



A female blue billed duck with her family Photo: David Free

Our last newsletter for 2018 sees the end of another very successful year for the Friends of Lake Claremont. Our next newsletter will be published in February.

Our activities have come to an end apart from our last Busy Bee which will be held on Sunday December 9 at 8.00 am. We will meet at the FOLC shed.

Thank you to all our volunteers for their wonderful efforts this year. The Lake is looking wonderful and is a source of great pleasure to us and to the local residents, who often express their admiration to me.

Thank you to the Board for their great leadership and thank you to our sponsors who have donated grants this year. (See Claire Brittain's article about SALP on page 8.)

Finally, very best wishes to all our members and their families for Christmas and the New Year. We hope to see you all again in 2019!

NOVEMBER BUSY BEE

From : Nick Cook

Our volunteers made an outstanding effort at our Busy Bee on November 11. 16 volunteers filled 67 bags with flowering weeds in 2 hours!!

The main group of regulars hit the Eastern wetland buffer and filled 47 bags. We welcomed a group of new volunteers from the Cambridge Scouts. They weeded around our precious paperbark trees that surround the FOLC shed and also spread mulch around the base of the trees. They filled a further 20 bags.

All this activity was followed by a fantastic morning tea including Geoff's famous fresh scones. Thanks again to Soozie and Geoff. A great job was done by everyone.



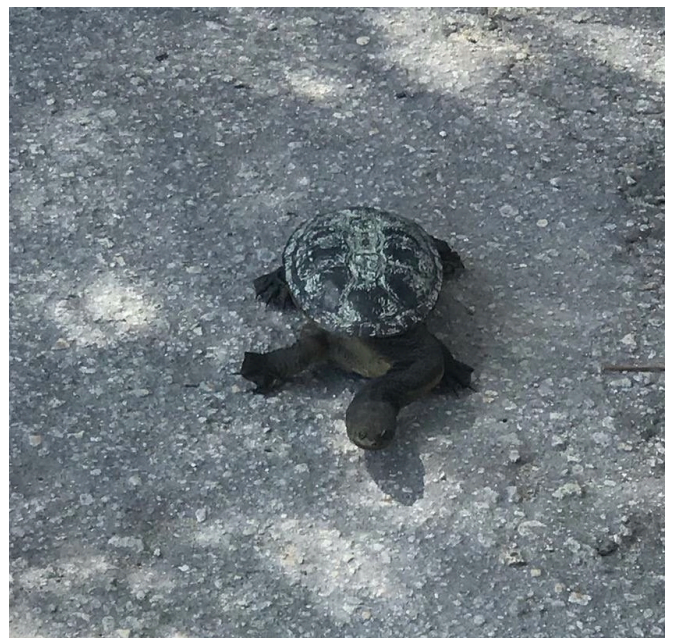
Volunteers from Cambridge Scouts



TURTLE UPDATE

From ; Nick Cook

Last week I had the pleasure of meeting up with a friend of FOLC. As we spoke she lamented that she had yet to see a turtle at the lake. She was absolutely delighted to come across this girl searching for a nesting site on her walk home. Please keep your eye out for our turtles during nesting season.



OUR BIRDS

Text and photo : David Free Painting : Pam Free

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*

At our lake this bird is much less commonly seen, and much shyer, than the similar sized Coot. It is easily distinguished from the Coot by its yellow-tipped orange bill and white under the tail. It is often seen flicking its tail.

In Western Australia Moorhens are confined to the south west. Their preferred habitat is freshwater lakes and swamps.

Moorhen are cooperative breeders, with unrelated adults sometimes assisting in feeding the chicks. Young birds are vulnerable to predation by Swamp Harriers. Moorhen feed on vegetable matter, molluscs and insects.



NOVEMBER BIRD CENSUS

From: David Free

My wife Pam and I conducted a survey of the birds at Lake Claremont on 12th November. The weather was partly cloudy, warm and still. There was a good depth of water in all of the lake.

A total of 641 individuals of 41 species were registered. This is above the average total and species numbers for our spring surveys. Despite last summer's botulism losses, Black Ducks and Coot were present in about average numbers: The Grey Teal count was well below average.

Breeding activity was observed for Black Swans, Pacific, Blue-billed and Hardhead Ducks, Australasian Grebe, Swampen, Coot, Magpie, Raven, Willy Wagtail and Welcome Swallow.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ZAC HARDISTY

We are very proud to announce that one of our FOLC board members, Zac Hardisty has been recognised by the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program at their 20th Anniversary Landcare Awards.

Zac won the Budding Landcarer Award recognising his contributions and achievements as a volunteer (aged under 30).

Zac began volunteering at Lake Claremont at the age of 14 and now at 23 he is a member of our Board of Directors and about to finish his Environmental Science degree.



This year Zac has led our year 10 community service program with Scotch and Christ Church boys, introducing them to volunteering and teaching them the importance of the work we do at Lake Claremont.

CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS WEEDING SESSION NOVEMBER 23

From : Nick Cook

On Friday November 23 we hosted a session with Conservation Volunteers Australia. They were a fantastic group and very enthusiastic. Volunteers weeded our 2018 planting sites. There were 10 volunteers and we managed to get through both sites located on the golf course.

