



THE LAKE IN JUNE



Sunrise at Lake Claremont Photo : Anne Chester

Anne took this beautiful photo while walking round the Lake at sunrise in June. It is lovely to receive photos from members of the community to print in our newsletter and we would love to have more of them.

The competition for 2018 Australian Bird Photographer of the Year is now open (see page 13) so perhaps some of our members may be inspired to enter a bird photo from Lake Claremont!

The 2018 planting season is now in full swing and on the whole we have been very lucky with the weather. (Read all about it on page 7.)

Our most senior member Joan Tockock celebrated her 99th birthday in June and is still a regular attendee at planting mornings. She is an inspiration to us all! (See page 5)

OUR BIRDS

Text and photo : David Free Drawing: Pam Free

Red necked Avocet, *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*

This elegant Australian endemic is an occasional visitor to our lake and a small group returned in June. They are similar to the much more common Black-winged Stilt, with which they sometimes flock. Avocets can easily be identified by their chestnut head and neck and upwardly curved bill. They feed, mostly, on insects and crustaceans,



Red-necked Avocet. David Free

IN BLOOM THIS MONTH

Photo : Geoff Ross Text : Heidi Hardisty

Allocasuarina humilis - Dwarf Shook

This small shrub (sometimes up to 2m in height) has male and female plants (dioecious). The photo shows the red flowers of the female plant. The male has orange-brown flowers.



Then 2003 AND NOW 2018 *From : Soozie Ross*

Revegetation on the western side of Lake Claremont.

Looking at the embankment from the lake side towards the housing development which took over from the "Lakeway Drive In". (Drive-in Cinema in the 1960's) Note parched grass weeds and sparse vegetation prior to rehabilitation.



2003



2018

ADOPT A SPOT NEWS

From : Jenni and Lance Banister-Jones

Winter has arrived and so have the weeds! The current Adopt-a-Spotters will be out in force looking after their patch, keeping it weed and rubbish free.

The 2017 plantings are looking really well established. In much of the previous years' areas, the plants are now so prolific, there's almost no room for any weeds to grow!

We still need a few more people join the Adopt-a-Spot program. If we can control the weeds in the first year of planting, the weed seeds don't get a chance to establish themselves in the newly planted ground, and the plants will benefit from any rain that falls in summer.

If anyone would like to join the Adopt-a-Spot program, please check out the information on the website (under Volunteer) and email folc.wa@gmail.com or call the coordinators, Lance & Jenni on 0418 922 885.



Norma Hay and Lance admiring the 2017 planting along the eastern side of the lake

Lance amongst the well-established 2017 planting



THE SCARLET GROUND JEWELBUG - *Choerocoris paganus*

From : Angela Hine (Town of Claremont Bushcare officer)

Angela spotted these Scarlet Ground Jewelbugs (or Ground Shield Bugs) mating in a pile of *Dodonaea hackettiana* fruits near the FOLC shed.

These beautiful little bugs are often encountered on or near the ground. They belong to the family *Scutelleridae*, which have been classified as true bugs.

Jewelbugs have a greatly enlarged shield-like scutellum, which is the usually small triangular plate sitting between the wing-bases of bugs and beetles. This plate completely covers the abdomen and wings.

Jewelbugs can also make a stink when alarmed.



JOAN TOCKOCK'S 99th BIRTHDAY Photos : Geoff Ross



Joan's beautiful cake made by Cath Macauley

JUNE NIGHT CHAT AT LAKE CLAREMONT

From: Hilary Heptinstall

An audience of over fifty people attended this most interesting talk on 'Bees in the burbs' by Kit Prendergast. Kit is a Forrest Scholar and a PhD student at Curtin University.

She spoke of bee evolution and we learned that bees evolved from a species of wasps. They evolved 125 million years ago and have an exclusive diet of nectar and pollen. They drove the diversification of Angiosperms (flowering plants) which are the most successful plant group.

Bees aid pollination by brushing against the anther of flowering plants and transfer it to the stigma of another plant. It is a win - win relationship where plants achieve cross pollination and bees get a nectar/pollen reward!

Male bees only collect nectar as they have no pollen collection hairs and no sting, while the females have pollen collecting hairs and a sting. Kit is studying the relationship between native bees and the introduced honey bees which were introduced to South West of WA in the 1840s. The European honey bees consist of a reproductive queen, sterile workers and suicidal male drones who die after having sex!

