of the Year Award went to The Friends of Lake Claremont for working tirelessly on nature conservation at Lake Claremont. The Friends have raised over \$580,000 in grants and planted more than 350,000 seedlings to help restore the wetlands and surrounding area.

Congratulations to Zac Hardisty who is one of our Directors. Zac won the Youth Volunteer of the Year Award. This was in recognition of his many years of volunteering with FOLC and his active role amongst the leadership group.

We would also like to congratulate Soozie Ross who was nominated for Individual Volunteer of the Year and Norma Hay who was nominated for Senior Volunteer of the Year.

The Town of Claremont has the highest rate of volunteer participation of any local government in WA and more than half of the volunteer hours worked are from Friends of Lake Claremont.

Thank you to the Town of Claremont for recognising the significant volunteering efforts of the community.



Zac Hardisty with his award



*Rear : Zac Hardisty Paul Hardisty Heidi Hardisty
Front : Nick Cook Hilary Heptinstall Soozie Ross Norma Hay*

MOTHERS' DAY BUSY BEE SUNDAY MAY 13

From: Nick Cook

Our Mothers' Day Busy Bee was a great success.

16 volunteers, including three first timers, attended and we set to work pruning along the pathway that leads to the corner of Alfred and Davies Rd. We pruned the Hardenbergia which was encroaching on the path and also smothering sections of our plantings. On the other side we cut the Grevillea hedge back from the path's edge.



This was a very productive session. Next month will see the start of the new planting season and there will be plenty of opportunities for the community to become involved.

We wrapped up the session with a lovely morning tea. Thanks to all who participated.



THEN (2010) AND NOW (2018)
From : Soozie Ross

In about 2010 the dual use path was built around Lake Claremont. The photographer is looking north, with the Claremont golf course on the right. Note the 200m mark on the asphalt on both photos. Also note the extreme couch grass encroachment into the lake edge in 2003. The 2018 photo shows revegetation along the buffer with the couch grass under control. A wonderful transformation!



The path in 2010



The path in 2018

HELP NEEDED WITH FRIDAY AFTERNOON PROGRAMME

Help is needed with the Community Service Program on Friday afternoons. We need 1-2 people who are able to supervise 10-20 Year 10 boys each week from 1:30 – 3:00 pm doing various landcare activities. You will work together with at least one other FOLC leader. Skills needed: can give clear instruction, works well with teenagers, and has a cheerful disposition. You will be required to apply for a Working with Children Check. (FOLC will cover the cost.)

Dates of remaining sessions in the year: June 8th, 16th & 22nd; July 20th & 27th; August 3rd, 10th & 31st, Sept 7th & 14th; Oct 12th & 19th. You will not be required to attend all of the sessions, but ideally you should be able to attend the majority of these sessions.

If you can help or would like more information, please email Geoff Ross at folc.wa@gmail.com.

OUR BIRDS

Painting : Pam Free Text : David Free

Spotted Pardalote, *Pardalotus punctatus*



When Pam and I were conducting the autumn survey on 18th May we were lucky enough to see a small group of Spotted Pardalotes. This is only the second time that I have seen this beautiful little bird at our lake; they are relatively common in the south west forests and some birds move to Perth area in the colder months.

Spotted Pardalotes feed on insects, usually high in eucalypts. It seems that trees in the earliest revegetated areas now have sufficient insect life to attract these birds.

Spotted Pardalotes nest in a tunnel, which they excavate in steep banks. They normally breed in the south west but there are records from the Swan Coastal Plain.

MORE TURTLE NEWS

From : Nick Cook

In May we received a call from TORRN (Turtle Oblonga Rescue and Rehabilitation Network) that our hatchling (young Nick) was ready to be returned to the Lake. His mother was euthanized by vets after a raven attack before she was ready to lay her eggs.

Another hatchling raised by the same volunteer was also offered to us for release at Lake Claremont. We have named him Zac!

Nick Cook and Zac Hardisty released the 2 hatchlings at the Lake's edge amongst fringing vegetation.

Although young Zac was not originally from Lake Claremont, it is good to have the introduction of genetic diversity at the Lake.

Many thanks to all the volunteers at TORRN for their great work.

Nick and Zac before release (not sure which is which!)



DEVELOPMENTS TO THE EAST OF LAKE CLAREMONT

From : Town of Claremont and Nick Cook

Photos : Hilary Heptinstall

There is a lot going on at the East side of Lake Claremont!

Works on the two new nature playgrounds at Lake Claremont have now commenced. The playgrounds have been designed to fit in with the natural environment of the Lake Claremont Recreation Precinct.

