



*Scotch College Community Service volunteers practising their bird observation skills at the lookout*  
*Photo : Nick Cook (See page 2 )*

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February has seen the recommencement of FOLC activities including Scotch and Christchurch Community Service sessions and second Sunday busy Bees.

Claire Brittain continues to work tirelessly behind the scenes in acquiring grants for Friends of Lake Claremont. (See page 5 ) We very much appreciate the huge amount of time and effort that she has put into this area. Our planting could not happen on the scale that it does without Claire's efforts in obtaining funds! After 11 years in this position, Claire is seeking someone who is prepared to become involved in this area. (See page 8)

We also celebrated the return of Night Chats with a wonderful evening at the FOLC shed on February 26. (See page 9 )

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## FEBRUARY BUSY BEE

*From : Nick Cook*

Our busy bee on February 10 was very well attended by 23 volunteers (including 7 first timers). The A team started early at 7am and worked on the lake-bed hunting for Bushy Starwort (our nemesis weed). They collected 12 bags. It was a great effort.

The rest of us pruned along the path edges and weeded. It was a very productive session.



As a bonus we have collected a few new members.

We finished a little early due to the heat and enjoyed morning tea and a chat. Many thanks Soozie and Geoff, for the morning tea. It was enjoyed by all.

## YEAR 10 COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

In its 11<sup>th</sup> year now the Year 10 CSP is off to a very productive start. Both Christ Church and Scotch College highly value this program. Summer is usually a fairly quiet time at the wetland and it can be a challenge to keep the boys busy. This year we have started with a focus on bushfire fuel load reduction. The group has focused on an area adjacent to the main path below Strickland St. that we refer to as the Bank West slope. The task is to remove smaller stick and branch material by hand.



*One of many loads removed and stockpiled for nesting platforms*

The material is then passed over the fences and sorted into 2 piles. Smaller twiggy wood is separated for collection by TOC officers and destined for the mulch pile.

The larger material is being stockpiled at the FOLC shed as materials for their next project. In just 2 sessions they have removed an impressive amount of potential bushfire fuel.

The Town has requested that the FOLC construct a number of nesting platforms as a trial to compensate for the demise of other suitable habitat. These nesting platforms will be made by wiring together the larger material collected into suitably sized structures that will sit on the lakebed with their tops remaining above the high water mark. The boys will design and construct the platforms at their next session.

Once completed, the platforms will be carried into position whilst the lake is still fairly dry.



## OUR BIRDS

*Text and photo : David Free*

### **Australian Pelican, *Pelecanus conspicillatus***

This unmistakable bird is widespread in Australia but is a very rare visitor to our lake, probably because of the lack of suitable food. Pelicans mostly eat fish and small crustaceans, caught individually or cooperatively. They readily accept fishermen's rejects and will also take juvenile birds. Pelicans are highly nomadic and have been recorded travelling well over a thousand kilometers.

Pelicans breed in colonies, laying their eggs in a shallow scrape. There is a breeding colony at Penguin Island, off Rockingham.



## BIRD CENSUS

*From : David Free*

On 4th February my wife, Pam, and I did the summer bird census. We observed 811 individuals of 40 species, very much above our average summer count. Good winter rain had resulted in water coverage over most of the lake, which would normally be dry at that time of the year. Consequently, many more water-dependent birds were recorded than we normally see in the summer. Breeding activity was noted for: Purple Swamphen, Black-winged Stilt, and Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike. On 2nd February I was surprised to see a Pelican at the lake. (See above).

On 10th February I spent an hour and a half unsuccessfully searching for a Banded Stilt which had been reported as being present. The following day my wife and I went again, and eventually located our target amongst a large group of Avocets. The Banded stilt is easily distinguished from the more common (on Lake Claremont) Black-winged Stilt by its all white head and neck and the chestnut band on the lower breast. We have not seen it before at our lake.

*More photos on page 4*



As the waters recede it is prime viewing time for waders such as avocets.

The Spotted Pardalote can be found in the bush fringing the wetland. They like the dense mid storey for protection against predators. They are enjoying the revegetation areas as they mature.

**Red Necked Avocets at Lake Claremont**  
*Photo: Caroline Mynott*



**Spotted Pardalote**

*Photo : Steve Dale*



*Drawing : Pam Free*

## Facebook update!

We have just reached 900 likes on our Facebook page! Thank you all for your support and thank you to Nick Cook for maintaining our Facebook page, and to Annabelle Walsh for organising our website so efficiently.





