



A Hot Air Balloon at Lake Claremont *Photo : David Free*

On September 5, David saw this hot air balloon flying slowly over the lake in an Easterly direction.

From the editor

You may have noticed that the breeding activity of birds at Lake Claremont is lower than usual this year.

David Free says that this is likely to be related to the low water levels. The speculation is that the water birds are aware that their babies will not be mature enough to fly as the lake dries. They will also be vulnerable to predation, as well as having limited food sources.

We had a very interesting Night Chat Session this month when Nabilla Antipas spoke about Waste Management. (See page 9)

As numbers were limited, some members may not have been present, but there is now an opportunity for you to see and hear the presentation! Our photographer Naga Srinivas Kasarla had posted videos of the session (in three parts) on Facebook. Thank you Naga!

SEPTEMBER BUSY BEE

Text : Nick Cook Photos : Nicky Armstrong

We had a great turn out for our Busy Bee on a perfect Spring morning on September 13.

A couple of dozen volunteers turned up at 8am to assist us with our War on Weeds. It was great to have some first time volunteers and also about 8 teenagers with us for this session (as well as a couple of Mums).

The more 'senior' members of the group (I'm going to be in so much trouble!) ventured out onto the Northern section of the lakebed to tackle Sow Thistle and the dreaded Spear Thistle. The group was led by our weeding veteran Norma Hay (many thanks Norma!)

The younger group was led by Nick and hand weeded along the edge of the main path along the Eastern Buffer. About 12 bags were filled and we all had a good discussion about the lake along the way.

Volunteers at work

Happy Birthday today to 1st time volunteer FeiFei (from Perth Modern School) who will be joining our weekly Duke of Edinburgh volunteers. It was a pleasure to meet her today.

Soozie and Geoff Ross put on a terrific morning tea which included Geoff's now infamous freshly baked scones! Many thanks to them both and also to Nicky Armstrong for the photos. It was a very successful morning.



Far left: Soozie Ross serving morning tea

Left : Leeuwin Beeck enjoying Geoff's scones

OUR BIRDS

Text and photo by David

Eurasian Coot, *Fulica atra*

Coots are among the commonest species at our lake in winter and spring; on average we see over sixty individuals in our winter surveys. At the time of writing numbers appear to be well below the September norm.

When the lake dries out they will move to permanent water elsewhere. As the name implies, Eurasian Coots are found across Asia and Europe, and throughout Australia where the habitat is suitable. Coots are mostly herbivorous and will dive for their food. These birds breed at the lake, building a mound of vegetation in the water, or utilising a stump or one of the nesting platforms. The normal clutch size is five to seven but there is a heavy loss to predators. Newly hatched young have reddish skin on the head and a red bill.



A Coot family at Lake Claremont

GUIDED BIRD WALK

David Free will lead a bird walk around Lake Claremont on Friday October 30 from 7.30 -9.30 am, meeting at the Tocock benches.

This should be a very interesting and enjoyable experience for our members. David can be contacted at mrhasherd@gmail.com if you require more information.

TURTLES AT LAKE CLAREMONT

From : Nick Cook

The rain and falling barometric pressure has triggered the start of turtle nesting season and has led to some gruesome discoveries. The raven population is growing and putting turtles at risk. Friends of Lake Claremont volunteers have discovered many recent incidents of turtles being killed by ravens.

The first photos are of a female found by Zac Hardisty near the Lakeway housing estate. She was predated by ravens and was barely alive when found. The Ravens tore her open and ate only the eggs she was carrying! She died shortly afterwards.

Although killed by Ravens the first photos clearly illustrate the threats posed by urbanisation. This turtle had travelled a fair distance safely under the cover of vegetation but was instantly predated when it ran out of cover.

I found three other turtles in early September. Two were predated by Ravens and one was clearly predated by a fox.

Local residents are asked to secure their bins and ensure that there is no overflow food waste to attract ravens.



Injured turtle near Lakeway estate : Zac Hardisty.

Predated turtles : Nick Cook

ACTION BY TOWN OF CLAREMONT

From : Nick Cook

After observations of predation by the Town of Claremont Field Officer, and also the FOLC Coordinator, the Town installed camera traps in a number of locations.

