



Nick Cook with TOC Bush Care Officer, Johanna Riddell Photo: Hilary Heptinstall

From the editor

I have enjoyed walking round Lake Claremont at this time of isolation and feel very fortunate that there is such a beautiful place so close to home. I am very appreciative of the work that has been done by the Friends of Lake Claremont and the Town of Claremont over the years to create an environment that gives pleasure to so many people. I have never seen the area as busy as it has been over the last few weeks, people walking dogs, joggers, cyclists and family groups. I often meet friends to talk with (at a distance) and see others weeding the lake bed.

See Nick Cook's Covid-19 update on page 2.

I thought that there would not be much to write about this month as most of the FOLC regular activities have ceased, but our regular contributors David Free (page 7) and Mary Yates (page 5) have come to the rescue by continuing to contribute interesting articles.

COVID-19 UPDATE

From Nick Cook (FOLC Coordinator)

With group activities cancelled in April we were expecting a fairly quiet month. As it turns out we have remained quite busy. As of late April the WA government has eased restrictions on public gatherings and we are pleased to advise that we will be resuming some group activities whilst remaining compliant with the new rules.

Our effort to tackle priority weeds on the lakebed has continued with individual volunteers and our weeding teams continuing throughout the month, whilst still complying with government restrictions. Volunteer efforts have been supplemented by hand weeding contractors engaged by the Town of Claremont. We thank the Town for their support. This level of cooperation and coordination is one of the keys to our success.

These efforts have been very successful with many, many hundreds of bags of weeds removed in April. However, the window of opportunity is closing rapidly and we will redouble our efforts in early May to remove weeds before they 'go to seed'. We will have an extra Busy Bee on May 3 as well as our regular monthly Busy Bee on May 10.

The easing of restrictions on gatherings will also make it much easier for us to plan our planting activities which are scheduled to commence in early June. We will keep you updated on developments on this front.

Although this has been a challenging time for everyone, our volunteers have demonstrated their passion, dedication and resilience. During the Covid-19 restrictions foot traffic at Lake Claremont has been double or triple normal volumes and we have received a great deal of support from the community for the work that we do.

Thank you all for your dedication and support.



OUR WAR ON WEEDS

From : Nick Cook

FOLC work very closely with the Town of Claremont. We would like to express our appreciation of the Parks and Environment staff in particular. They are a dedicated and passionate team.

Pictured right is our Bushcare Officer, Johanna Rimmer with her partner, Brett, and son, Harry. Early this month, I spent a couple of hours with them finishing off the weeds at the southern end of the wetland. They were very keen to come down and volunteer their time at lake Claremont. Brett also did a good job of removing golf balls from the lakebed!

Thank you Johanna we really appreciate your passion for lake Claremont and your support of our volunteers.



Johanna Rimmer with son, Harry, and partner, Brett

In mid-April, we continued with our War on Weeds on the lakebed near the gazebo.

At our request Town of Claremont engaged Green skills contractors for two days of hand weeding. The team filled 300 bags in two days! FOLC volunteers retrieved the bags from the lake for collection by TOC staff.

This was a great collaboration between FOLC and the Town of Claremont.



THE MONDAY WEEDING GROUP

From : Hilary Heptinstall

Norma Hay's Monday weeding group continues to function though with reduced numbers for social distancing. This month they have working on the lakebed at the south east end of the lake, and are now working at the north end.



Norma Hay and Maggie Paton

*Spot the Willy Wagtails!
Photo: David Free*

Dot Leeson and Consie Woods



THE GOFF POULTRY BUSINESS

From : Mary Yates

There has been very little information to glean for this story on the successful enterprise of Charles Goff. Little surprise, perhaps, because it was operating about one hundred years ago!



Charles Goff and his wife Amelia lived at 7 Fern Street, seen in this old photo which was taken in 1927. It appears to be a very well cared for home, neat and immaculately tidy - however, much activity was going on in their back yard!

The couple had three sons – Harold, Cyril and Maurice – no doubt these three boys spent much of their youthful days down in the Butlers Swamp area, using it as their playground. It was just at the bottom of their street.

However, it was round the time of WW1, then the Depression, followed by WW2, so it would have been a very tough period for Charles and Amelia. Did any of their sons sign up for either of the Wars, you wonder?

Survival in some form was critical and it can be presumed that Charles decided on keeping chickens in his back yard and selling their eggs to support his family. Possibly he sold dressed chickens as well to supplement their income.

