



Black Swans at Lake Claremont Photo : Nicky Armstrong

END OF THE 2020 PLANTING SEASON

From : Nick Cook

July 19 marked a major milestone for the Friends of Lake Claremont with the completion of major revegetation works as set out in the Lake Claremont Master Plan.

There are simply too many people to thank individually, so I wish to thank all of our FOLC members and volunteers, the Town of Claremont and the local community for their support over the years. Heidi Hardisty and Claire Brittain deserve special mention. Without their efforts we would likely be nowhere near achieving this milestone today. Major revegetation works commenced in 2010 after the closure of the long 9 golf course. Since then the FOLC have raised over \$700,000 in grants funding and have purchased and planted approximately 380,000 native plants.

Congratulations to all involved.

From the Editor

On behalf of all the FOLC members I should like to thank Nick Cook for all that he has done for Lake Claremont. Nick has been a long-time board member and planting team leader at FOLC. He willingly took over the position of Coordinator when Heidi Hardisty moved to Queensland. He has never stopped working and has been an inspiration to us all! Congratulations and sincere thanks, Nick, from all the Friends of Lake Claremont.

NIGHT CHATS ARE BACK! See page 11

JULY PLANTING SESSIONS

Text : Nick Cook Photos : Naga Srinivas Kasarla

SATURDAY JULY 11

We worked in cold but beautiful weather in the morning to plant 2000 seedlings over the course of the weekend. We were very pleased to welcome back our old friends from the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing. We have planted together with these wonderful volunteers for many years now. It was lovely to see so many happy faces and smiling children.



SUNDAY JULY 12

We held our monthly Busy Bee on another beautiful day which preceded a wet week. Volunteers ranged in age from 3 to 101 and we had quite a few first time planters/volunteers at Lake Claremont this weekend.

Everyone enjoyed being out in the sunshine, enjoying nature and helping the environment. We finished up with a great morning tea provided by Soozie and Geoff Ross.

Photos : Naga Srinivas Kasarla



Very young volunteers!



Nick Cook with 101 year old Joan Tock.



Local resident Christina Graham and “the girls”, Lotty, Zoe, Abbey, Zarah and Leah helped us today and enjoyed morning tea before heading for our newest nature play attraction. They all enjoyed being out in the sunshine, enjoying nature and helping the environment.



*The girls enjoying morning tea
Photo : Christina Graham*

SATURDAY JULY 18

We had another great morning's planting session with the Sha Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing group who came with their families and children. They are a wonderful group who carry out voluntary social work all over the world including tree planting, blood donation and working with the homeless. They have been planting with FOLC since 2012.

Photos : Naga Srinivas Kasarla



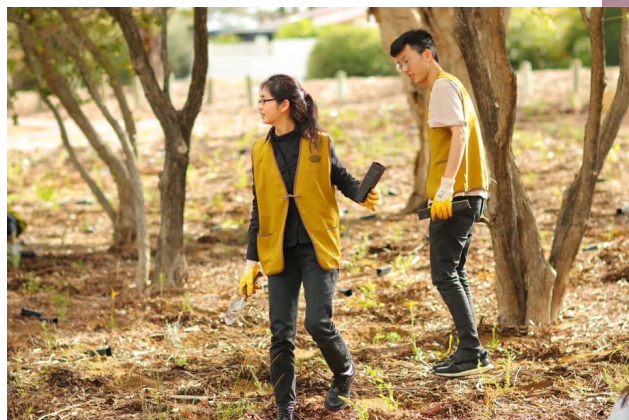
Nick Cook with volunteers

We had brilliant sunshine in the afternoon and we were delighted to have the Tzu Chi Buddhist group planting with us at Lake Claremont.



Above: Tony Barr addressing the group

Left : Young volunteers



SUNDAY JULY 19

Mulching

Many thanks to the volunteers who assisted to spread mulch at short notice in the areas where the Tamarisk trees were removed in readiness for planting on Sunday 19 afternoon.

Photos : Naga Srinivas Kasarla



The morning session on July 19 marked a major milestone for the Friends of Lake Claremont with the completion of major revegetation works as set out in the Lake Claremont Master Plan.



In the afternoon of July 19, we held our final planting session for 2020.

Having completed the Alfred Road revegetation site, we infill planted the four mulched sites, within the existing revegetation areas, where the Tamarisk trees had been removed.

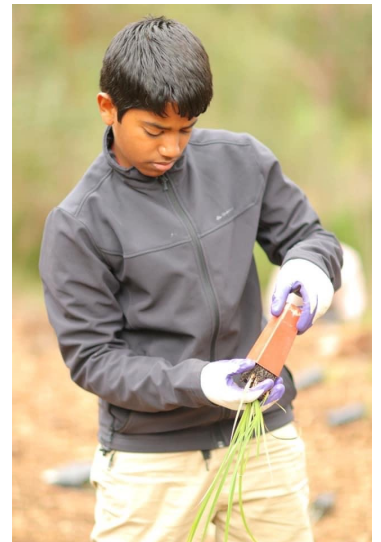
Both Zac and I commented on what a relaxed "vibe" there was to the session. It was a truly beautiful way to finish the planting season.

We had many first time volunteers today. It is such a great pleasure to meet and share our wetland with these volunteers

Thanks to our team leaders and our planting Coordinator.

So many people have worked so hard to make this possible. We thank you all!

I should particularly like to thank Naga Srinivas Kasarla for all the beautiful photos which he has posted on Facebook, many of which are used in this newsletter.



THANK YOU

FOLC would like to make a special mention and give thanks to two of our major partners in the 2020 planting season.

The Town of Claremont works very closely with FOLC and provides a great deal of support every year.

Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP) has been a significant funding partner to FOLC over several years and projects. This year's plantings were funded by a \$14,200 SALP grant. It has allowed us to purchase 8000 native seedlings. This type of long term support and partnership is exactly what groups like ours require to do the work that we do. Many thanks!



OUR BIRDS

Text and photos by David Free

Australian Raven, *Corvus coronoides*

The Australian Raven is important in Noongar culture. It was believed that they carried the spirits of the dead to the afterlife.

R E Johnstone, Curator of Ornithology at the WA museum, reports that since the 1960s numbers have greatly increased in Perth and suburbs. Our quarterly census also shows a large increase around the lake over the past twenty years.

Ravens are opportunistic feeders and well known scavengers. They take eggs and young birds and predate the turtles at the lake. These highly intelligent birds build their large stick nests high in tall trees. Juvenile birds have a brown, not white, iris and lack the violet sheen that, in the right light, can sometimes be seen in adult birds.



JULY BIRD COUNT

From : David Free

On July 23rd morning my wife Pam and I conducted a survey of the birds at Lake Claremont. The morning was cool, partly cloudy and with a stiff breeze which inhibited the observation of smaller birds.

There was water covering most of the southern part of the lake and patches of shallow water in the northern area. The gauge by the jetty showed 0.18m.

We recorded 468 individuals of 40 species, above the average for our winter surveys. Breeding activity was noted for Black Swan, Pink-eared Duck, Purple Swamphen, Tree Martin and Black-shouldered Kite (our first record for this species).

Pink-eared Duck and Shoveler numbers were above average, Grey Teal and Pacific Ducks were below average.

WELCOME HOME TO THE HARDISTYS

It is great to have Heidi and Paul Hardisty back in Perth. Unfortunately, their 14 days in home isolation did not conclude until after the end of the planting season, but Heidi will find other ways to be involved with FOLC!

They plan to remain in Perth until the end of the football season which will enable them to watch their son, Declan, play football for Claremont!

Heidi Hardisty



FROM THE TOWN OF CLAREMONT

It is lovely to take our furry friends for a walk around Lake Claremont in the morning, but remember that dogs must be on leash around the lake, except for in the dog exercise area. It's coming into breeding season and a dog's scent can deter birds from nesting around the Lake. We want to continue to see our birdlife flourish so please keep your friendly pooches on a lead.



Town of Claremont Field Officer, Jack Onley, has an eye for fungi.

This white punk fungus (*Laetiporus portentosus*) was found at Lake Claremont recently. A fun fact for everyone - this fungus was used by Noongar people to transfer an ember from one destination to the next. It would smoulder for hours and could then be used to restart a fire at the new destination.



PHOTOS FROM LAKE CLAREMONT

Some very talented photographers visit Lake Claremont and make their work available to us,.

Nicky Armitage usually takes beautiful bird photos but also took those below.



Above : The old fence line

This terrific action shot was captured by **Caroline Mynott** at Lake Claremont. Quite a rare sight, this Barn Owl was being relentlessly pursued by a pack of Ravens. Beautifully captured Caroline! Thank you for giving permission for us to share your pictures.



Continued on page 9

Paul Coppins is a regular visitor to the lake and has taken many beautiful photos.

Nick Cook writes:-

'This photo shows a bit of a dust up between a Corella and a Nankeen Kestrel. Apparently the Kestrel was minding it's own business when the Corella decided to gate crash this paperbark stump. A bit of argy bargy ensued before the Kestrel won the day!'



Maries Denee took this lovely photo of a White-faced Heron at the Lake

ANOTHER TURTLE RESCUE

From Nick Cook

My neighbour rescued this small turtle at Lake Claremont this month. The turtle was being attacked by two Ravens on the Scotch College playing fields.

He/She had a fairly serious wound to the back leg.

Unfortunately the turtle's wounds were too extensive for the animal to be saved.



NIGHT CHATS AT LAKE CLAREMONT

Tuesday, 25 AUGUST 2020

"Due to Government **Covid-19** restrictions we will require you to register for this event by email to folc.wa@gmail.com by the 20th August. Registration is essential, numbers will be limited to 42".



The effects of Urbanisation and Hydrological change on the Oblong Turtle

Anthony Santoro
PhD Candidate, Murdoch University

Land use modification, climate drying, and invasive species threaten the oblong turtle (*Chelodina oblonga*) in Perth, Western Australia. The extent of impact of these stressors on *C. oblonga* is not known but likely includes increased wildlife-vehicle incidents and predation, and reduced availability and quality of nesting and aquatic habitat. To investigate how these stressors may be altering the turtle's ecology, I used radio-telemetry over two annual cycles to track 50 female turtles in urban wetlands experiencing a continuum of water regimes and a variety of surrounding terrestrial land use modification. Nest predation and turtle corpses were also recorded. It was hypothesised that: the species would move seasonally among the wetlands to maximise access to inundated habitats; nesting ecology would vary based on available habitat; and predation and vehicle related mortality would increase in modified habitats. The study revealed limited movement between wetlands with turtles aestivating rather than migrating, suggesting that continued climate drying will have implications for population viabilities if individuals do not migrate to more suitable wetlands as hydrology changes. Land use modification is placing pressure on the populations through considerable mortality due to vehicle strikes, mostly of nesting females. Feral animal predation was also a major issue affecting both adults and embryos, significantly reducing the populations reproductive potential. The presence of the European red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) was confirmed using wildlife cameras. These results indicate that urgent management of turtle populations based on a detailed understanding of their ecology and interactions is needed for these urban ecosystems.

Tuesday 25th August 2020
Time : 530pm to 730pm

Location: Claremont Lawn
Tennis Club, Shenton Rd



www.friendsofclacklaremont.org
A gold coin would be appreciated



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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