The larger playground, suitable for 8-12 year olds, is the first to be installed next to the Lake at the end of Lapsley Rd. The smaller, toddler playground will be located next door to Lake Espresso. Both playgrounds are due to be finished by the end of June.



Design for new playground at Lake Claremont

The playground under construction



New footy practice goals have also been installed at the north east end of the park.

BORE DRILLING AT LAKE CLAREMONT

From : Jared Bray at the Town of Claremont



The bore at Lake Claremont

Members may have noticed the drilling rig to the East of the Lake. Nick Cook has received the following information from the Town of Claremont.

The bore is owned by dept of water and environment regulations and is 416m deep. It will be used solely for monitoring and inspection purposes.

It will monitor the deep Leederville aquifer as part of an environmental study on ground water and used to create more accurate water modelling for the western suburbs. It will also be used to research the longer term vision to inject waste water from the Subiaco treatment plant to recharge the deep Leederville aquifer.

The bore will be used in conjunction with the two adjacent shallow bores, which are at approximately 25m to monitor and research the relationship between the shallow and deeper aquifers.

Members requiring more information should contact Jared Bray jbray@claremont.wa.gov.au

MAY NIGHT CHAT

Text : Hilary Heptinstall Photo : Terry Heptinstall

Our speaker in May was Ruth Clark, who is a founding member, Secretary and Wetland Trustee of the Waterbird Conservation Group. This was established in 1984 and was initially formed in response to a botulism outbreak at Thomson's Lake Nature Reserve and was the main rescue group for waterbirds for over 15 years in the Perth area. The sick birds were easy to catch and were nurtured in members' bathrooms and laundries! 1600 birds were rescued and there was an amazing success rate of 90%. Once recovered, the birds were released to unaffected wetlands.

In 1993 the Group's direction changed when it took on the vesting of Folly and Maramanup Crown Reserve in Baldivis (just before the freeway went through) and it has actively managed and restored the reserve since.



Ruth Clark addressing the audience

Their challenges have been very different to those at Lake Claremont and include invasion by kangaroos, sheep, motorbike riders and rubbish dumpers! There has been invasion by kikuyu and cotton bush, which grows fast and pods up twice a year with millions of seeds in each pod. Much work has been done on fencing, weed removal and reticulation and large scale planting has been carried out.

The group has purchased several remote sensor cameras. These cameras have revealed a great variety of wild life including many birds as well as a possum, bandicoots, water rats, kangaroos, Goulds Mountain Spoonbill and the Common Bronzewing. They have also shown foxes, rabbits, a cat and cattle at Folly.

There was much discussion both during and after the talk and there was comparison of the Management and financing of Friends of Lake Claremont and that of the Folly and Maranamup Reserve. It was a very interesting evening and was enjoyed by all who attended. Thank you, Ruth!

FUND RAISING AT GRILL'D

We were once again one of the causes supported by Grill'd Claremont in May and have received a cheque for \$100. Thank you to Grill'd for their support.

2018 WINTER PLANTING SEASON

From : Heidi Hardisty

Please join us for the massive 2018 winter planting season! The FOLC will need hundreds of volunteers to plant 30,000 native seedlings as we continue one of the largest ongoing restoration projects in Perth.

We only plant species known to be indigenous to the area. Our tube stock is purchased from 3 nurseries: Apace WA, Plantrite and Native Plants WA. The seedlings are not watered in, but rely on the winter rains to establish their roots before the hot, dry summer.

This year the FOLC will plant several areas on the east side of Lake Claremont (Areas A to D on the map shown) purchasing approx. 24,000 seedlings with a grant we won from the State NRM (Natural Resource Management) Program. Planting patches of native vegetation will increase wildlife habitat for insects, reptiles and birds, and make a more beautiful park.

The other planting area is the remnant bushland on the west side of Lake Claremont (top left corner in the map shown). It is the last 3 hectares of bushland in Claremont which has some of its original soil structure intact. Groundcover, shrubs and trees like Banksias will be planted, to increase the varieties of plants in the bushland, as well as its health which has been suffering in recent years, partly due to decreasing rainfall and the drying climate. The FOLC will purchase about 5500 native seedlings for this project with a grant they won from the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP).



The FOLC are supported and directed by the Town of Claremont (TOC) staff who chose the areas to plant according to the park plan. The Year 10 boys from Christ Church Grammar School and Scotch College who attend the FOLC Community Service Program on Friday afternoon have helped to mulch the planting areas over the past several weeks.

Our planting sessions (June to August) are attended by local residents, school students, corporate and community groups, as well as by our own members.

