



Friends of Lake Claremont Facebook Cover Photo by Geoff Ross

Members who are not users of Facebook might like to see this beautiful photo by Geoff Ross. FOLC are now using it as their cover photo.

Our respected coordinator, Nick Cook, was reported to Claremont Council as a turtle poacher by a well meaning member of the public this month. He had put a turtle into a container in his car at the end of a turtle rescue, to return later when it was safe to release. He is currently on the run from the rangers!

Seriously, Nick is impressed with the willingness of members of the community to stand up for the wild life at the lake.

Recent incidents of graffiti and littering in the Lake Claremont precinct have been very upsetting. Volunteers have cleaned up and removed a number of small "camps" over the last few weeks. Town of Claremont rangers have been notified and we urge members of the public to report any anti social behaviour to the TOC.

On a brighter note, this newsletter contains a lot of good news about the great volunteering efforts of our members (see pages 2-4). Jenni Banister- Jones attended the SALP breakfast where she accepted a grant on behalf of FOLC (see page 7). Thank you for all the work you do for FOLC, Jenni.

Mary Yates continues her fascinating history of the Lake Claremont area. (See page 9).

VOLUNTEERING AT LAKE CLAREMONT *From: Nick Cook*

FEBRUARY BUSY BEE

We had another strong turnout for our monthly Busy Bee on February 9. The 7am start seems to be working well during the warmer months. On the lakebed volunteers tackled some of the harder to reach northern section. They were led by Norma and other experienced weeders.

Nick, Tony and Anish took the gator and installed a couple of nesting boxes on the dry lakebed. We then set about cleaning up 2 "camp sites" used by local teens for recreational purposes. Sadly these sub-adult humans leave an awful mess behind

We finished up with an awesome morning tea from Soozie Ross and a bit of an update on activities around the wetland.

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers. This group of people is just outstanding!



Volunteers enjoying morning tea



Tony Barr, Nick Cook and Amish?

SCOTCH COLLEGE COMMUNITY SERVICE

We had a great session with the Year 10 Scotch students for our Friday afternoon Community Service Program on February 8.

The town of Claremont had an 8m skip bin ready for us and the lads filled it to the brim.

We removed fallen leaves and fruit from under the Moreton bay fig trees on the southern edge of the wetland. Independent water quality reports recommended this as a management action to reduce nutrient loading in the water body.

Now that the Lake is almost dry it was the perfect time to get in there. The boys learned about the wetland cycle, nutrient loading and water quality issues such as botulism.

A great group of lads. Well done



WEEDING GROUP

Our hand weeders have been hard at it this summer.

Apart from our monthly Busy Bees (2nd Sunday of the month) we have 2 small but dedicated weeding crews that meet for about 1.5 hrs on a Monday and Friday morning each week.

We are keen to expand these groups as they are highly effective.

If you are interested in volunteering please message us. You don't need to attend weekly to join in. No experience necessary, just enthusiasm required.

It is also a great fitness work out!

Contact FOLC at folc.wa@gmail.com for details

BUILDING BIRD NESTING PLATFORMS

On February 23 we had a great session with volunteers working on building more bird nesting platforms.

We ventured out on the dry lakebed to look at an example that was built by CCGS and Scotch students last year then returned to the shed to start construction.



ADOPT A SPOT SUMMER NEWS *From : Jenni Banister-Jones*

Well done, Adopt-a-spotters! The work you did in spring has paid off. The weeds have still not emerged, although some are likely to be coming up with these early rains. But we need weeders in last year's planting around the Shed. If you'd like to move to a spot there, please contact Lance on 0418 922 885 or email folc.wa@gmail.com

CURRY PUNK FUNGUS

The Town of Claremont sent us this photo.

This native fungus very much lives up to its nickname – the Curry Punk Fungus! When young, it is a bright orange colour that will stain your fingers if you touch it. When it ages, it loses its colour and develops a strong smell of curry! It is quite rare, only being found on Eucalyptus species, but has been spotted around our lake and can be as large as a football! Have you spotted (or smelt!) any around our parklands?



FEBRUARY BIRD COUNT

From : David Free

In contrast to the past two summers, dry weather has reduced the water to a shallow patch at the southern end of the lake. This provides hope that we can get through this year without the heavy losses due to avian botulism that we have suffered in the past two years.

We recorded 257 individuals of 23 species, well below the average of our summers counts, which have often taken place when more water has been present. Two Grey Teal were the only waterfowl seen. Unusual sightings were Red-tailed Black Cockatoos, a species not often seen in our surveys. Two Buff-banded Rails were noted feeding in the open, far from the shoreline; this cautious bird does not normally venture far from protective cover.

