



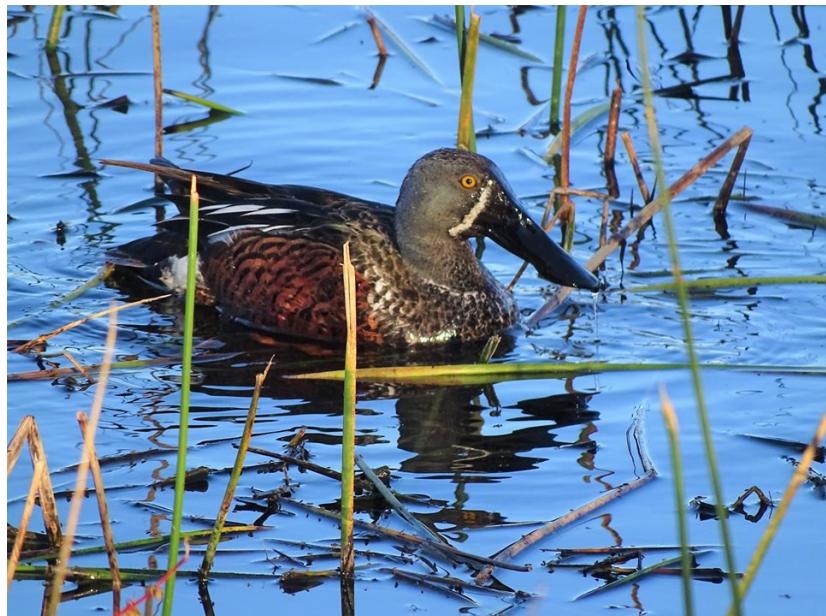
*White-necked Heron Photo : David Free*

*Australasian Shoveler Photo : Nicky Armstrong*

October has been another busy month at Lake Claremont. Congratulations to our coordinator, Nick Cook, on achieving his half century!

We had another very interesting Night Chat session this month. (See page 7) Thank you to Chloe Davidson and Angela Hine for organising such great speakers this year.

We look forward to celebrating another successful year at Lake Claremont at our AGM and barbecue on November 17 and hope that many of our members will be able to attend. (See page 9)



## OCTOBER BUSY BEE

We had a good turnout of more than twenty volunteers and held a very productive Busy Bee on October 13.

We split into two groups. The weeders worked on the Alfred Road woodland and filled 36 bags with fumitory and thistle. It was a great effort!

*Weeders at work*



The rest of the group worked on fuel load management below the drive-in subdivision in the remnant bush. They removed a large amount of material from this sector.

*Fuel load management*

We returned to the shed at 10.00 am for a well-earned morning tea and walked into a surprise 50th birthday party for Nick!  
Many thanks to Geoff and Soozie Ross for organising this well deserved celebration.



## LIFE AT THE LAKE

### MYSTERY CATERPILLAR

FOLC member, Mary Yates, spotted this beautiful caterpillar at Lake Claremont and wished to identify it.

We contacted our expert, Angela Hine, who consulted the MyPest Guide and learned that this is Sparshall's Moth, (Lepidoptera:Notodontidae). This moth is considered to be a sign of spring. It is native and its caterpillars are very beautiful. They range in colour from pale lemon to a golden egg-yolk yellow. All have a pale brown head, often with a long tuft of dark hairs behind the head pointing upwards, like a super-charged mohawk.

The larvae feed on various *Eucalyptus* & *Corymbia* species.'

More information can be found on

<http://lepidoptera.butterflyhouse.com.au/noto/sparsh.html>

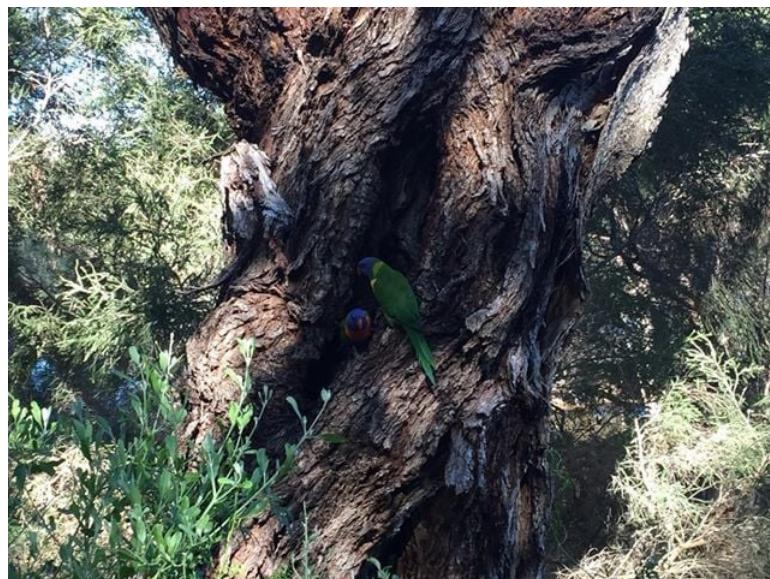


### RAINBOW LORIKEETS AT LAKE CLAREMONT. *From : Nick Cook*

Rainbow Lorikeets are beautiful birds but are not native to Perth. They were introduced to WA in the 1960's by accident. The Department of Primary Industries says the lorikeet population was established by the release or escape of fewer than 10 pairs of birds.

