



Above : Sunset at Lake Claremont by Sasha Free

Right : Straw-necked ibis by Chris Whitaker

It is always a pleasure to receive photographs taken by people who walk round Lake Claremont and I love these two photos from last month.

July has been another very busy month at Lake Claremont, culminating in National Tree Day on July 28.

Thank you to all our members for the great contribution that they have made.



© Chris Whitaker (Perth) 2019

OUR BIRDS

Text and photos : David Free

Great Egret, *Ardea modesta*

This globally widespread egret can be seen, usually just one or two birds feeding separately, when there are frogs to be had in our lake. They stand motionless, or move very slowly, searching for their prey. Great egrets mainly feed on fish.

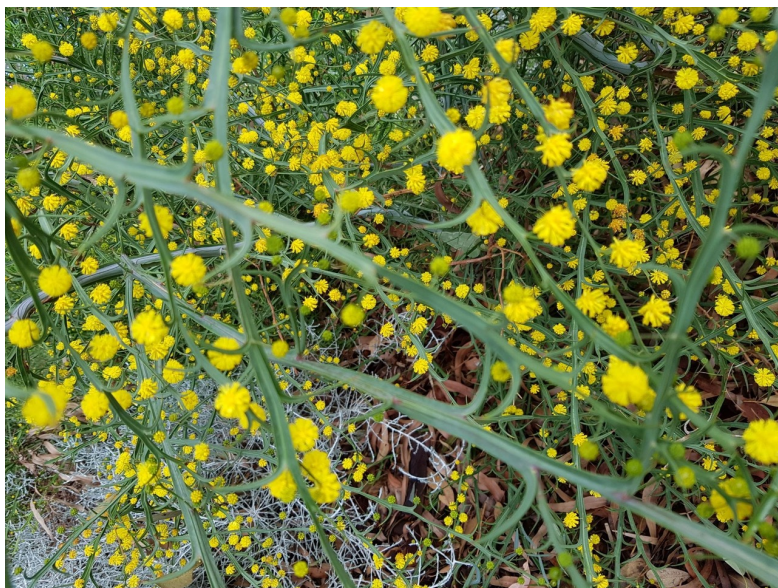
In the breeding season the bill is blackish and the skin around the face blue-black. Outside the breeding season these parts are yellow, as in the photo. This species is considerably larger than the otherwise similar Intermediate Egret, which I have not seen at Lake Claremont.



IN BLOOM IN JULY

From : Angela Hine

Acacia stenoptera



JULY BUSY BEE

From : Nick Cook

The focus of our July Busy Bee was weeding. In particular, we focused on weeds amongst our recently planted native plants.

The 2019 planting site was prepared late and we have a decent crop of weeds as a result!

With decent weather and a solid complement of our regular volunteers we made good progress.

Norma led the A team further afield targeting flowering weeds.

We also had a visit from 2 UWA students who are interested in lake water quality. We hope this meeting may lead to some sort of future collaboration.

As always we finished with a great morning tea provided by Soozie and Geoff.

Pictured is FOLC Life member Cr Bruce Haynes tackling weeds. If he got down on his knees we may have ended up having to plant him!)

Many thanks to all who attended 🐢



FAMILY FUN AT THE LAKE

From : Nick Cook

Local residents, the Graham family LOVE Lake Claremont. Christina shared these pics of Lotty and Oska doing a bit of a clean up today. Lotty and Oska spend loads of time playing and exploring at the Lake, climbing trees and having all sorts of adventures.

All good school holiday fun in a beautiful, natural setting!
Thanks for sharing and thanks for caring!!



Lotty and Oska with collected rubbish

BEE SURVEY AT LAKE CLAREMONT

From : Nick Cook

The FOLC Board are pleased to announce that we have partnered up with Kit Prendergast to complete a survey of the native bee assemblage at Lake Claremont. This will be the first time a study of this kind has been done at the lake and is an important step in expanding our knowledge of the biodiversity present on our patch of urban bushland.

Kit is a native bee scientist, conservation biologist and zoologist. She is a PhD researcher at Curtin University and a Forrest Scholar. We first met Kit last year when she was a guest speaker at Night Chats. Her talk about native bees in urban remnant bushland was extremely popular and we were impressed with her passion for conservation. Kit also held a native bee hotel workshop at Celebrate Lake Claremont last year. Again, this was very popular and the kids loved it.