No breeding activity was noticed.



Female Rufous Whistler Photo : David Free

We included a photo of the spectacular male rufous whistler in the February newsletter. While not as striking as the male, the female is a pretty bird, her buff underparts are streaked with black.

Until three or four years ago we had not seen this striking bird around the lake.

Now, with the maturing first re-vegetated areas supporting a healthy insect population, they can be regularly seen and heard in our northern bush area.

THE LAKE IN FEBRUARY

From : Nick Cook

RESULTS OF THE 2019 PLANTING SEASON

It has been a very dry Spring and Summer. Although we have had some losses (to be expected), our 2019 planting site is looking great.

From little things big things grow!



FERAL ANIMALS

This month, I received a call from a gentleman who had spotted a "large, healthy" fox at Lake Claremont.

I also received a report of a sighting of 2 rabbits sighted near the living stream at Lake Claremont.

Both these feral species have the potential to do a great deal of harm to native flora and fauna at our Conservation Category Wetland. Town of Claremont (TOC) have been notified. If any members of the public see foxes or rabbits at the lake it is vital that you report them to either FOLC or TOC Dept Parks.

We need your help to prevent these feral animals from establishing themselves at our precious Wetland.

BOTULISM

We are very fortunate to have avoided a Botulism outbreak at Lake Claremont this year.

There have been many outbreaks at wetlands/lakes around Perth this year.

The good people at WA Seabird rescue do amazing work. No doubt their resources will be stretched, please consider supporting their work. If you are visiting another wetland, please keep your eyes open for unwell birds and report it to the WA Seabird Rescue.

GRANTS UPDATE

2020 Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP) funding ceremony

From : Jenni Banister-Jones

Following our success in winning a grant of \$14,200 for infill planting along Alfred Road this year, we were invited to attend a breakfast on 25 February at Burswood on Swan. My husband, Lance and I represented FOLC.

Jenni Banister-Jones with grant recipients



There was a large assortment of Friends' groups working in different areas around the Perth region. Most people we spoke to about Lake Claremont knew little about us, but did remember the golf course! We chatted to people from Friends of Mt Henry Peninsula Conservation Group, an area which is easily seen from the freeway when crossing Mt Henry Bridge.

Also on our table were several people from Friends of John Forrest National Park, where their 12 members manage to control watsonia using industrial spraying equipment and the Park ranger's ute. They will use the 2020 funding to control chinchinchee, a weed I've never heard of, and I hope we don't get.

During the breakfast, there were presentations from 2 groups. The North Swan Landcare Conservation District group started in 1998. Their first project was the revegetation of Bulls Brook, which flows through the Pearce Airbase. They now undertake a variety of projects to develop a biodiversity corridor, and assist local landholders with revegetation of their properties. In 2020, they will plant 1400 banksias to rejuvenate a banksia woodland.

We then heard from the Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group, also started in 1998. The group is supported by the 2 councils and acts as an umbrella group, sponsoring 9 local Friends' groups. In the last 5 years, they've received \$1.4 million in funding for invasive weed control, improved water quality and halting erosion along the rivers, and funds for planting to improve habitat and biodiversity. They usually work with the groups for 3 – 5 years, and then hand back the projects to the land holder or manager.

We were struck by the incredible diversity of likeminded groups, and very humbled to be a small part of the army of volunteers of all ages who are doing an incredible job of bushland regeneration of the Perth region. And a big thank you to funding organisations Alcoa of Australia and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions.

WEED IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Text : Jenni Banister-Jones. Photo : Soozie Ross

In readiness for the cooler months and our next “crop” of weeds, we’ve developed a pictorial guide to the weeds found at Lake Claremont. It highlights those which are HIGH priority weeds for removal, and has photos of all weeds with information about them and when they are most prevalent.

Soozie Ross has created a wonderful poster of it which is in the Shed. We hope to have it on the website soon, but a pdf copy is available if anyone would like one. Please email folc.wa@gmail.com and I’ll get one to you!

Happy weeding!



THE SHAYLOR FAMILY *From : Mary Yates*

In 1927, Bewley George Shaylor Snr came from his brother William's Ayrshire Dairy in First Avenue Claremont, to work at Falkirk Dairy in Claremont Crescent.

Falkirk Dairy, was at that time, owned by Jack Shorer. The milk came from Armadale and Kelmscott on the train, off loaded at Claremont Station, and was taken to the dairy where it was poured into a vat and then put through coils to pasteurise it, ready for distribution. Bewley George Jnr and Victor Shaylor, Bewley George Shaylor Snr's son, helped with the milk deliveries from their horse drawn cart.