Honey is nectar that has had excess water evaporated and bee enzymes added. It is only produced by honey bees and native 'sugar bag' stingless bees. The WA beekeeping industry is worth at least \$4.7 million per year.

She spoke of different types of hives and the 'Honeybee Dance' which is used to communicate the distance and direction of a pollen source.

There are 2000 species of Australian native bees (800 in WA). They are mainly solitary having no colonies and no care of offspring.

We can help native bees by planting a diversity of flowering plants, especially native ones to provide pollen and nectar.

We should retain old dead trees and fence posts, install bee hotels (with 4mm, 7mm and 10 mm diameters and 100 mm long) in a sunny locations. We should not use pesticides or herbicides as many are harmful not only to 'pests' but also to beneficial insects such as bees.

Kit finished by telling us about the 'Bees in the burbs' website where we can find details of T-shirts and 'Native Bee Hotel' booklets as well as how to become a citizen scientist!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1041684025880609/>

There were lots of questions at the end of this most enjoyable evening. Thank you, Kit!



Kit Prendergast

THE START OF THE PLANTING SEASON

From : Heidi Hardisty

The planting season has got off to a great start! Over 8000 seedlings have already been planted around the park and golf course creating beautiful pockets of native vegetation to assist our wildlife.

There were 13 planting sessions held between June 8th - 22nd with over 400 people participating: FOLC members, local residents, school children, and the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing.

FOLC grant officer, Claire Brittain, obtained a grant from the State NRM (Natural resource Management) Program to purchase the plants. A total of nearly 23,000 native seedlings will be planted this season with this grant.

Heidi Hardisty led the sessions with help from Angela Hine, the Town of Claremont Bushcare Officer, Claire Brittain, Hilary Heptinstall, Zac Hardisty, and Declan Hardisty.

Local Residents' Planting Day – June 10th

A stormy morning kept numbers low this year, but 23 people managed to plant 1200 native seedlings along the south side of golf course. Morning Tea was perfectly timed, as the volunteers took shelter at the Tennis Club, while a major squall passed by - the rain was nearly horizontal! Thanks to the Claremont Tennis Club for letting us use their facilities for morning tea!



Planting with 'The Force' – June 9th & 16th

The Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing are back! The wonderful Indian ex-pat group contributes enormously to our community planting projects every year. In their first 2 of 4 planting sessions this winter, they have already planted 3650 seedlings!



Shah Satnam volunteers

Year 10 Community Service Program – June 8th, 15th & 22nd

The Friday afternoon focus of the Year 10 program with boys from Christ Church Grammar School and Scotch College is now on planting. They have planted 1100 seedlings, and also spent one afternoon helping to remove excess mulch in one of the planting areas.

Primary School Planting – June 11th -20th

So far 271 students from 4 schools have participated, learning how important wetlands and the conservation work in the area are.

Mount Claremont Primary School – June 11th

Thirty-one Year 6 students from Mt Claremont Primary School smashed in 300 seedlings in less than 1.5 hours to start off the school planting season.

MLC (Methodist’s Ladies College) – June 13th

Two classes of Year 3s from MLC attended the morning and afternoon of June 13th. A total of 35 students planted 480 seedlings. What a great effort for the young girls!



MLC students receiving instructions from Heidi



MLC students at work

Quintilian School – June 14th, 15th, 18th & 19th

All of students from Quintilian School participated this year in 4 sessions with the older classes paired with the younger ones: Years 2 & 4, Years 1 & 6, Years 3 & Pre-primary, and Year 5 & Pre-primary. Together the 160 students planted an amazing 1150 seedlings.



Quintilian students in action

Swanbourne Primary School – June 20th

45 Year 5 students from Swanbourne Primary really enjoyed their morning session and did exceptionally well planting 460 seedlings

There are still 19 planting sessions still to come:

- June 25th – 27th 7 Classes of Year 7 students from Scotch College Middle School
- July 7th 9am – 12pm Planting with the ‘Force’ (Set up from 8am)
- July 8th 9am – 12pm Planting for the Birds (Set up from 8am)
- July 9th – 13th – Planting with the Conservation Volunteers
- July 27th 9am – 12pm Planting with the ‘Force’ (Set up from 8am)
- July 28th 9am – 12pm National Tree Day (Set up from 8am)
- August 11th 9am – 12pm Uni Planting Day (Set up from 8am)
- August 12th 9am – 12pm Friends’ Planting Day with the ‘Force’ (Set up from 8am)
- July 20th & 27th, Aug 3rd & 10th Planting with Year 10s CCGS & Scotch College

Acknowledgements:

- All the volunteers who plant, help received deliveries and lay out plants
- State NRM (Natural Resource Management) Program – funding to purchase plants
- Soozie Ross & the tea team – morning teas
- Bunnings Claremont – donated gloves
- Claremont Tennis Club – use of club house for teas
- Aspire Gym – use of grassed areas for refreshments

Thank you

A huge thank you to from all of us to Heidi Hardisty! She has done a wonderful job working every day for 4 weeks in leading the planting sessions. We are very fortunate that she made the decision to join us from Townsville for our planting season and hope that she will enjoy some well deserved rest and relaxation when the season is over!