FOLC have engaged Kit to conduct a baseline survey of the native bee population at the lake. We will be funding this out of money we have accumulated via our fundraising activities. The survey will cost approximately \$2,400. We believe this is an important study to assist us in documenting and better understanding the range of biodiversity present at the site.

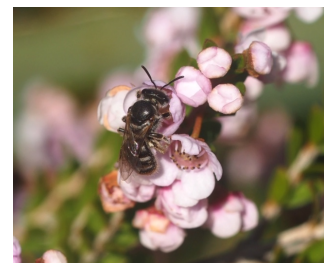
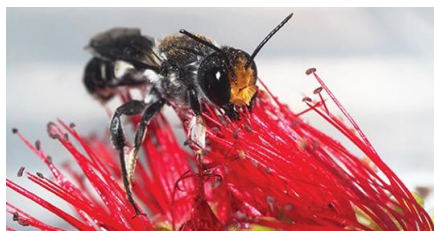
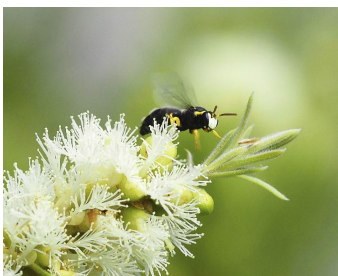
Kit Prendergast



We cannot conserve or protect what we do not understand!

Native bees play an important role in the bush ecosystem. They are often the most effective animals in the pollination of our native flowering plants as well as providing other valuable “ecological services”.

We have also engaged Kit to conduct a presentation/workshop for our Year 10 Community Service Program. She will talk to the boys about native bees and the boys will then construct a number of bee hotels to be installed throughout the revegetation sites and remnant bush. Kit’s survey will be conducted over a 3 month period commencing in Spring 2019. On completion FOLC will receive a comprehensive report of Kit’s findings and I expect we will have Kit return to Night Chats to discuss her findings.



ADOPT A SPOT WINTER NEWS

From : Jenni Banister-Jones

Things are looking very good in the area along the east side of the lake. The native plants have all enjoyed winter rains and are growing strongly – some are already in flower! Likewise the weeds are starting to put in an appearance. We found quite a range of them poking their heads through.

But the standout feature of this whole area at the moment is the re-emergence of the senecio! It's coming up everywhere! The good news is that it is classified as 'naturalised' and does not need to be pulled out. However if the senecio is starting to swamp a little "planted" plant, please just remove it. There's plenty more!

If anyone would like to join the Adopt-a-Spot program and look after a small patch around the shed, the site of this year's planting, we'd love to hear from you. If we can get the weeds under control in the first year, it saves years of work! Please contact Lance on 0418 922 885 or email folc.wa@gmail.com



The Adopt A Spot area.



The bright green carpet of Senecio in the foreground

Did you know that Lake Claremont is Whadjuk country?

Lake Claremont is registered as a Site of Significance to the Whadjuk people.

MEMORIES OF LAKE CLAREMONT

From : Hilary Heptinstall

In search of memories of Lake Claremont, I spoke with Joan Tockock and learned of her early memories of the Lake.

Joan and her late husband, Ted, with their children, Joy and Eric, migrated to Perth from England in 1955.

Their first place of stay was the Migrant Hostel in Mount Claremont and Joan remembers Ted saying "Come outside and listen! I can hear the sound of frogs from that 'mushy place' over the road. Joan still goes out to listen for frogs but never hears them anymore.

They moved to Swanbourne in 1959 to a house close to the lake, which was built in 1929. It is now one of two original houses left in the street. The others have all been replaced by large two storey dwellings.

Joan working at a Busy Bee



Joan remembers there being more water in the lake then and the edges being swampy.

In the early 1960s, Joan's son, Eric, and 10 other boys from the street spent all their free time in the bush. The Cresswell Park area was swampy natural bush which was full of rushes.

They built boats out of iron sheets and sailed them on the lake. (Girls were not invited!) They sailed to the area of the old posts left over from what used to be a street and disembarked because they knew the land was higher there. She remembers Eric being seriously cut by the old iron sheets on one occasion.

In the mid 90s, before the time of Friends of Lake Claremont, Joan and her friends Win and Ethel Lucas were given a tray of seedlings by the Town of Claremont to plant by the lake. Little did she know that this would be the start of something great!

GRATITUDE POST

From : Nick Cook

A big thank you to one of our members, Jess Forbes.

Jess gifted FOLC this awesome video camera recently. We have already put it to good use by filming some before footage of areas to be hand weeded by contractors.