This session was funded by a [RealEstate.com](https://www.realestate.com.au/) grant that was facilitated by Simon McGrath at Abel McGrath Real Estate. Many thanks, Simon.



Conservation volunteers

FOLC AGM AND BBQ

From : Hilary Heptinstall

About 35 members attended this very enjoyable event which was a thank you to our volunteers and a celebration of our achievements. It was held at the Old Tin Shed (aka Soozie's shed) on Sunday November 18.

We socialised among the paper bark trees for drinks and nibbles before moving into the shed for the AGM.



Soozie Ross Jenni Banister-Jones Marcella Cook and Tony Barr



Rose Senior with Karen and Harry Woods

The first item on the agenda was the election of the board of management. Our current members, Claire Brittain, Nick Cook, Zac Hardisty and Kevin McAlpine were all re-elected to the board.

*Zac Hardisty Claire Brittain and Nick Cook
(absent Kevin McAlpine)*



Claire Brittain said that all our fund raising efforts were very successful this year. We raised \$10,000 for Royal Show parking, several hundred dollars at the Celebrate Lake Claremont Day and \$650 at our very successful Night Chat sessions.

Continued on next page

In his coordinators report, Nick thanked Heidi and Claire for their work behind the scenes. The planting season saw 29,000 seedlings planted by more than 1000 volunteers over 38 sessions. He thanked the following members

- Zac Hardisty, Bruce Haynes and Geoff Ross for their work with the year 10 planting
- Lance and Jenni for their 'Adopt a Spot' role
- Norma Hay for her 'War on Weeds' sessions
- Reagan Manns for his support as webmaster
- Hilary Heptinstall for her production of the monthly newsletter
- Soozie Ross for her wonderful efforts in membership and catering
- all members helpers for their continued support
- and last but not least his wife, Marcella, for her continued support

There are possibly only one or two years' planting left. After that, attention will shift to manual weed and water quality control.

At the Town of Claremont Volunteer Function, the FOLC were awarded the Group award and Zac Hardisty the Youth Award.

Joan Tock (as our oldest member) thanked the Board for their tremendous efforts and Soozie Ross presented each Board members with a Christmas gift.

At the end of the formalities, we adjourned outside where we christened our new barbecue and had a beautifully cooked meal (thanks to Geoff Ross) accompanied by delicious salads (thank you to all the salad makers.) It was great to socialise with fellow members on a balmy evening. A huge 'Thank you' to Soozie and Geoff Ross for coordinating the refreshments and to Claire Brittain and Nick Cook for organising a most enjoyable evening.

Members enjoying the BBQ



Claire Brittain with Pavlovas



ARTICLE FROM THE URBAN BUSHLAND COUNCIL WA

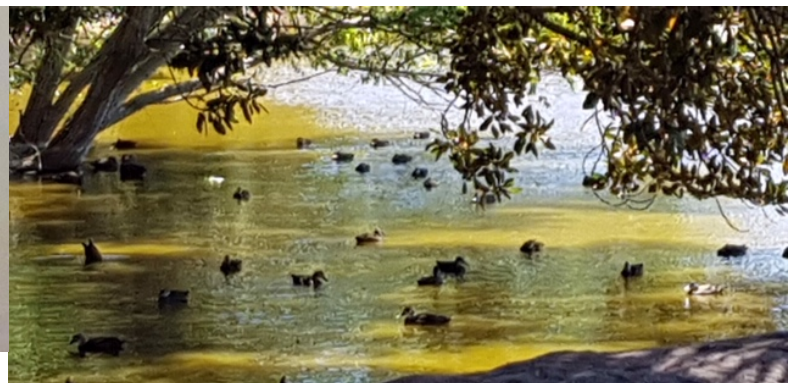
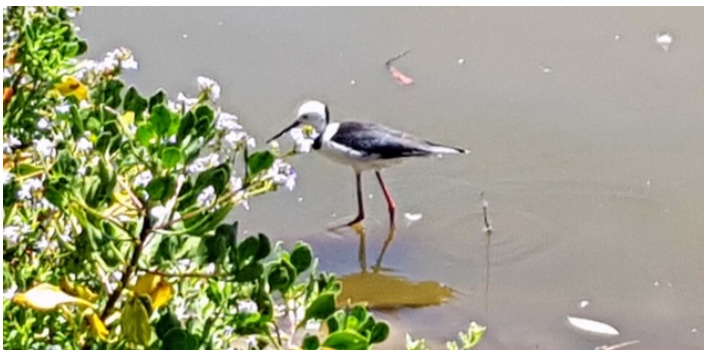
Members may be interested to read this article about Lake Claremont which appeared in the Urban Bushland Council newsletter. We appreciate their acknowledgement of our efforts.

Lake Claremont is an ephemeral wetland. It occurs in a depression within the Spearwood System of coastal sand dunes and is 10 km west of Perth. Geologically, the lake is a true swamp. It lies above but separate from Perth's underground aquifer. The subsoil water flows continuously towards the river and ocean in a north east to south west direction. However, this area was cleared for farmland for Pensioner Guards in the 1800s.

