



Australasian Swamp Hen and chick at Lake Claremont. Photo : Geoffrey Groom

From Nick Cook

The Friends of Lake Claremont have now reached a significant milestone with the completion of major revegetation works as defined by the Lake Claremont Master Plan.

We still have much to do at the wetland and we will continue to plant in the years to come, but there will be a shift of focus in our activities.

Congratulations and thanks to all our volunteers and members. We hope to have your support for years to come.

We should also like to express our appreciation to the Bunnings Claremont store for their great support of FOLC over many years .

It is good to have the return of our Night Chats sessions and to welcome a new writer, Carol Bolton, to the newsletter. *See page 8*

AUGUST BUSY BEE

From : Nick Cook Photos : Nicky Armstrong and Soozie Ross

We held our monthly Busy Bee on August 9, followed by a special celebratory morning tea for Soozie's 60th birthday! Not surprisingly, the numbers were a bit low due to the forecast rain.

A huge thanks to the dozen dedicated volunteers who braved the weather and worked hard on hand weeding in our remnant bush. This work is very important and the FOLC make a significant contribution to manual weed control at the lake.

We weeded until about 10.30 when the rain began to fall hard.

Our bedraggled and soggy weeders were then treated to a very warm and welcome morning tea prepared by Cath McCauley. We celebrated Soozie's recent birthday and presented her with a beautiful panoramic shot of Lake Claremont taken by her husband Geoff.

Soozie was the original Coordinator of FOLC and is the heart and soul of the group. We all love her very much!



Above : Soozie and Geoff Ross, Heidi Hardisty and Paul Reiffer enjoying morning tea

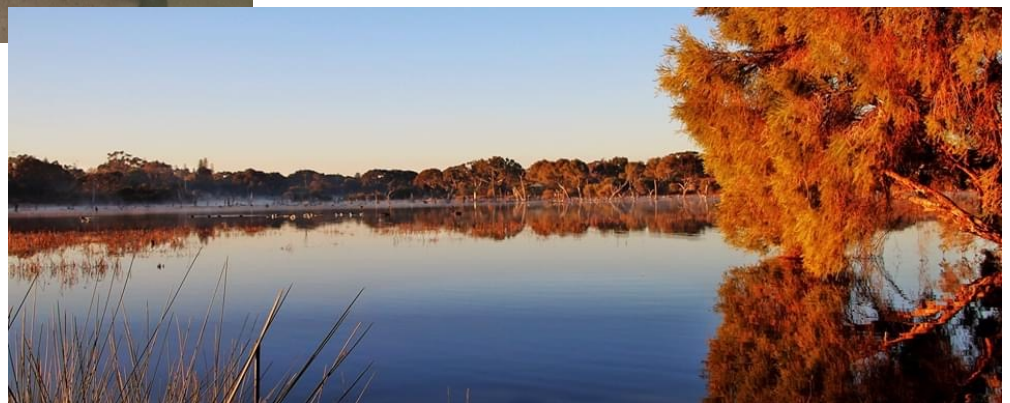


Above : Bedraggled volunteers



Below : Ioan Tocock. Soozie Ross. Alice Thomas

Right : The photo of Lake Claremont by Geoff Ross



OUR BIRDS

Text and photos : David Free

Silver Gull, *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*

The Silver Gull needs no introduction and is by far the most commonly seen gull in the Perth area. There are usually a few present whenever we have water in the lake, and they can always be found at Freshwater Bay. Adult birds have a white eye with orange-reddish eye ring, legs and bill, which is tipped black. Immatures and juveniles have dark eyes, legs and bills. The juveniles have brownish wing coverts.

Silver Gulls breed at Claremont Yacht Club, on the jetty piers and sometimes, to the annoyance of the owners, on boats.

These birds are gregarious and noisy. Around mankind they are efficient scavengers, and are always happy to share in a picnic.



Mature Silver Gull



Immature Silver Gull



Juvenile Silver Gull

HAND WEEDING AT LAKE CLAREMONT

From : The Town of Claremont

The Town is leading the way in reducing the use of glyphosate for weed reduction by removing the use of chemicals completely from all public interface areas including footpaths, walkways, kerbs and roads.

The normal spray program at Lake Claremont will also gradually be replaced by a hand weeding program with Town contractors working alongside Friends of Lake Claremont volunteers. This is another step towards eliminating the use of glyphosate for weed reduction throughout the Town.

Well done Town of Claremont !

Town of Claremont Bush Care Officer, Johanna Riddell



From : The Friends of Lake Claremont

FOLC have been advocating for increased hand weeding at Lake Claremont for some time now.

This year FOLC has won a \$20,000 Commonwealth Govt grant to employ hand weeding contractors from Ecojobs. Our contractors started work yesterday and they will complement the work done by our volunteer weeding team and other volunteer efforts.

Our hand weeding contractors filled 47 bags on their first day and later, Greenskills contractors carried out hand weeding in the Eastern buffer and filled 59 bags in a day.



THE LAKE IN AUGUST

WEEDING ASSISTANTS

Our hand weeders this year have been assisted by a veritable army of caterpillars that seem to have a preference for the common sow thistle! *(Pictured left)* These thistles have been stripped bare of all leaves and flowers meaning that our hand weeding team can move on and cover more ground.



TURTLE ACTION

From : Nick Cook

Our good friends over at Lake Gwelup have seen a lot of hatchling action lately.

Please keep your eye out whilst visiting Lake Claremont.