Our suspicions were confirmed when this fox (*below*) was photographed two nights in a row.

Also, not surprisingly, this domestic (not feral) cat was captured on film! If you live anywhere near the wetland, PLEASE keep your pet cats locked up!



With the bird nesting season in full swing and the start of turtle nesting season this is prime time for foxes to visit the lake. The wetland is a veritable smorgasbord for hungry predators! Please keep your dogs on their leads and stay out of revegetated areas altogether whilst contractors are trapping.

Good work Town of Claremont!

ADOPT A SPOT NEWS - WILD WEEDS

From : Jenni Banister-Jones

It's September - spring is here..... and so are the weeds. The cunning thistles and annual veldt grass (AVG) are all coming up amongst the fast-spreading grey salt bush. I never thought weeding would involve yoga-like stretches!

There is also a wonderful assortment of other weeds, including mallow and chick weed. And please be on the lookout for fumitory (AKA Enemy weed number 1). I found some already flowering in our spot.

As we hardly ever get to see each other, we're having an informal get together on Saturday 3 October at 10 (ish) at the Shed. You should have all got an email about it - please let me know if you didn't.

In the meantime, enjoy some weeding in the spring sunshine, and the opportunity to admire the incredible growth of the plants in the 2019 area around the Shed.

And for anyone who'd like to become an Adopt-a-spotter, we have 2 spots left at the Shed. Please call Lance 0418 922 885 if you'd like one!

Happy weeding!

I took the photos below while I was cycling along the path at the eastern buffer and saw this fumitory growing.



Can you spot Enemy Weed No.1?



One fumitory plant already

PHOTOS FROM THE LAKE IN SEPTEMBER

Text : Nick Cook Photos : Nicky Armstrong

At FOLC we are very fortunate to have a group of volunteers who are passionate about conservation and in many cases also very talented individuals.

Nicky Armstrong is one such volunteer. Nicky coordinates our Night Chats events. On Sunday Nicky drove from her home in Mandurah to attend our Busy Bee at 8am. Later Nicky spent a couple of hours taking pics around the wetland.

Thank you for the beautiful photos, Nicky, a few of which are shown below.



Black Swan



Pacific Black Ducks



Pink-eared Duck using a FOLC installed nesting box



Pied Stilt

CHRISTCHURCH GRAMMAR SCHOOL COMMUNITY SERVICE

From : Nick Cook

We had an outstanding session with the CCGS Year 10 students on Friday September 18. We headed out on to the peninsula for a spot of weeding. The boys did a full sweep of the island and cleared 20 bags of mostly fumitory.



Students with their filled bags

PESTICIDES CONSULTATION SUMMARY REPORT

From : Heidi Hardisty

As part of the implementation of the *Public Health Act 2016* in WA, the Department of Health has reviewed the management of pesticides under the current regulations.

This review has determined that the public health risks associated with pesticides should continue to be regulated under the framework provided by the Public Health Act, and the Minister for Health has approved the development of new regulations.

For those interested, the discussion paper can be read using the following link. [Managing public health risks associated with pesticides in Western Australia](#)

SEPTEMBER NIGHT CHAT

From : Hilary Heptinstall



Our speaker was Nabilla Antipas (pictured). Nabilla is the Education and Community Officer at Western Metropolitan Regional Council, a position she has held for ten years. This organisation manages waste for most of our local councils. The West Metro Recycling Centre is situated on the corner of Brockway Rd and Lemnos St and is open from 7.00 am - 4.00pm on weekdays and 8.00 am to 4.00 pm on weekends,

Nabilla spoke on the topic of 'Bin Basics and Recycling Right'.

This was obviously a subject of great interest to the community as she spoke to a full house and was bombarded with questions throughout the evening!

Nabilla is passionate about recycling and has been known to dress as a plastic bag to promote 'Plastic Free July'!

She addressed the topic of where our waste goes. Most councils now have bins for **Recyclables**, **Garden Organics (GO)** and **General Waste**. **Food organic bins (FOGO)** will be coming soon to Cottesloe. These will be able to be used for all food waste and even dog poo and kitty litter! Their contents will go to a commercial composting facility.