Rainbow lorikeets compete directly with our native birds for food resources and nesting sites.

Thank you to Imogen Davidson (right) and Jules Bulleid (below) for sharing these photos.



*Continued on page 4*

## BOBTAIL RESCUE *From : Nick Cook*

In early October, we responded to a call from a member of the community who had spotted this very lethargic Bobtail lizard on the path at Lake Claremont. It was taken to the Swanbourne veterinary surgery for assessment.

It is always good to be contacted when wild life at Lake Claremont is found in distress.



## TURTLE UPDATE

*From : Nick Cook*

It's always sad when we find our turtles have been predated. This was likely a female nesting. We can only hope she had already laid her eggs?

At 19.3 cm carapace length she was a fair size.

On a more positive note, this sub-adult (far right) was found near the path on the same day.



## BREEDING BIRDS

We have all enjoyed seeing a variety of young birds at the lake. Nicky Armstrong took this beautiful photo of a Eurasian Coot with her chick on the nest.



## SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATION

We are very pleased to announce that Friends of Lake Claremont have just been advised of a successful application for a NRM/SALP grant for \$14,200. NRM and the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP) have been a vital funding partner over several years.

These funds will be used to purchase native plants for our 2020 planting season.

Thanks go to Claire Brittain who applied for this grant on behalf of FOLC before she retired as our long standing Grants Officer. Well done Claire!

Ground preparations for the 2020 site (adjacent to Alfred Road) have already commenced and will continue over the summer.



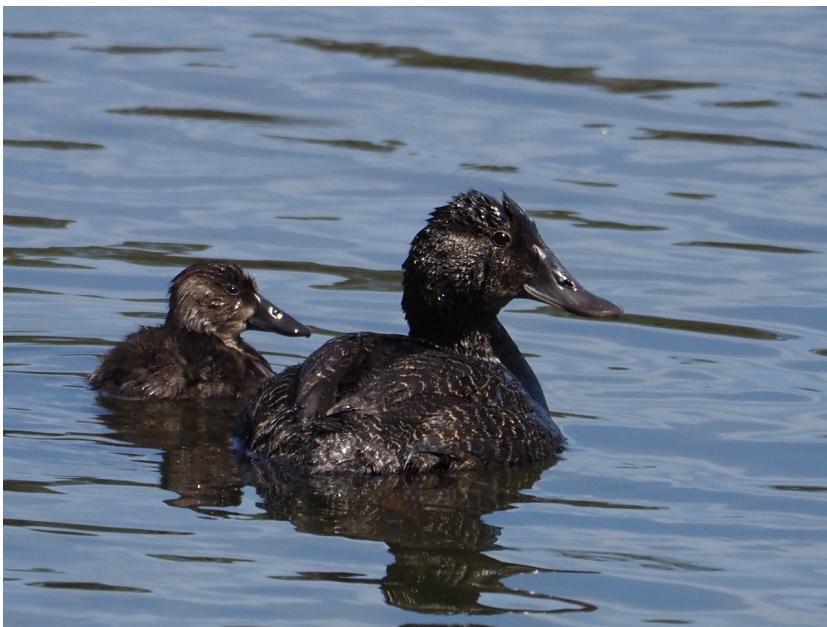
## OCTOBER BIRD COUNT

*From : David Free*

In early October, my wife Pam and I conducted a survey of the birds at Lake Claremont. The morning was mild, partly cloudy and still.

There was water covering most of the surface area of the lake, although the level is very much below that reached last year.

We recorded 706 individuals of 40 species, well above the average for our spring surveys. Breeding activity was noted for Black Swan, Pink-eared, Blue-billed and Pacific Black Ducks, Purple Swamphen, Coot, Willy Wagtail, Raven and Welcome Swallow. Notable was the large number of Coots present. Pacific Black Duck numbers were down, Pink-eared Ducks were plentiful.



*A female Blue-billed Duck with her young (Note: only the males have a blue bill.)*

*Photo: David Free*

## BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA LAKE CLAREMONT BIRD WALK OCTOBER 24<sup>th</sup>

*Text : David Free      Photos : Nicky Armstrong*

More than thirty members and their guests, several Friends of Lake Claremont members, and Chloe Davidson, Town of Claremont Parks and Environmental Field Officer, gathered on a pleasant morning for a stroll around Lake Claremont. As was to be expected with such a large group, we quickly became rather strung out. However, there were always enough knowledgeable birders on hand to help newcomers with

We recorded a total of forty-eight species, the same number as on this walk in 2018. Several species were noted as breeding, including the Australasian Shoveler, the first breeding record I have at the lake.



Following the walk, we gathered for a beverage in the shaded grassy area, outside the gym. It was agreed that a somewhat earlier start would be appropriate in future years.