If you come across a hatchling you can improve its chance of survival by around 90% by gently picking it up and releasing it at the waters edge by some suitable vegetation for cover.

If the hatchling appears sluggish, or even unmoving it is probably just cold. Try warming it by cupping it in your hands until it becomes more 'feisty'.

Also please let us know when and where you were lucky enough to find one of our precious hatchlings. folc.wa@gmail.com

There was turtle action at Lake Claremont at the end of August. Marlies Denee found this hatchling on the path around Scotch college playing fields.

Fortunately, Marlies knew exactly what to do and relocated the hatchling to the waters edge.

It's important to do this near to some fringing vegetation for cover!

Thanks for helping our precious turtles, Marlies.



SPRING FLOWERS IN BLOOM

Our 2019 planting site has produced some beautiful spring flowers. Kangaroo paws rarely survive past the first season but these are looking strong and healthy.

Mangles' Kangaroo paw:
Anigozanthos manglesii



Mouse Ears: *Calothamnus rupestris*



Swan River Myrtle:
Hypocalymma robustum



Devil's Pins:
Hovea pungens



FALLEN BANKSIA TREE

It was sad to see this big old Banksia tree fall down in strong winds overnight. This tree was a favoured resting perch for a Tawny Frogmouth.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH STUDENT S AT LAKE CLAREMONT

From : Nick Cook

I am really enjoying working with Anish and Matt. They are Christchurch Grammar School students who are doing their Duke of Edinburgh service with Friends of Lake Claremont. Anish started with us in June and was a great help throughout the planting season. Matt joined us last month. We have been working every Sunday with our efforts firmly focused on hand weeding. We had a very good session on June 23, the first dry Sunday in a few weeks. It was a great effort lads. Many thanks for your help!



AUGUST NIGHT CHAT

From : Carol Bolton

The effects of urbanisation and hydrological change on the oblong turtle.

Our speaker was Anthony Santoro (pictured) who is researching this topic for a PhD at Murdoch University. The two aims of this research are:

1. To determine the influence of habitat modification, water regime change and predation on the ecology of *Chelodina oblonga*.
2. To identify how these stresses affect survivorship, recruitment and population viability of *C. oblonga*.



Turtles are the oldest group of reptiles and the most endangered vertebrate group. They are cold blooded, can swim, breathe air rather than existing underwater, and they lay eggs.

C. oblonga is so named because of the shape of the shell. The species is endemic to the south west of Western Australia, from Jurien Bay to the Fitzgerald River National Park. It is thought that they have a lifespan of about fifty years. They spend the majority of their life in water and feed on bugs, fish, frogs and carrion, perhaps sometimes on young birds.

For various reasons they are at risk in WA. They are vulnerable because of climate change which is taking its toll on inland lakes and on the shores on which they breed. Habitat is also being encroached upon by urban development. They are also vulnerable to predators such as foxes, cats and ravens.

Research has involved, among other things, tracking mature females using GPS trackers with particular reference to where they lay their eggs. Nest searches indicate that soil moisture and canopy cover are important factors in where turtles choose to nest. The work has been done around Bibra Lake and North Lake. In addition to challenges from habitat destruction and predators there is the problem of turtles being run over as they try to reach better habitat.

Two initiatives are underway. One is to try to protect turtles from being killed on roads and the other is to protect eggs in nests from predators. There is an average number of eight eggs per nest but the number can range from three to seventeen. Local Councils are being encouraged to become involved in baiting foxes in order to protect the eggs and hatchlings. Nest refuges are put in place when a nest is identified. These are structures which are just big enough for turtles to get through while not letting predators access the nest.

There is a call for more people to become involved with Anthony's citizen science project protecting native turtles. He is hoping to extend this programme to other wetlands next year.

The talk was most interesting and was very much enjoyed by the large audience, who asked many questions. Thank you, Anthony!

VISIT FROM SCOTCH COLLEGE PRE-PRIMARY STUDENTS

From : Nick Cook

I had the great pleasure of taking the Scotch Pre-primary students for a guided walk at Lake Claremont.

It is a credit to Scotch College and their Bush school program that these students are so wonderfully engaged with the environment and more specifically the wetland on their doorstep.

There many wonderful questions accompanied by great enthusiasm.

It was most rewarding for me to hear the boys excitedly tell me about the baby turtle hatchling that they had found on the Scotch playing fields on the previous the week. They rescued him and released him at the water's edge.

The staff and students knew what to do based on information from last years guided walk with FOLC.

Budding conservationists!!!



Nick Cook addressing the students



Scotch College students releasing a turtle hatchling

SEPTEMBER NIGHT CHAT

Tuesday September 22 at Claremont Tennis Club. 5.30pm

Speaker : Nabilla Antipas

Topic : Recycling and Waste Management explained

Have you ever wondered what happens to your waste and recycling when it is picked up from your verge? Do you want to learn how to use your bins better? Come along to hear recycling tips and how to recycle things that can't go in your household bin.

Nabilla did not realise quite how much starting a job in the waste industry 10 years ago would change her life. In the early days of her role as Waste Educator for the Western Metropolitan Regional Council she visited a landfill and recycling facility and was blown away by the volume of waste we produce on a daily basis. Her role involves educating others about reducing waste and managing it wisely.



A REFLECTIVE AUSTRALIAN SHELDUCK!

Local resident, Jan Reudavey, took this lovely photo while walking at Lake Claremont recently.



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