



Terek Sandpiper, *Zenus cinereus* Photo: David Free

This is the first time that this bird species has been spotted at Lake Claremont. See page 4

FOLC AGM

This year's AGM will be held at 4.30 pm, November 21 at the FOLC Shed at the lake. In addition to the AGM, there will be a special meeting to consider an amendment to the constitution. The proposed change, agreed to by the Board of Directors, is to bring the constitution into alignment with current company legislation. This relieves small, not for profit companies from the requirement of having a registered company auditor conduct an audit.

An agenda, reports, financial statements, and other forms, will be sent by email one week prior to the meeting.

We request that any questions/queries relating to the Financial statements be lodged in writing 3 days prior to the date of meeting. All other questions/queries can be discussed as general business without notice.

The meetings will be followed by a BBQ and refreshments. Please RSVP to folc.wa@gmail.com for catering purposes no later than November 14.

WAR ON WEEDS

From : Nick Cook Photos : Naga Srinivas Kasarla

If you have walked around the Lake recently you will have noticed a great number of full weed bags at numerous locations.

Our War on Weeds is in full swing!

Our regular expert weeding teams are doing two sessions a week. The 'Adopt-a-Spot' weeding program almost covers the entire 2019 planting site near the FOLC shed. The Duke of Edinburgh crew are on the job and we have our Greenskills contractors on site every week. Our Christ Church Grammar School students will be back for another two sessions next term.

If you want to get involved, we need all the help we can get. Send us an email at folc.wa@gmail.com



SEPTEMBER 27 BUSY BEE

We held a very good weeding session at the Eastern buffer zone area of Lake Claremont. There was very good participation by our FOLC volunteers with around 33 bags of weeds filled.

Thanks to Heidi Hardisty for leading the session and to Soozie Ross and Cath McAuley for morning tea. Heidi has now returned to Townsville and we thank her for all her efforts while she was in WA.

Heidi Hardisty in action





OCTOBER BUSY BEE

We held another War on Weeds session on October 11 as part of our monthly Busy Bee session.

We were treated to a beautiful spring morning and had a great turnout of 20 volunteers. We split into 2 groups. The weeding 'A Team' led by Norma Hay weeded in the Eastern buffer zone, while the rest of the group weeded a large section of our 2020 planting site along Alfred Road.

Fifty bags were filled with flowering weeds, and we welcomed first time FOLC volunteer, Marina, to our group.

We then converged on the FOLC Shed where a delicious morning teas was provided by Soozie and Geoff Ross with scones by Cath Mc Cauley. Many thanks to Naga for the great photos.



OUR BIRDS

Text and photo : David Free

Terek Sandpiper, *Zenopsis cinereus*

On October 22, I showed a group from Birdlife WA around the lake. There was much excitement when we saw a Terek Sandpiper feeding on the shoreline. This small migratory wader, which weighs less than 100 grams and has a wingspan of about only forty cm, breeds in the far north, mostly in Russia. It migrates thousands of kilometres south, via the East Asian flyway, to escape the winter. Terek Sandpipers are rare in the Perth region. I can find no previous record for Lake Claremont.

They mainly feed on invertebrates, usually in the intertidal zone.

Below : A Terek Sandpiper at Lake Claremont



SPRING BIRD CENSUS

From : David Free

Although there was water covering most of the southern area of the lake, much of the north is dry. In nineteen years of surveying I do not recall seeing the water level this low in October. The gauge at the jetty registered about 1 metre AMHW.

We recorded 596 individuals of 39 species, somewhat above the average for our spring surveys. Breeding activity was noted for Pink-eared and Pacific Black Ducks, Purple Swamphen, Coot, Australasian Grebe, Willy Wagtail, Raven, Tree Martin and Welcome Swallow. Pink-eared Ducks were abundant but, not surprisingly, species favouring deeper water were absent. This year we have noted successful breeding by only one pair of swans, whereas in recent years eight to ten pairs have bred at the lake.

ADOPT-A-SPOT NEWS

From : Jenni Banister-Jones

We had a really enjoyable time on Saturday October 3, when ten Adopt-a-Spotters met for morning tea and a chat. We hardly ever see each other, so it was lovely to catch up at the Shed. A big thank you to Grace who brought chocolate brownies!!

We had such fun, we thought we'd do it again, probably later in November. I'll keep you posted! In the meantime, happy weeding. And if anyone would like to adopt-a-spot, please call Lance 0418 922 885



*The Adopt-a-Spot Group
From left to right : Riley, Troy, Averil,
Alisen, Delia, Grace, Graeme, Mary,
Lance*

SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATION

From : Nick Cook

We are very pleased to announce that we have been awarded another SALP grant for \$15,000 to continue our hand weeding program in 2021.