At present food waste goes to land fill and breaks down to form methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

The **Garden Organics** bin is for small branches, flowers, lawn clippings, leaves, pruning and common weeds. Some councils inspect bins and put a smiley face on those filled correctly and a frown on the rest! Green waste goes to Western Tree Recycling and is turned into mulch. We were encouraged to compost at home.

Nabilla gave us the simple rules for using the yellow **Recycling bin**. Objects should be loose, clean and dry, should have lids off and be no smaller than the palm of your hand. Aluminium and steel cans, glass bottles and jars (lids removed, plastic bottles and containers (lids removed) and flattened cardboard can be recycled. Recycling bin contaminants include bagged recycling, unrinsed containers, lids which have been left on containers and soft plastics.

Household hazardous waste including aerosols, electrical goods, batteries, pressurised cylinders and oil containers, should never be placed in bins and should be taken to special disposal centres, including the Brockway Road centre, which disposes of all the items listed above as well as mattresses. We were also encouraged to give to second hand shops and charity bins.

Continued on page 10

From October 1 a scheme called 'Containers for Change' will start. Eligible containers, including bottles and cans can be collected and taken to a refund point where a refund can be earned or the money can be donated to charity.



Nabilla concluded by asking us to reduce waste at home by buying loose fruit and vegetables, buying in bulk, reducing food waste, composting food scraps, buying second hand and donating goods. Check out givit.org

There is a lot of useful information on the website of the Western Metropolitan Regional Council.

Thank you for a wonderful, well presented Night Chat session, Nabilla. We all learned a lot and I know that we have a lot more to learn!

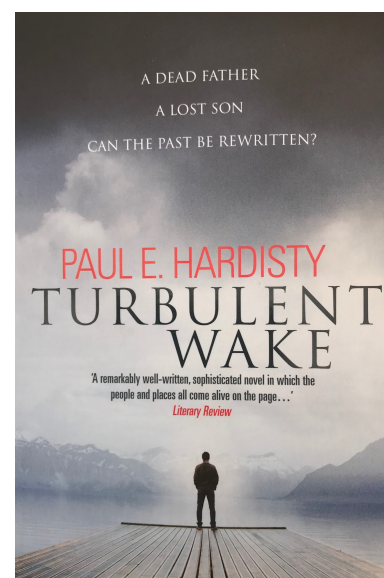
PAUL HARDISTY'S BOOK LAUNCH

From : Hilary Heptinstall

Long-time FOLC member, Paul Hardisty launched his fifth novel, 'Turbulent Wake', at Claremont Football Club on Wednesday September 23. It is a 'stand alone' book and is not related to his previous four. Paul is the CEO of the Australian Institute of Marine Science which is based in Townsville but he and Heidi are currently in Perth.

It was a very interesting evening where Paul spoke about his book and answered our questions.

The book is very well written, and I am enjoying reading it. It is available from New Edition Bookshop in Fremantle.



OCTOBER NIGHT CHAT

This will be held on Tuesday October 27 at Claremont Tennis Club commencing with refreshments at 5.30 pm.

Our speaker will be native bee expert, Kit Prendergast, who will speak about native bees at Lake Claremont. More details to follow.

OCTOBER BUSY BEE

This will be held on Sunday October 11 from 8.00 - 10.00 am
Meet at the FOLC shed at 8.00 am

BHP CORPORATE DAY

From : Nick Cook

On Tuesday September 22, we hosted a BHP corporate day in conjunction with Volunteering WA.

These days are always good fun and highly productive with the corporate volunteers happy to be out of the office for the day and keen for some team building/bonding.

After a brief overview of the Lake Claremont project we set to work.

As part of our strategy to reduce reliance on chemical control of weeds, the team weeded and mulched along the path on the eastern buffer. They then carried out a solid session of hand weeding.

Many thanks to BHP, VWA, Zac Hardisty and David Hay for running this event!



BHP volunteers enjoying the day!



FRIENDS OF LAKE CLAREMONT MEMBERSHIP

Membership is cheap and now only 1 click away with secure online payments accepted on our website, link below

https://friendsoflakeclaremont.org/?page_id=4565

Please consider joining. Your support is very important to us. Thank you



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

CONTACT

E-mail: folc.wa@gmail.com

POSTAL ADDRESS

Friends of Lake Claremont Ltd.

P.O. Box 837

Claremont WA, 6910