A \$14,400 SALP grant won by FOLC will pay for the contractors and reduce the amount of chemical weed control at the site. (See page 7) Now I need to work on my video skills!





GRANTS UPDATE

From : Jenni Banister-Jones



I have taken over from Claire Brittain as FOLC Grants officer. Here is an update on how we are using our funds.

In February this year, Claire's hard work resulted in a \$14000 grant from Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP) to use for hand weeding, thus reducing reliance on chemical weed control. Hand weeding was seen as a priority so our hard work in planting over the years wasn't swamped! Green Skills Inc based at Murdoch University was awarded the contract. They employ undergraduate and postgraduate students who are studying in the area. They started mid July, removing weeds from established areas. It has been hard work extracting the rampant weeds through the mature plantings and in the fire breaks. Green Skills will continue weekly till October.

And earlier this month, Heidi organised a \$2000 grant from Planet Ark's National Tree Day Seedling Bank. It has been used to purchase 20 new trowels plus 944 seedlings which will be planted in early August by the Scotch College students and by YOU at our Busy Bee on 11 August....don't miss it!

Check out Planet Ark's website. www.planetark.org It's a not-for-profit organisation based in Sydney which runs nation-wide campaigns to help people, governments and businesses reduce their impact on the environment. National Tree Day is one of their campaigns. It is the biggest community tree-planting event in Australia and Planet Ark's Sarah Chaplin flew over to join us in tree planting on National Tree Day on 28 July.

Thanks to both organisations for their support in our revegetation work to promote biodiversity at the lake, and our education program to encourage community involvement.

YEAR 10 COMMUNITY SERVICE *From : Nick Cook*

On Friday July 26, we were on site planting with Heidi and the Year 10 Christchurch boys. They planted nearly 300 native plants. Well done gentlemen! We were also excited to see native orchids popping up in our planting site. We have Mignonette orchids and what appear to be pink fairy orchids popping up where the Tamarisk trees were removed



Christchurch planters at work.



An emerging orchid

JULY NIGHT CHAT

From : Jenni Banister-Jones

Tim Macknay, (pictured) the Principal Solicitor at the Environmental Defenders Office of WA (EDOWA) gave a very interesting talk about how the tuart woodlands and forest area of the Swan coastal plain received protection by being declared a “critically endangered ecological community”.

As few of us knew about the Environmental Defenders Office, he began by explaining that it is a nationwide network of lawyers who have specialised in environmental law. It was established in WA in 1996, and had the bipartisan support of the Federal Government. It is a not-for-profit legal centre, offering advice to community groups, organisations or individuals who want to protect the environment. EDOWA has worked on environmental issues relating to James Price Point in the North West, worked with groups to protect Ningaloo reef, and those working to protect threatened bushland from development.

Their website www.edowa.org.au gives more information



Tim detailed the 3 main pieces of legislation that exist to protect the environment.

- Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA legislation)
- Planning and Development Act 2005 (WA legislation)
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth legislation)

The Tuart woodlands are covered by the Commonwealth Act. Their distribution on the Swan coastal plain means they are in the most populated areas of the state and cover areas where further development is occurring. Tim said only 22% of the area is under government control, leaving the remaining 78% exposed to development.

On 24 June 2019, the Tuart woodlands and forest area of the Swan coastal plain was listed as a critically endangered ecological community under the 1999 Commonwealth legislation, finding it was at high risk of extinction in the immediate future which is defined as the next 10 to 60 years.

Tim stated that there are 6 criteria for assessment, and it had met the first 4 of those.

- Decline in geographic distribution (already a 70% loss)
- Limited geographic distribution coupled with demonstrable threat (remaining average fragment size is 5.2 hectares)
- Loss or decline of functionally important species (severe loss of tuarts)
- Reduction in community integrity
- Rate of continuing detrimental change
- Quantitative analysis showing probability of extinction

Continued on page 9

Tim also discussed the WA Acts covering rezoning and planning, and the legal process required for land clearing. He mentioned that the Environmental Protection Act is under review and amendments will be available for public comment in the next 12 – 18 months.

It was an extremely informative talk, looking at the “big picture” issues of protecting our amazingly biodiverse environment in Western Australia.

Thank you, Tim, for a most interesting evening. You have given us all a lot to think about!

ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AND LAKE CLAREMONT

From: Bruce Haynes

At the Night Chat on Tuesday 23 July, Tim Macknay the Principal Solicitor from the Environmental Defender’s Office of Western Australia, spoke on environmental law and the newly proclaimed critically endangered status of the Tuart woodlands.