SALP have been terrific supporters of FOLC over several years and they really understand the need for repeat funding for long term projects like ours.

FOLC uses this funding to hire Ecojobs/Green skills contractors to hand weed. This compliments the good work of our volunteers and the work of the Town of Claremont to continue our hand weeding program in 2021.

Congratulations to our Grants Officer Jenni Bannister-Jones on another successful application!



TURTLES AT LAKE CLAREMONT

From : Nick Cook

In early October, I did an audit of turtle carapaces collected at Lake Claremont since 2014. 182 were collected between 2014 and August 2020.

A further 12 were collected in the last month!

Inspections have been sporadic since 2016 so this, in my opinion, is an underestimate of the true numbers!



Some of the collected carapaces

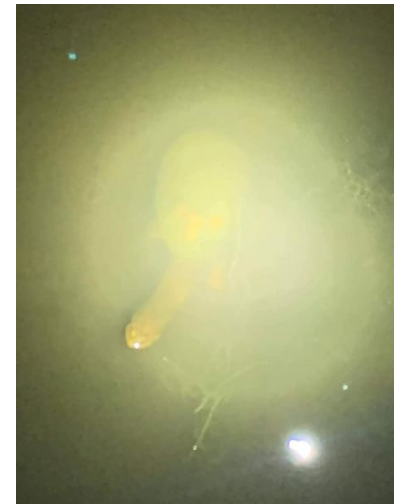
The [Town of Claremont](#) is concerned about turtle welfare and posted the following.

‘The Oblong turtles at Lake Claremont are currently nesting and are travelling through the bushland to either create their nests or to return back to the water. If a turtle needs help getting to the water, please hold them by the shell, close to your body and take them to the water’s edge. As these turtles are threatened, please be mindful of nesting turtles in sand banks and take care while walking around Lake Claremont. Report any injured or sick turtles to Nick Cook, Friends of Lake Claremont on 0401 376 085 or the Turtle Oblonga Network in the Perth metropolitan areas: 0414 476 867 (North)’

Nick Cook adds:-" If you find a turtle heading away from the lake it will likely be a female looking for a suitable nesting site. Please do not intervene unless the turtle is being threatened. If possible, follow at a distance, mark the location of the nest and advise Nick of the location so that the nest can be protected."

On a brighter note, Kirstie Pupazzoni, who is Coordinator at Lake Gwelup, visited Lake Claremont after dark for a look around.

She spotted 14 turtles swimming near the Stirling Road jetty and took this photo.



THE LAKE IN OCTOBER

From : Nick Cook

I always enjoy walking around the lake and meeting members of the public. It has been a month of milestones for one of our regular volunteers this week.

Aish Gujarath graduated from UWA with a Masters in Environmental science and also celebrated her 25th birthday this month. We walked around the remnant bush one morning, on the hunt for feral bees. We located six hives and two swarms. Feral bees compete with our native bees and occupy valuable nesting hollows.



Aish Gujarath



Feral Bee Swarm

On another occasion, a gentleman stopped me while on a walk and asked if I had seen a Willy wagtail nest.

He was a bit cryptic about the location but we found it!

*Willy wagtail
nest.*





One of my favourite birds at Lake Claremont is the Australasian Swamp Hen. These birds love to sit up high and keep an eye on the goings on at the lake. FOLC member Robin Jolly sent this photo.

Left : Australasian Swamp Hen in tree

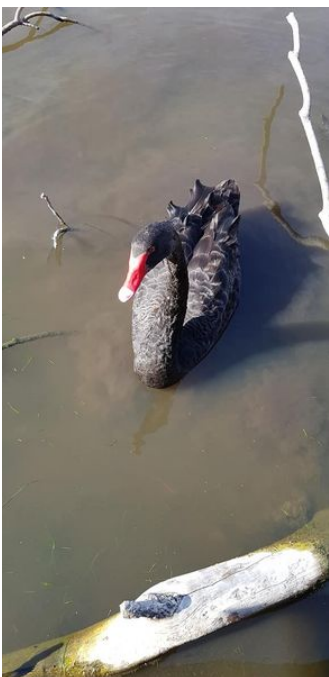
Below : Fox prints



I found some fresh prints out on the wetland which were confirmed as fox prints. These tracks were found near to where a fox was photographed recently.

