



Nick Cook took this great photo of some of our wonderful volunteers at the FOLC January busy Bee

Members of Friends of Lake Claremont have continued to work hard during the holiday season in December and January. Weeding sessions and two busy bees have been held since since our last news letter was published and all were very successful. Read all about them on pages 2 -4

It is good to see the return of our regular contributors, David Free and Karen Wood, and to learn what is happening around the lake. See pages 5 and 6.

Our 2021 Night Chats Sessions will commence in March and details will be give in our next newsletter.

FOLC membership renewals are due in February and the ongoing support of our members is very important to us. Please see page 10 for details.

END OF YEAR WEEEDING SESSIONS

From : Nick Cook

We had a great weeding session on November 29 with a group of about 12 volunteers including a number of new recruits.

The group managed to pick through the 2020 planting site leaving the area clear of weeds.

About 22 bags were filled which was a great effort.



Our young volunteers took some interesting photos. New recruit Danielle spotted this beautiful dragonfly (left) taking a rest on some vegetation. Young Harry spotted a Christmas spider (right).

We held a second weeding session on December 6. It was a spectacular morning to be out on the wetland.

We had a group of 12 volunteers which focused on weeding. We targeted Bushy Starwort, thistles and the dreaded Spear Thistle.

The volunteers put in a super effort and filled 41 bags! A small group of volunteers from UWA joined us for the 1st time. The UWA Guild was promoting volunteering as part of an initiative called '24 days of giving'. This project was aimed at international students who could not be home with their families at Christmas due to the Covid pandemic and aimed to get them involved in their local communities.

DECEMBER BUSY BEE

From : Nick Cook. Photos : Nicky Armstrong

We had another terrific turnout for our last Busy Bee of 2020 on December 13. We had about 16 volunteers out on the wetland at a little after 7am. We enjoyed the cooler conditions as we set to the task of hand weeding focused once again on the Thistle, Starwort and Spear Thistle.

Again, this week, we were joined by some 1st time volunteers at Lake Claremont from UWA. I think they really enjoyed the experience and were very engaging.

As always Soozie put on a fantastic morning tea which the crew really earned and enjoyed.

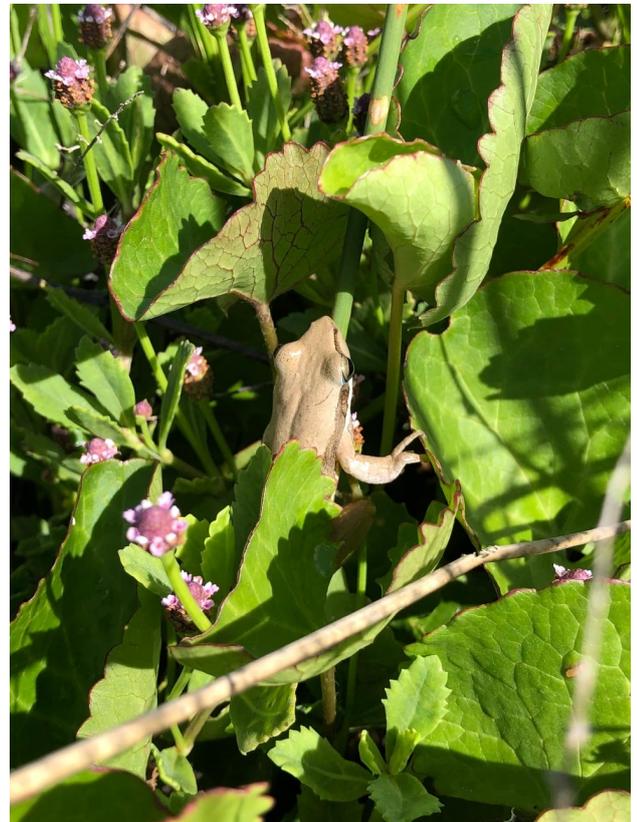
We had a great haul of 70 bags !

We are so grateful for the support of our members, volunteers and the wider community. Thank you

Nicky Armstrong managed to snap a few pics in between pulling weeds and finding frogs (Slender Tree Frog)



Danielle Marie



Slender tree frog

JANUARY BUSY BEE

From : Nick Cook. Photos : Nick Cook and Nicky Armstrong

On January 10 we welcomed a cool change for our first Busy Bee of 2021. About 20 volunteers turned up for a 7am start. We headed out onto the wetland to continue with our WAR ON WEEDS! The team did a great job and we filled about seventy bags plus a big pile of Bushy Starwort (probably another 20 bags worth). We finished at the shed for morning tea put together by Soozie Ross and got an update on happenings around the Lake.



Lyssandra Lumley



OUR BIRDS

Text and photo : David Free

White-browed Scrubwren, *Sericornis frontalis*

At this time of the year, when our lake is usually dry, most bird activity is in the surrounding vegetation. The White-browed Scrubwren is a small insectivore which has taken up residence as the replanted bush has matured and its insect population increased. Scrubwrens feed in the lower levels of bush and on the ground.

This cross looking little bird is shy and secretive but, at the same time, curious. It can sometimes be persuaded to hop into view.

Although I have not seen them breeding at the lake, I suspect that they do so. The nest is dome shaped with a side entrance and the clutch is 2-3 eggs.



JANUARY BIRD SURVEY *From: David Free*

On 17th January my wife, Pam, and I conducted a survey of the birds at Lake Claremont. The day was warm with a gusting easterly breeze, which inhibited observation of the smaller birds.

The lake was dry except for a small shallow patch of water in the southern part. The bushland is tinder dry.