We are all too familiar with the weakness of environmental law, in the hands of unenthusiastic politicians, to protect the latest bit of the environment under threat of development. However, it is well to be aware of what the WA environmental laws passed in the mid 1980s have done for Lake Claremont. The passage of those laws created an awareness that the Town of Claremont had an environmental responsibility to manage Lake Claremont (its property). In 1985 the Town commenced the process that culminated in a Lake Claremont Management Committee with the responsibility to manage the Lake for the Town in line with the Management Plan established by the Town.

Had this not occurred, it is probable that housing would eventually have been extended along Strickland Street, Alfred Road and Davies Road. It is certain that there would be no Ballaruk Bushland or remnant Tuart bushland between Gloucester and Strickland Streets.

The first proposal to develop the Lakeway Drive-in site in the early 1990s included not only the hard stand of the drive-in but included all the land down to the Gloucester/Strickland footpath. Housing was to be located at the top of the dune (overlooking the lake) and in the Ballaruk Bushland. Picnic facilities could be located in the cleared remnant bushland near Strickland Street and trees obstructing views of the lake removed. Private gardens with lawns, Roses and Petunias would extend down the slope to the footpath where lawn would go down to the lake edge. If this sounds improbable, it is well to remember that in those days the Spring growth on the slope and on the island was chest high Lupins and Cornflag (*Watsonia*).

I argued that the development should be restricted to the Drive-in fence line and it is to the credit of the then Councillors, particularly Chair of the Planning Committee Ross Easton, that they agreed. Council owned the land and could have developed any of it as they saw fit. I estimate that retaining the remnant bushland cost the Town about \$10 million in revenue foregone.

I believe that without the WA environmental laws passed in the mid 1980s, Claremont would have no Tuart bushland at the Lake to rehabilitate and conserve for future generations. That we have about doubled the area of Tuart bushland is even greater credit to the Town and the generation of volunteers now known as the Friends of Lake Claremont.

NATIONAL TREE DAY JULY 28

Text : Nick Cook Photos : Nick Cook and Jenni Banister-Jones

127 volunteers joined the Friends of Lake Claremont for National Tree Day and we planted 2,200 native seedlings. They were an amazing group of people. It was great to see so many smiling faces eager to do their bit for the environment and the Lake Claremont wetland.



Heidi Hardisty



Marcella Cook



Joan Tocock and Lance Bannister-Jones



Mary Yates and Averil Balfe



Volunteers at work

We could not run these events without the support of our members in organising refreshments, parking, registration, site preparation and planting supervision.

Thank you to Planet Ark, Heidi Hardisty and FOLC volunteers for a very successful day. Thank you also to the Town of Claremont for their continuing support.



AUGUST NIGHT CHAT AT LAKE CLAREMONT

Tuesday August 27. 5.30- 7.00pm at Claremont Tennis Club

Turtle Tales from the Oblonga Rescue and Rehabilitation Network

Our speaker will be Karen Pye (pictured). With qualifications in earth science and education, Karen has always been interested in wildlife and the natural world. In 2012, following a chance encounter with a turtle crossing a busy road, Karen was introduced to the extraordinary world of turtles and turtle rescue and became involved with the Turtle Oblonga Rescue and Rehabilitation Network (TORNN) in WA ultimately becoming Chairperson for the organistaion.



She will speak about the work of (TORNN) and its efforts to rescue, rehabilitate and conserve our native long-necked turtles. Find out about how TORNN's efforts contribute to conserving this fascinating species and some of the small things you can do to help at your local lake, such as Lake Claremont. It should be a fascinating talk!

AUGUST CALENDAR

Day	Event	Time
Thursday August 1	Lake Claremont Advisory Committee Volunteering WA Corporate Day - Woodside	9.00am - 2.00pm
Friday August 2	Conservation Volunteers Australia - weeding session Year 10 Community Service Programme	1.30 - 3.00 pm
Friday August 9	Conservation Volunteers Australia - weeding session Year 10 Community Service Programme	1.30 - 3.00 pm
Sunday August 11	FOLC Busy Bee	9.00am - 12.00pm
Monday August 12	FOLC Board Meeting	5.30 - 7.30 pm
Friday August 16	Year 10 Community Service Programme - workshop with Kit Prendergast (Bee hotels)	1.30 - 3.00 pm
August 19-25	Keep Australia Beautiful Week	
Tuesday August 27	Night Chats at Lake Claremont Claremont Tennis Club	5.30 - 7.00 pm



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 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

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