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Dates of the business are not known, nor for how long it operated, but certainly Charles was doing quite well. There are still some pages from his notebooks – where one week in particular, on 28th April 1935, the family gathered the rewarding number of 1662 eggs, but the missing and critical question is – from how many chooks? It would be so interesting to learn more details.

17	8	22	2	19	6	1555	2	11	2
5	81	27	2	19	6	1574	2	11	2
4	9	10	1	16	6	1378	3	15	4
9	8	17	1	16	6	1530	5	15	4
6	42	24	3	10		1677	5	15	4
9	3	21	2	7	2	1599	6	17	3
12	8	1	2	11	10	1572	3	17	10
10	26	21	1	4		1601	6	16	6
8	8	28	1	13	6	1660	6	17	
8	3	2	3	8		1662 X	5	13	8
8	45	12	7	14	6	1684	4	14	4
2	9	10	7	11	4	1576	3	12	6
6	6	1				1553	7	7	3
6	6	1				1492	6	6	3
6	6	2	11			1475	5	12	1
6	6	13	4	4		17438	4	12	7



Just look at the mechanical wizardry of their little egg weighing scale! And 'little' it is – these days carefully wrapped and stored by the owner – our FOLC member, Dave Leeson. Surely no one could possibly have weighed individual eggs in that tiny cup every single day! The egg handler would have been so used to the task that he could have just guessed the number, unless an especially large egg was laid and could be sold as a 'Jumbo', in today's terminology.

Egg weighing scale

At whatever date the chicken and egg business ended, it was then followed by drying fruit from the same backyard – now well fertilised from all the poultry.

Apparently, they were drying grapes and turning them into sultanas and raisins. The family was obviously highly resourceful. It is unknown when the businesses closed or whether any family member continued running either of them.

From a local newspaper it is seen that Charles died in October 1934 at his home, aged 56.

If anyone has further details, please us know. Perhaps descendants of the Goff family still live in the area today?

OUR BIRDS

Text and photos : David Free

Australian Ringneck, *Barnardius zonarius*

This beautiful bird was once declared vermin in certain areas, because of its liking for wheat and orchard fruit. They are protected now and are sometimes seen and heard around the lake.

Ringnecks breed in tree hollows and are probably suffering competition from the introduced Rainbow Lorikeet.



The race we have in the Southwest, *semitorquatus*, has green underparts and a tiny scarlet cap. Inland birds, race *zonarius*, lack the scarlet cap and have a yellow belly. Between the two regions hybrids are present.

ARCHIVE PHOTO DISPLAY IN THE FOLC SHED

From : Soozie Ross

We have a new selection of photos kindly shared from Scotch College archives. They are of the lake area from the Scotch College perspective. You can see the cows from the dairy farm and the land adjacent to the lake prior to reclamation. There is a description of the carefree life of a local resident in the 1960's who was able to explore and adventure in the old tip and Butler's swamp. Please come to the Friends of Lake Claremont shed in the park to have a look sometime.

David Free took this black and white photo from the southern end of the lake this month. It is reminiscent of past times and nicely shows an old fence line from the days of cattle farming.

It is interesting to see the history of the area and this photo could perhaps be added to Soozie's archive collection!



*Above : Geoff Ross studying the display
Photo: Soozie Ross*



*Left ; The old fence line
Photo : David Free*

CREATIVE BANNERS AT THE LAKE

From : Hilary Heptinstall

I do not know who created these lovely banners but I am sure they have brought pleasure to many people as they have walked around the Lake Claremont area.



DRAGONFLIES AT LAKE CLAREMONT

Geoff Ross took this lovely photo of dragonflies on a recent walk round the lake.

We would love to receive more photos from members who are walking in the area.



© Geoff Ross

FROM THE TOWN OF CLAREMONT

Field and Bushcare officers are still at work, keeping our parklands beautiful and maintaining our bush. The path at Lake Claremont gets a regular trim for fire risk and general safety. We have contracted workers from Black Swan horticulture to spread mulch along the verge.



THE LADYBIRD GOLFERS *From: Mary Yates*

The Ladybird golfers had played together on the Long Course for 18 years when the Town of Claremont closed this course, later constructing the Short Course which is there today. The group then split and joined other Perth clubs, playing here at the Lake for the last time in 2009.

At that time, to commemorate the end of those long and happy years, they buried a time capsule with their names and messages – but forgot where it was!

A round ceramic cover (right) had been placed over the capsule, marking the spot, but it has since disappeared and they would love to know if anyone has seen or found it.

If you have any information on this please let us know.





natural resource
management program



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Friends of Lake Claremont facebook page

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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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