Heidi at work



UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY NIGHT CHAT AT LAKE CLAREMONT

We are pleased to welcome Dr Ric How at the next Night Chat at Lake Claremont.
 Tuesday 24th July, Claremont Aquatic Centre, 5:30-7:00 pm
 Speaker: Dr Ric How

Faunal Diversity in the Western Suburbs: What urban biodiversity teaches us.

By Dr Ric How

Over 80 percent of Australians live in urban environments, making us one of the most urbanised countries in the world. Urbanisation results in large scale clearing of native ecosystems, leaving only small remnants of the original vegetation and wetlands, with a resulting sharp decline in indigenous flora and fauna. Perth's urban development is no exception and it is essential to retain biodiversity for the essential services it provides, including our future health and well-being.

In the 190 years since the establishment of the Swan River Colony by Europeans much of the original flora, fauna, wetlands and vegetation of the region has disappeared. Many mammal and several bird species have become locally extinct, or are on the verge of local extinction due to clearing of native vegetation (now only 28% of its original extent) and draining of wetlands. The role of habitat loss and modification, impact of introduced animals and plants, changed fire patterns and the probable role of disease can be shown to have a marked impact on native species. Concomitantly, there has been an increase in many non-native species that have been advantaged by habitat changes associated with the spread of urban development. Dr How's 32 year study of reptile populations in Bold Park indicates that fire and the changed rainfall patterns over this period have long-lasting effects, and allows predictions on likely future scenarios for biodiversity as urban areas expand and the climate changes.

Ric How

Adjunct Professor, School of Human Sciences, University of Western Australia.

Formerly: Senior Curator, Department of Terrestrial Zoology, Western Australian Museum

Ric How has been a vertebrate ecology and biodiversity specialist for over 50 years. His first responsibility on appointment to the Western Australian Museum was to co-ordinate a study examining the impact of the first 150 years of European settlement on the fauna of the Swan Region. He has continued this interest in local fauna by undertaking studies of nearly 40 remnant vegetation patches in the Perth Metropolitan area over the following four decades and has published this work in numerous journal articles.

For the last 32 years, Ric has conducted a study on the reptiles of Bold Park. He is a regular lecturer at Murdoch University.

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.

Bushland at Bold Park



Australian Bird Photographer of the Year opens!



The 2018 Australian Bird Photographer of the Year award is now open!

The aim is not just to showcase some of Australia's best nature and bird photographers, but also to highlight the need to improve conservation outcomes for Australia's bird species, encourage wider interest in all Australian birds and showcase the beauty of our exceptional wildlife.

For more information on the rules, how to enter, FAQs and more, check out the [Australian Bird Photographer of the Year website](https://www.birdlifephotofield.org.au/). With generous cash prizes across seven categories, including Bird Portrait, Bird Behaviour, Human Impact, Birds in the Landscape, Fine Art, Youth and a special theme – Black Cockatoos we are sure many of our members will contribute.

<https://www.birdlifephotofield.org.au/>



Raven, White-necked Heron. David Free

I am sure that this photo by David Free would be a contender for the award!

FOLC CALENDAR FOR PLASTIC FREE JULY

Day	Event	Time
Saturday July 7 th	Planting with the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing	9 am - 1 pm
Sunday July 8 th	Planting for the Birds	9:00 - 12:00 pm
Monday July 9 th	FOLC Board Meeting	5:30 - 7:00 pm
Friday July 20 th	Year 10 Community Service Program - Planting	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Tuesday July 24 th	Night Chats at Lake Claremont Claremont Aquatic Centre	Doors open at 5:30 pm Talk 6:00 - 7:00 pm
Friday July 27 th	Year 10 Community Service Program - Planting	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Saturday July 28 th	Planting with the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing	9 am - 1 pm
Sunday July 29 th	National Tree Day	9 am - 12pm

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
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