## GRANT NEWS *From : Claire Brittain*



*Michael Parker (Alcoa), Claire Brittain, Heidi Hardisty, Melinda McAndrew (SALP)*

The Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP) continues to protect the environmental biodiversity of our Swan Region with more than \$330,000 in grants awarded at the recent annual SALP Funding Ceremony. The event celebrated the dedicated work of local volunteers and landcare groups who undertake these projects.

This year, 21 community groups will undertake projects across the Swan Canning Catchment ranging from hand weeding to invasive weed control, the protection of threatened species and communities to feral cat control, revegetation of waterways, riparian repair to rehabilitation of trails.

Alcoa of Australia (Alcoa) Chairman and Managing Director Michael Parker said the company was proud of its long-running association with the successful Swan Alcoa Landcare Program. He said the projects receiving funding this year were impressive examples of sustainability in action. It is a joint initiative of Alcoa, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and Perth NRM. Since its inception in 1998, SALP has provided nearly \$9 million in funding to community groups, who in turn have delivered more than 1400 restoration projects. "Each and every one of these local projects will help to create value, enhance local communities and reduce environmental impacts," Mr Parker said.

Perth NRM Chairperson Mariyon Slany said "SALP is an iconic program. The longevity of this program highlights the ability of corporate partnerships to work with the local government for the good of the community and is a model we are working more towards in the future."

*Continued on next page*

Friends of Lake Claremont have been awarded \$13,091 for a Hand Weeding Project at Lake Claremont. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> SALP grant won by FOLC. With this grant we will, in conjunction with the Town of Claremont, employ contractors to carry out hand weeding in areas of the lake deemed too sensitive to spray (new seedlings), areas which are difficult for volunteers to work in and heavy growth areas.

Claire Brittain and Heidi Hardisty attended the breakfast representing our organisation. FOLC were invited to make a presentation showing off the work done at the lake. Heidi did a great job with a power point presentation even suggesting to the parliamentary representative that more funds should be allocated to grants for the environment. The Natural Resource Management CEO supported this. Claire accepted a certificate for this year's grant money. This brings FOLC total of grants won by Claire to \$619,376 over 10 years.

## RESTORING THE SWAN CANNING CATCHMENT



*Since 1998*

**Presented to:** Friends of Lake Claremont Ltd

**The sum of:** \$13,090.91

**Project title:** Hand Weeding Project at Lake Claremont



Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions





## COORDINATOR'S REFLECTIONS *From : Nick Cook*

There are many things I love in my role as FOLC Coordinator. The people I get to meet, the sense of community and shared purpose and so much more.

I love working in parts of the wetland, which have not dried up this summer, and enjoy seeing the great variety of wild life there.



While walking along the "living stream", I noticed bits of Cape Lilac tree on the ground. I looked up to find two Red-tailed Black Cockatoos in the Cape Lilac tree.



I asked the Community Service boys how old they thought these Moreton Bay Fig trees were. Estimates varied widely. Take a guess. How old do you think these trees are?



## FOLC SECRETARY POSITION

Claire Brittain, our long-standing Secretary is planning to retire this year. She has been responsible for two main areas and the position could possibly be divided between two people, one being responsible for obtaining grants and the other for overseeing the group's finances and accounting tasks. The Financial Officer would be required to join the FOLC Board as a Director and attend monthly Board meetings.

A background in accounting or book keeping would be helpful.

### **Accounting tasks would involve**

Income and Expenditure Statements for the Organisation.

Payment of Accounts

Reimbursement of members for expenses

Banking

Lodgement of quarterly GST statements

Minutes and correspondence for Board meetings

Organising floats for Fundraising Events

Preparation of Financial Statements for Auditing

Preparation for AGM

Income and Expenditure Statements for the Lake Claremont Environment Fund

Banking and issue of tax deductible receipts for LCEF

Reporting to Register of Charitable Organisations

Reporting to Register of Environmental Organisations

Updating changes to ASIC of Directors and Trustees

### **Tasks involved with grants would involve**

Applications for Grants

Accounting for Grants

Progressive Grant reports

Acquittal of Grants

If you are prepared to do some or all of these tasks, please contact Claire on 0408 851 299.



*Photo taken at the Grants breakfast: Claire Brittain, Mariyon Slany(NRM), Michael Parker(Alcoa), Reece Whitby (representing the Minister for the Environment)*



## FEBRUARY NIGHT CHAT AT LAKE CLAREMONT

Our February Night Chat session was held under the paper bark trees surrounding the FOLC shed and we were blessed with a beautiful warm evening and an audience of over a hundred people, who enjoyed delicious refreshments before the talk.

Nick Cook thanked Angela Hine, who is our new Night Chats coordinator, and all the volunteers who helped with refreshments, parking and setting up.