The Town of Claremont is working to address the fox issue.

The Town of Claremont contractors have spotted a 1 metre long dugite amongst revegetation at Lake Claremont. FOLC strongly suggest that dog owners keep their pets on a lead outside of the dog exercise area.



Sadly I was able to get very close to this swan because someone had been feeding them bread. This is despite there being a sign less than 5m away advising not to do so! Bread is VERY bad for birds and pollutes the wetland.

PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE BIRDS!

PLANTS AT LAKE CLAREMONT IN OCTOBER

From : Karen Wood

The Common Mignonette Orchid *Microtis media*

I had not seen such a cluster of these strange little orchids before. They are quite common but do not come up every year. This orchid has a single tubular leaf and up to one hundred small, yellowish green flowers arranged along the flowering stem. They are endemic to the south west of Western Australia.

Apparently, they can propagate themselves if no suitable insects are about, so this is no doubt why we see them here. There are several different forms of *Microtis*, some with larger white flowers.



Emu Bush *Eremophila glabra*

I also found several examples of *Eremophila glabra* or Emu bush.

The Eremophilas belong to the family Myoporaceae, for the botanically curious!

The emu bush was, and continues to be, planted by FOLC as part of the restoration project.

OCTOBER NIGHT CHAT

From : Hilary Heptinstall

LAKE CLAREMONT NATIVE BEE FAUNA

Our speaker was Kit Prendergast. Kit is a native bee scientist who has just completed a PhD at Curtin University. She has a close connection to Lake Claremont as she lived in Mount Claremont as a teenager and paid frequent visits to the lake. The Friends of Lake Claremont, whose mission is to preserve biodiversity at the lake, has engaged Kit to survey native bee assemblages at Lake Claremont. Tonight Kit gave us the results of surveys on native bees and their flower associations at Lake Claremont from November 2019 to January 2020.

There are more than 2000 species of native bees in Australia and 800 in WA.

Kit Prendergast with Nick Cook



Bushland remnants are indispensable for native bee conservation and all these areas have species unique to that site. Lake Claremont is a precious gem of native bushland in a built up area. While it is known for its biodiversity assets of turtles and birds, the native bee fauna have been unknown. Identifying the flowers they prefer can guide restoration.

Research has revealed that sweep netting is the most efficient method of specimen collecting.

Kit collected 310 specimens which contained 44 species, 12 genera and 4 families.

Sweep netting



Hylaeus (Colletidae) was the most abundant species. Bees were collected from 17 angiosperm species and Myrtaceae were the best! *Eucalyptus marginate* and *Melaleuca huegeli* were the most popular. Bees shift between hosts throughout the months and no bees were collected from exotic species.

There was a decrease in abundance throughout the season which could be linked to decreased rainfall.

Further research is required to get a picture of variation of species between the seasons and across the years.

Feral honey bees have a negative impact on native bees as they compete for resources.

Honey bees are important to agriculture but bee keeping in the suburbs can cause problems.

Kit concluded by saying that Lake Claremont is a high quality habitat for native bees and that retaining the flowers of the family Myrtaceae is very important.

Continued

Ongoing monitoring is essential to determine how bee populations are faring and how much variation between the years exists. Kit feels that more species have yet to be recorded and appreciates the value of researcher–community partnerships.

There were many questions from the large and very interested audience. We learnt that native bees do not produce honey and that their sting is very mild!

Thank you, Kit, for a fascinating and informative evening. We appreciate your spending time with us and look forward to hearing about future findings.

Kit has written a book about native bees and has a Facebook page called 'Bees in the Burbs' for those who would like to learn more.

Naga has posted a video of this talk on the FOLC Facebook page for those who could not be present.

THANK YOU TO OUR NIGHT CHAT ORGANISERS

This was the last of what has been a very interesting (if interrupted) series of Night Chats this year.

Many thanks are due to Nicky Armstrong (Night Chats Coordinator) and to Chloe Davidson and Naga Srinivas Kasarla who have produced our publicity materials. They have all done a wonderful job and we look forward to more events next year.

Our next Night Chat will be an outdoor event in February – details to follow.

Thanks are also due to Soozie and Geoff Ross, Nicky Armstrong and Jenni Banister-Jones who have provided the delicious refreshments. A great way to start the evening!

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY

We have a position available for an assistant to the Treasurer/Secretary. This is an important role and a chance to make a valuable contribution to our organisation. Please contact us at folc.wa@gmail.com if you or someone you know is interested.



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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