It then became market gardens, a rubbish dump and more recently recreation. Through the highly successful partnership between the Friends of Lake Claremont and the Town of Claremont, the Lake has become a shining example of the benefits of a major environmental rehabilitation program.

Lake Claremont is classified as a Conservation Category Wetland and a Bush Forever Site. Notably, over 87 recorded species of birds have been recorded here.

The Friends of Lake Claremont care for this wetland and welcome new volunteers. So, get to know more about this wetland and the Friends group via their Facebook page or website.



Photos taken at Lake Claremont by local resident, Bill Hann

We are always pleased to receive photos and other news items from local residents.

FIRE PROTECTION AT LAKE CLAREMONT

The Town of Claremont has engaged contractors to undertake bush fire management works at Lake Claremont prior to the 2019 bush fire season and work started on November 27. Efforts will be focused on fire breaks and the interface between bush and residences on the western side of the lake between Gloucester st and Alfred rd.

We ask that you do not approach contractors working on the site. If you have any queries please direct them to Andrew Head, Manager of Parks and Environment on 9285 4300 or ahead@claremont.wa.gov.au

THE SWAN ALCOA LANDCARE PROGRAMME

From : Claire Brittain

2018 is the 20th year of the Swan Alcoa Landcare Programme

Swan Alcoa Landcare Program started in 1998 and has proved to be one of Australia's most successful community landcare initiatives. Its grant funds (over \$8.5 million to date) have allowed a multitude of community groups to undertake rejuvenation work and create healthier public spaces for everyone. The maximum grant amount is \$20,000 per project.

Projects range from invasive weed control to feral bee and dieback management. Overgrown drains have been returned to healthy flowing creeks. Rubbish tips have been turned into parklands and mass plantings of natives have improved waterways and wetlands and provided native habitat. Lake Claremont and the revegetation work Friends of Lake Claremont have carried out are an example of this although we have received a mixture of funds.

A joint initiative, of Alcoa Australia, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and Perth Natural Resource Management, SALP was established with the aim of protecting and maintaining natural assets within the Perth metropolitan area. SALP is perhaps the longest running corporate/government and non-government organisation partnership in Australia. It recently won a WA State Landcare Award and is a finalist in the National Landcare Awards in 2018.

The Friends of Lake Claremont have been successful as recipients of several SALP grants

- 2015 Wetland Buffer \$17,600
- 2016 Wetland Buffer \$20,000
- 2017 Wetland Buffer \$18,070
- 2018 Infill Planting in the Remnant Bush \$9,875

FOLC have recently been awarded a grant for 2019 to employ contractors to carry out hand weeding in our revegetation areas around the lake. A survey will be made at the beginning of next year and specific areas will be targeted which are felt need attention. This grant is for \$14,400.

Recently delegates from the three groups (Alcoa, DBCA and NRM) organised to tour the SALP grant projects. Claire Brittain took the twelve representatives around Lake Claremont to look at the grant sites we had planted and explained what we had been doing over the 10 years we had been revegetating the Lake Claremont wetland. They were very impressed with the work we had carried out solely with volunteers and with the successful growth we had had in the various grant sites. It helped that the wildflowers were blooming and it was a lovely spring day so that the lake was at its best.

Continued on next page



Tour guide Claire Brittain with Michael Parker from Alcoa and DBCA and NRM representatives

The Swan Alcoa Landcare Program celebrated its 20th Anniversary with a function to recognise volunteers and organisations in an Award Ceremony. The Friends of Lake Claremont made nominations with two reaching the finalists, the Town of Claremont for the Community Partner Award and Zac Hardisty for the Budding Landcare Award. Winners were

- Una Bell, the Ian Colquhoun Lifetime Achievement Award – Una applied for her first grant in 1998 and has transformed the degraded creek line in Bugle Tree Gully Park. She also conducts professional development workshops for local government and conducts walks and talks and produces literature and field guides on native flora and fauna.
- Chittering Landcare Centre, Cam Clay Community Partner Award – CLC has been part of SALP since the beginning and has supported more than 200 projects with various groups, which has lead to significant environmental outcomes.
- Zac Hardisty, Budding Landcare Award for volunteers under 30 who have demonstrated outstanding enthusiasm in the delivery of SALP projects – Zac's commitment to the FOLC started when he was still attending school. His passion and understanding of the local environment have allowed him to step up into a supervisory role. His dedication was recognised further in January when he was welcomed onto the Board of Directors of FOLC.

Alcoa of Australia Chairman and Managing Director, Michael Parker, said great things had been achieved over the first 20 years of SALP. "Through great passion and tremendous toil, countless volunteers have made the Swan Alcoa Landcare program blossom and thrive. Thank you for helping to transform the Swan Canning catchment and making our communities better places."



natural resource
management program



CONTACT

E-mail: folc.wa@gmail.com

POSTAL ADDRESS

Friends of Lake Claremont Ltd.
P.O. Box 837

[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