Before introducing our speaker, Leonard Thorn, Nick acknowledged the Whadjuk people as the traditional owners of the land and spoke briefly about the post colonisation history of Lake Claremont.

*Leonard Thorn addressing the audience*



Leonard, a Noongar man from the wheatbelt, spoke about the significance of the Perth area to the Aboriginal people, including the Whadjuk people, who lived at Lake Claremont and the surrounding area.

He talked of the Dreamtime, the Wagyll, the totems, taboos and rules of Aboriginal society, the rules of marriage to avoid marrying within one's own genetic group.

He talked of the nomadic style of life and how nature and the seasons indicated that it was time to move on. He talked about how they gathered food, always ensuring that they left enough to ensure that there was sufficient for the future.

From a table full of artefacts, he showed how plants and animals were used to produce weapons, tools, buildings, fish traps and clothing. Many place names come from the aboriginal words such as Balga (the grass tree), Gidgegannup, (gidgee, a spear), and Wanneroo (Wanna, a digging stick).

Leonard sees himself as an educator. He talks to schools and other groups, hoping to promote an understanding and respect for Aboriginal people. His talk was very well received by the large audience. Thank you for spending time with us, Leonard.

*Some of the appreciative audience*



## SIGNAGE UPDATE AT LAKE CLAREMONT

We are very pleased to see the first installations of the long anticipated signage upgrade at Lake Claremont! The bird artwork is by the very talented Pam Free.

QR codes on signage will link to the FOLC website which has more detailed info, photos and (in many cases) audio of bird calls.

This is another example of the outstanding working relationship between the Town of Claremont and the community.



## CALENDAR MARCH 2019

Day	Event	Time
Friday <b>March 8</b>	Year 10 Community Service	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Sunday <b>March 10 *</b>	<b>Clean Up Australia Day</b> Lake Claremont	8:00 – 10:00 am 10:00 am Tea
Friday <b>March 15</b>	Year 10 Community Service Program	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Thursday <b>March 21</b>	<b>International Day of Forests</b>	
Friday <b>March 22</b>	Year 10 Community Service Program <b>World Water Day</b>	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Tuesday <b>March 26</b>	<b>Night Chats at Lake Claremont</b> Pool Clubrooms, Lake Claremont Aquatic Centre	Talk 6:00 -7:00 pm Doors open at 5:30 pm
Friday <b>March 29</b>	Year 10 Community Service Program	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Saturday <b>March 30</b>	<b>Earth Hour Australia</b>	Switch off your lights for an hour at 7.30 pm

*Please note that 'Clean Up Australia Day' is celebrated a week later than the national event on March 3 due to clashes with the WA long weekend.*



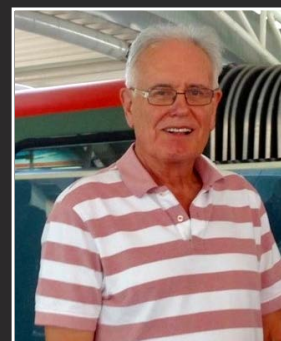
# Night Chats at Lake Claremont

Birds in the Park?  
Think trees, shrubs and insects.

Photo of willie wagtail eating cicada  
courtesy of David Free

One of the attractions of our local parks is the plethora of interesting birds that inhabit the area.

*The majority of bird species depend, at least in part, on insects and allied forms for their diet. But do areas such as Lake Claremont support sufficient levels of insects to sustain the bird populations? This talk will examine how the various tree species support differing levels of insects and how this in turn influences the use of these trees by birds. This will be considered in relation to positioning of the trees, whether they are native or an introduced species, and the potential influence of climate change.*



*Jonathan Majer is an entomologist who worked for 37 years at Curtin University. As well as working on ants as bioindicators of mine site rehabilitation, he developed a research program with Prof. Harry Recher on the relationship between trees, insects and birds. He is now an emeritus professor at Curtin and adjunct professor at the University of Western Australia and runs an insect-focussed environmental consulting company called Biomonitoring International.*

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019 | Time: 6:00pm to 7:30pm**

**Meet at the Clubrooms, Claremont Aquatic Centre,  
12 Davies Rd, Claremont.**

Refreshments served from 5:30pm for a 6:00pm start.  
Talk and formal questions conclude at 7:00pm but all are welcome  
to stay until 7:30pm.



[www.friendsoflakeclaremont.org](http://www.friendsoflakeclaremont.org)

*A gold coin donation would be appreciated.*



natural resource  
management program



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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 organisation established and run by local residents all of whom are volunteers.

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[www.friendsoflakeclaremont.org](http://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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