## A CROAKING GOOD CHAT

*Text and photo : Rose Senior*

For our October Night Chat we were delighted to listen to a presentation by Denise Crosbie (pictured right), Wetlands Officer at the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre, on the topic of native frogs. Denise held our attention from the start, reminding us that frogs appear to be permanently smiling because they have no facial muscles, that they drink and breathe through their skin, that they eat anything that moves and fits into their mouths – and that when tadpoles metamorphose into froglets they absorb their tails for nutrition.



Denise reminded us that, since the lifecycle of frogs involves ready access to both wetlands and bushland - and connectivity between the two environments - frogs are excellent bioindicators of an area's overall health. Environmental factors such as pollution, changes in both surface and groundwater quality, the fragmentation of habitats and so on, can lead to the disappearance of smaller frogs that are not as robust as larger frogs and cannot travel as far to seek new habitats. Denise gave us the startling statistic that, of 30,000 tadpole eggs, only two may eventually metamorphose into frogs.

Denise described the sizes, markings and colours of a variety of frogs in turn, captivating us when she played recordings of the calls of a range of frogs - named by us humans by whatever their calls remind us of: the motorbike frog, the moaning frog, the quacking frog, the banjo frog, the squelching frog, the clicking froglet and so on. Intriguingly, one of the few frogs to attract females by waving its legs in the air is one that lives near waterfalls. Why? Because waterfalls are too noisy for male frogs' mating calls to be heard!

Denise concluded her talk by outlining the reasons why so many frog species are declining at such an alarming rate. These include the introduction of predators such as foxes, cats and cane toads, for whom frogs provide easy pickings. She suggested that further reasons for the decline in frog numbers may be an increase of UV radiation, global warming, and the spread of bacterial and viral disease.

A great talk, Denise! Thank you very much for sharing with us your fascinating topic – and inspiring us to be even more vigilant about conserving our precious wetland for the wellbeing of its amphibian inhabitants.

## WEED CONTROL AT LAKE CLAREMONT

*From : Nick Cook*

We have had a particularly challenging year with weed management at the lake this year. The FOLC make a significant contribution to the Town of Claremont's weed management program with our Adopt A Spot initiative, Norma's Monday weeding team and other volunteer efforts. This year for the first time FoLC (having won a \$14,200 SALP grant) employed Ecojobs hand weeding contractors to compliment our volunteer efforts.

In late October FOLC employed Ecojobs contractors for another day of hand weeding to tackle weeds in the Eastern buffer, supervised by Norma the team did a terrific job and filled 56 bags with thistle and fumitory weeds (pictured).

Norma and her dedicated team (Dot, Consie and Maggie) have made a major contribution to reducing the weed load, meeting weekly throughout the season. They also provide valuable feedback about the weed load in various parts of the park which is used to coordinate other volunteer efforts. Thank you to Norma and the crew.



## ROYAL SHOW CAR PARKING

*From : Nick Cook*

I should like to thank all those who helped to make our Royal Show parking so successful this year. We were blessed with good weather which led to increased parking numbers.

Special thanks are due to:

Gina Shirley for drawing up the roster and making sure that all the spots were filled.

Jenni and Lance Banister-Jones for assisting in the management of the event.

Town of Claremont Chief Ranger, John Balcolme, for all his assistance.

All the FOLC volunteers who willingly turned up to direct cars and collect money

We raised the sum of \$9945.00 which was a wonderful total!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **FOLC AGM**

The FOLC Board of Directors invite all FOLC members to attend their 2019 Annual General Meeting.

The meeting will be held on Sunday 17th of November at 5.00 pm at the FOLC shed. It will be followed by refreshments and a BBQ. All are welcome. Please RSVP to [folc.wa@gmail.com](mailto:folc.wa@gmail.com) for catering purposes by Nov 10.

We will be keeping the formalities to a minimum so that we have time to take questions and feedback from the membership. Please put your thinking caps on. The Board would like to hear your ideas about potential future projects at the lake or any feedback/ideas that you wish to share about the future direction/focus of the lake and the FOLC group.

### **NOVEMBER NIGHT CHAT**

The subject of our final Night Chat session for 2019 will be 'War on Weeds at Wireless Hill.'

Our speaker will be Margaret Matthews who has a degree in Biological Sciences and a PhD in Molecular Genetics from the ANU in Canberra

Since moving to Perth in 2002, Margaret has learnt about bush regeneration and ecosystems and has been a Friend of Wireless Hill.

She will explain how the Friends have used hand weeding to clear the 5.4 hectares of Banksia Woodland of weeds. This has led to the recovery of a diversity of plants.

This promises to be a very interesting evening.

Please join us on Tuesday November 26 at Claremont Tennis Club

### **NOVEMBER CALENDAR**

DATE	EVENT	TIME
Sunday Nov 10	FOLC Busy Bee	8.00 - 10.00 am
Monday Nov 11	FOLC Board meeting	
Sunday Nov 17	FOLC AGM and BBQ	5.00 pm
Thursday Nov 21	Woodside Corporate Day	
Monday Nov 25 and Friday Nov 29	CVA volunteers at Lake Claremont	
Tuesday Nov 26	November Night Chat	5.30 pm



natural resource management program



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

Website [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 - [heptins@bigpond.net.au](mailto:heptins@bigpond.net.au) 0411 052 329

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