We observed 158 individuals of 24 species. This is lower than our average summer census, which has sometimes been conducted when there has been water in the lake. Unsurprisingly, no waterfowl were present. One Darter, flying overhead, was a surprise sighting.

IN BLOOM IN JANUARY

From : Karen Wood

Ruby Saltbush *Enchylaena tomentosa* (Right)

This plant is usually found growing in salt marshes across most Australian states. The sweet berries are loved by birds, insects and small animals. They were also eaten raw by indigenous people or soaked in water to make a sweet tea.

Two Leaf Hakia *Hakia trifurcata* (Below left)

It is thought this plant developed the second, oval leaf in order to protect it's fruits, which are a similar size and colour, from predators.

Western Swamp She-oak *Casuarina obesa* (Below right)

These woody cones are produced only by the female She-oak. The species grows mostly in the south west of WA, but has relatives in NSW and Victoria. The Western She-oak is a hard wood, useful for carpentry. Before the time of aluminium casks the wood was used in the manufacture of beer barrels.



NEWS FROM LAKE CLAREMONT

From : Nick Cook

OUR HARDWORKING HAND WEEDERS

Our hand weeding crew (led by Norma Hay) have made an outstanding contribution throughout this year.

This small group of volunteers meets every Monday morning for an hour or 2 and would love to have some new recruits!

These ladies have put in a massive effort. One week the crew filled 31 bags of weed in a little over an hour from one of the islands out on the lakebed. Outstanding!

If you are interested in helping please make contact with us. folc.wa@gmail.com



NEW SEATS

Thanks to the crew at Professional Tree Services for carving up these seats for us to use around the FOLC shed. These will be well used!



BANDED ORB WEAVING SPIDER



This Banded Orb Weaver *Argiope trifasciata* was spotted by Nicky Armstrong out on the wetland on Jan 10 and she took this beautiful photo.

Often mistaken for a dangerous creature, the Australian golden orb-weaving spider is in fact harmless to humans. It has a dark-brown carapace (the "head"), a cream coloured abdomen, and yellow banded legs. Males are very small, and are often difficult to locate in the web of the female.

TURTLE PREDATION

I visited the wetland twice in early December. Sadly, in those two visits I collected eighteen carapaces!

This is due to a mixture of fox and raven predation.

Off-lead dogs also pose a risk to our precious turtles and the Town of Claremont have posted a sign urging walkers to keep their dogs on-leash.



Some of the collected turtle carapaces

Protect Our Wetland
Nesting Turtles



Predators such as foxes and ravens kill female turtles when they leave Lake Claremont to lay eggs during spring and summer.

However, local observations show that each year inquisitive off-lead dogs also inadvertently kill nesting females. This is another important reason to keep your dog on-leash around the lake.

For further information ring the Town on 9285 4300 or email toc@claremont.wa.gov.au.

TOWN OF CLAREMONT
Est. 1899

FROM THE TOWN OF CLAREMONT Reducing glyphosate use

The Town is actively moving away from the use of glyphosate in weed reduction, preferencing less harmful chemicals for the health of the community and the environment. The new naturally occurring chemical, Pelargonic Acid, can take a longer time to kill the weeds as it works by dehydrating the plant. Therefore, you may notice more weeds in cooler weather compared to during the hotter months. We appreciate the community's understanding while we adapt our weed management schedule to the new timeframes. We have now removed the use of glyphosate from all public interface areas including footpaths, walkways, kerbs and roads.

EXHIBITION OF WORK BY FRIENDS OF LAKE CLAREMONT MEMBER, MARY YATES

From ; Jenni Banister-Jones

The Grove Library has just had an exhibition of Mary's amazing work! Remember the wonderful illustrated historical map of Lake Claremont in the Shed? This is just one of many maps she has done over the last 30+ years.

Mary started drawing maps in Southern Africa in 1988 where she worked as a tour guide. She drew because she didn't have a camera! These works of art have now evolved to include maps of the local history of the Western Suburbs, commissioned works for Presbyterian Ladies' College, and using the Snakes & Ladders concept, "board game" maps for Synergy Parkland in Kings Park and Rottnest.

The exhibition ended on January 30, but if you'd like to see her range of maps, purchase a print or commission a work, please contact Mary at myates@tpg.com.au



Joan Tock at the exhibition Photo: Soozie Ross



One of Mary's posters Photo: Jenni Banister-Jones

FOLC MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE IN FEBRUARY

From : Nick Cook

Here we are and it's February already!

It is at this time of year that FOLC memberships come up for renewal.

Your ongoing support is very important to us and we hope that those of you who are due for renewal will continue to support the work that we do.

Our Membership Secretary Gina will be contacting members set for renewal in early February.

We would like to encourage members to consider renewing online via the FOLC website. This is a secure and convenient way to remain a FOLC member. We have put a lot of time and effort into upgrading the website for this purpose and a strong uptake of online members will really streamline our subscriptions process and also create less work for Admin volunteers.

Below is a link to our website membership page

[Membership Levels – Friends of Lake Claremont](#)

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Note : Dates could be subject to change due to current Covid restrictions

DATE	ACTIVITY
Sunday February 7	Duke of Edinburg service
Thursday February 11	Lake Claremont Advisory Committee
Friday February 12	Walk and talk with Quintillian School
Friday February 12	Year 10 Community Service
Sunday February 14	February Busy Bee
Monday February 15	FOLC Board meeting
Friday February 19	Year 10 Community Service
Sunday February 21	Duke of Edinburg service
Friday February 26	Year 10 Community Service
Sunday February 28	Duke of Edinburg service



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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