Continued on next page



Local residents and members of the general public are welcome to join in any of our public planting or Conservation Volunteer Sessions. We generally need 4-6 people to lay out seedlings and set up 1 hour prior to every planting session. Planting dates are listed below. More details can be found on our website or follow us on Facebook. If you would like more info or can volunteer please contact us directly by email: folc@gmail.com

2018 Public Planting Days

The FOLC host 4 public planting days for the local and wider community. All are held on Sunday mornings, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. Team leaders (5-7) are needed to help run each session. And 6-8 volunteers are needed to help set-up from 8:00 – 9:00 am.

1. Local Residents' Planting Day - June 10th
2. Planting for the Birds – July 8th
3. National Tree Day – July 29th
4. Friends' Planting Day – August 12th – with the “Force”



Community volunteers

Continued on next page



Planting with “The Force”

Volunteers from the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force

In 2018, the FOLC will host an additional 4 planting sessions with “The Force” - 9:00am to 2:00 pm. We need 6-8 people to help lay out the seedlings 8:00 – 9:00 am.

1. Saturday, June 9th
2. Saturday, June 16th
3. Saturday, July 7th
4. Saturday, July 28th

Since 2013, the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing has contributed enormously to our restoration projects, planting over 10,000 native seedlings each year. The members of this Indian expat group live in many different suburbs throughout Perth, but enjoy coming together at Lake Claremont to help out in this very special project.



Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force volunteers

Planting with the Conservation Volunteers

July 9th – July 13th 8:30 am – 2:30 pm

This year the Conservation Volunteers will join us for 5 days in July as we plant 5500 seedlings in the remnant bushland, improving the understory and trying to increase the number of banksias which are struggling throughout the city.

All are welcome to join in on the planting sessions. We will meet at the south end of Myera St. at 8:30 am each morning. No set up is required. If you would like to stay the day morning tea will be provided, but you must bring your own lunch.

Local School Planting Sessions

The FOLC would like to welcome participating students from Methodist Ladies College (MLC), The Quintilian School, Swanbourne Primary, Mount Claremont Primary, Christ Church Grammar School and Scotch College. Various sessions will take place between June 11th – 29th. It would be helpful to have 2-3 volunteers to set up before each session (8:00 – 8:30 am). Email us for planting dates if you can help: folc.wa@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE NIGHT CHAT AT LAKE CLAREMONT

Buzzing over Native Bees

Tuesday 26th June, Claremont Aquatic Centre, 5:30-7:00 pm

When people think bee, they usually think of the European honeybee, *Apis mellifera*. Yet Australia hosts an incredible diversity of native bees. PhD researcher and native bee scientist Kit Prendergast will showcase the amazing diversity of native bees that occur in Australia, with a focus on southwest WA, where she is conducting her research on how native bees respond to urbanisation, and the impact of honeybees on native bees.

Kit Prendergast



You will come away buzzing about these charismatic critters, and armed with knowledge about how to help promote native bees in the 'burbs.

Kit Prendergast is a young native bee researcher from Western Australia. She is currently doing a PhD at Curtin University, under a Forrest Scholarship, an international scholarship of which only three entrants are awarded with per year. Her thesis is the "Determinants of native bee assemblages in urban habitat fragments in the southwest Australian biodiversity hotspot and interactions between honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) and native plant-pollinator communities."

Kit has a passion for the natural world and gets a real buzz when going out in the field to conduct native bee surveys. Her surveys have underscored the incredible diversity of Australia's native bees that occur within the urban milieu of the southwest Western Australian biodiversity hotspot. Kit aspires for her research to lead to science-based actions for conserving thriving native bee assemblages.

The event is hosted by the Friends of Lake Claremont at the Claremont Aquatic Centre, 12 Davies Road, Claremont. The talk commences at 6:00 pm. Doors open for refreshments at 5:30 pm. A gold coin donation is appreciated.

Calendar June 2018 – PLANTING SEASON

Day	Event	Time
Tuesday June 5 th	World Environment Day	
Friday June 8 th	Year 10 Community Service Program - Planting	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Saturday June 9 th	Planting with the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing	9 am to 1 pm
Sunday June 10 th	Local Residents Planting Day Lake Claremont	9:00 – 12:00 pm
June 11 th – 15 th	Planting with Local School Students	9:00 am to 11:30 pm 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Friday June 15 th	Year 10 Community Service Program - Planting	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Saturday June 16 th	Planting with the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing	9 am to 1 pm
June 18 th – 22 nd	Planting with Local School Students	9:00 am to 11:30 pm 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Friday June 22 nd	Year 10 Community Service Program - Planting	1:30 - 3:00 pm
June 25 th – 29 th	Planting with Scotch College Year 7 Students	8:30 am to 10:30 pm 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Tuesday June 26 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
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