When the Shaylors first worked at the dairy, the ice works was not operating, however, in 1936, a horse drawn cart from which to sell the ice, began the family ice business, which they named Crystal Ice. In this period, until 1940, refrigerators were a luxury and most household still operated with ice chests.

The ice works no longer operated after about 1952, and Victor donated numerous items from this business to the Freshwater Bay Museum.



LAKESIDE MEAT SUPPLY



George Johnson and his wife Irene (nee Shaylor), ran a butchery in Davies Road; George's brother, Ralph, of Wembley had a butchery, and being in the same business, he delivered their meat requirements to them. George died many years before Irene, aged 48, but she kept the popular butchery going single-handedly for 18 years, finally closing in the late 1970s. Her wooden chopping block used in the shop, had been cut from the Lake Claremont area. And these were the days of the sawdust floors!

Irene had further accomplishments – making outstanding apple pies, Christmas cakes for everyone and famous sausages. She was a generous, trusting and happy lady, who even allowed her customers to pay her when they could afford to do so.

FEBRUARY NIGHT CHAT

From : Jenni Banister-Jones

It seemed fitting that the speaker for our first Night Chat in 2020 was a person who was awarded an OAM on Australia Day 2020 for her services to conservation and the environment. Margaret Owen has been a long-time campaigner for preserving the bushland in the Perth area, particularly the Underwood Avenue Bushland and surrounding areas. She is currently the secretary of the Urban Bushland Council.



Margaret described her talk as something like mulligatawny soup, an Indian dish meaning pepper and water. The talk provided a wonderful mix of the soup's ingredients. The pepper of politics, protests and a poem by John Kinsella about the Lemnos Street Bushland written when it was under threat. Despite many protests by Margaret, Heidi and others, the bush was lost. I am still haunted by one line from the poem. "Maybe someone half-hears the singing honeyeater, catches a strain of cockatoo call? Maybe they remember a banksia-lantern from an earlier age?"

Margaret's soup was flavoured with tasty morsels. Protecting Underwood Avenue Bushland by selling it off to a philanthropist? Governments consider trees important, so Margaret has started getting GPS points on all trees, big and small, so a price can be put on each, their value calculated, and site sold off to an organisation like the Minderoo Foundation – the land could be called "Andrew For(r)est"!

Margaret regularly climbs under the fence to get into the bush at Underwood Avenue. Her concern is that UWA who owns the land is not doing any weed control. She and others will be doing some guerilla gardening soon, so watch out for a story in the Post involving large orange bags.

Other wonderful titbits from her talk!

- Being attacked by a goshawk wielding a dismembered pigeon! She ended up with a torn shirt!
- Finding a large talon, skull and wing. She picked up the talon and skull and sent them to the museum for identification. They asked for the wing as well, which took Margaret 2 more visits to find! The bird was a juvenile masked owl, of which there are "few records in this area".
- Wonderful photos of the black cockatoos, both Carnaby's and Forest red tails.
- Neither species breed at Underwood Avenue Bushland. The Carnaby's fly back to the Wheatbelt, and the Red tails probably to the forested areas. However some adult red-tails have very young offspring so they may be breeding somewhere in the area.

Continued on next page

•Incredible photographs of small birds in Underwood Avenue. The striated pardalote, red-capped robin, rufous whistler and the wine-glass nest of a grey fantail. And insects such as jewel bugs and the very strange looking pie-dish beetle.

•Quendas have also taken up residence there. They eat the Guildford grass bulbs, and do a wonderful job of turning over the soil.

Margaret ended by thanking the Friends of Lake Claremont volunteers who have spent years planting to increase biodiversity and habitat around the lake. And judging by the enthusiastic applause and copious questions from the large audience, her mulligatawny soup was enjoyed by all! Thank you Margaret!

MARCH NIGHT CHAT

We are very pleased to have one of the Traditional Custodians of Lake Claremont, Iva Hayward Jackson, as our guest speaker for Night Chats in March. The event will be held at the FOLC shed on Tuesday, March 24.

MARCH CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	TIME
Friday March 6	Year 10 Community Service Programme	1.20-2.30pm
Sunday March 8	FOLC Busy Bee	7.00-9.00 am
Tuesday March 10	FOLC Board Meeting	
Friday March 13	Year 10 Community Service Programme	1.20-2.30pm
Friday March 20	Year 10 Community Service Programme	1.20 - 2.30pm
Tuesday March 24	March Night Chat at Claremont at the FOLC Shed	5.30 pm
Friday March 27	Year 10 Community Service Programme	1.20 - 2.30pm



natural resource
management program



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

Website 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

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POSTAL ADDRESS

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