



Brenton See's Mural at the FOLC Shed *Photo: Naga Srinivas Karsala*

From the editor

We are all delighted that the transformation of the Friends of Lake Claremont shed is now complete. Brenton See's painting features a Carnaby's black cockatoo, South western snake-necked turtle, bobtail lizard, Australian reed warbler and froggatti cuckoo bee. It is a celebration of the unique wildlife at Lake Claremont.

Read more about this on pages 3 and 4.

The most recent lock-down has seen an increase in the number of walkers around Lake Claremont. We are lucky to have such a beautiful conservation category wetland in Claremont where we can exercise and enjoy the surroundings at this time.

Our Night Chat session scheduled for April 27 has been postponed until Tuesday, May 4, and we hope to see many of our members and friends there.

APRIL BUSY BEE

Text : Nick Cook Photos : Nicky Armstrong

This was held on April 11. We were lucky that we managed to fit in a solid weeding session before the heavier rains from Cyclonic Seroja hit Perth. The rain was only light and so we pushed on with a smaller than usual group of 10. First we tackled the lake-bed to do a final clearance of Starwort and Spear Thistle as we may not get out there again depending on water levels. We then headed up to the Ballaruk bush and onto the Alfred Road blocks to tackle a couple of weed hotspots. We were definitely ready for some hot coffee and morning tea by 10am. Thank you, Soozie!



Our small group of volunteers



Weeders at work



Morning tea at the shed

MURAL AT THE FOLC SHED

From : Nick Cook Photos : Naga Srinivas Karsala

I am delighted to say that the Brenton See mural is now complete with anti graffiti coatings applied. Thank you Brenton, we LOVE it!

The mural was commissioned by the Town of Claremont in order to mark the completion of major revegetation works at Lake Claremont in 2020 and to celebrate the collaboration between the Town, FOLC and the community in restoring this Conservation Category Wetland. The mural will be the first piece of art in the park and an art trail will be developed over the next few years.

After the Long Nine Golf Course was closed in 2009, FOLC and Town of Claremont commenced revegetation works in 2010. Since 2009 FOLC have won over \$750k in grant funding and purchased and installed almost 400,000 native plants at the Lake!

The FOLC shed site was planted in 2019 on National Tree Day when we had over 100 volunteers. Thanks to Planet Ark, these plantings were part funded by a Seedbank grant.

Thanks go to the Town of Claremont for their support and commitment throughout the revegetation of the wetland and for their ongoing support of FOLC's volunteering efforts. FOLC would also like to thank the Community and all our volunteers for their dedication and support over many years!



The 2019 plantings at the FOLC Shed

More photos on page 4



The mural has proved very popular with walkers and many photos have been taken including those below.



The shed at sunrise Photo : Andrea Saunders



Celeste with the Carnaby's black cockatoo Photo: Rose Senior

OUR BIRDS

Text and photo : David Free

Weebill, *Smicrornis brevirostris*

Australia's smallest bird is probably always present in the Eucalypt canopy, where they forage for insects. Their small size and rapid movements make observation tricky but they can be heard as they maintain contact with group or family members by softly whistling. Weebills build a domed nest in the dense outer canopy. Clutch size is two to three.



ADOPT - A - SPOT NEWS

From : Jenni Banister-Jones

It is beautiful autumn weather to get down to your spot, admire the stunning new artwork on the Shed and get stuck into the weeds. However, it seems that you've all done a great job and that there are not that many weeds, despite the good rain we had earlier in tApril. Congratulations! More time to admire the artwork!

Overall the 2019 planting around the Shed has done really well, and for some people, it's now almost impossible to get to your spots. If you'd like to move, the 2020 planting sites along Alfred Road will need some attention to ensure the weeds don't get a strangle-hold there. Please let Lance know and he'll give you a new spot.

And if you'd like to join the Adopt-a-spot program, please call Lance on 0418 922 885 or email folc.wa@gmail.com

FLOWERING IN APRIL

From : Karen Wood

Sheoak Allocasuarina fraseriana

There are many varieties of sheoak or *Allocasuarina* throughout Australia. Three of these are indigenous to our south west. The [Noongar](#) people know this tree as Condil.

This April has seen the flowering and fruiting of these gentle and rather modest trees. The male bears the flower spikes which give a rusty, quite distinctive haze at the branch ends which contrasts with the dull green of the needles, properly called cladodes, since the leaves are tiny little growths, inconspicuous on the needles. The female plant has the round knobby fruiting cones loved by ring necked parrots which feed on the seeds as the cone ripens. Sometimes a sheoak can have both the flowers and the cones at the same time. On our coastal plain this sheoak is often found associated with banksias.



Female plant with fruit



Male plant

Continued on next page

The tree provides homes and food for a great variety of insects including at least three kinds of jewel beetle and the caterpillar of a weevil which has exactly the colouring of the flower spikes and so are very difficult to find. The timber of the allocasuarina has been prized and utilised since the early settlers arrived on these shores, but the Noongar people appreciated the tree well before that and for many reasons. Women often gave birth on the soft layers of the dropped cladodes that were deposited underneath the tree. The cladodes could also be laid as comfortable bedding when covered with a kangaroo skin. Babies were sometimes put to sleep under the tree as the wind whispering through the branches is very soothing.



The other species of *Allocasuarina* in the Perth area are *Allocasuarina lehmanniana*, the very hardy dune sheoak, *Allocasuarina huegeliana*, sighing or rock sheoak, which is found toward the Darling Scarp and Dwarf Sheoak *Allocasuarina humilis*.

FOLC FACEBOOK PAGE

From : Nick Cook

I would like to welcome the great number of people that have recently joined/liked our FB page!

Our recent posts regarding the Brenton See mural have travelled far and wide and reached almost 1,500 views! As a result we have had over 60 new page likes in the last couple of weeks bringing the total following our page to almost 1,500.

We hope you enjoy the content and will continue to follow our page.

LIFE AT THE LAKE IN APRIL

NATIVE YAM PROJECT

From : Nick Cook

I was very excited to venture out onto the wetland and check on our native yam project (planted mid 2020) today.

In March there was no sign of regrowth after their dormancy through the summer.

Today I found new shoots on around 70% of the plants.

This has been a very special project for FOLC. Naga will be putting together a video of the project. We look forward to sharing it with you.



BEE ACTIVITY

FOLC member Nicky Armstrong sent this photos from around Lake Claremont recently. It shows a European honey bee and a native bee on a Banksia prionotes.



BLACK HEADED MONITOR

Our artist in residence, Brenton See, reported sighting a Black Headed Monitor whilst he was painting the shed. The Monitor was about 50cm long!

This is a very exciting discovery for us at FOLC! We share Brenton's hope that this indicates that a small population of this gorgeous Monitor has made a home amongst our revegetation sites. Thank you Brenton for allowing us to share your image.

MAY NIGHT CHAT

Tuesday May 25, 5.30 pm at Claremont Tennis Club

Our May speaker will be Natasha Pauli (pictured)) who will speak on the topic :-

‘Shaping the living architecture of the street: Understanding Perth’s native verge garden revolution’

Natasha is a Senior Lecturer in Geography at the University of Western Australia, in the School of Agriculture and Environment and School of Social Sciences. Natasha’s research focusses on human-environment interactions. With a broad range of experiences across the biological and social sciences, she is passionate about finding opportunities for conserving and increasing biodiversity in urban, agricultural and natural settings. Natasha is also a local



Once a marginal practice, installing native plants on residential street verges is becoming increasingly common – and a number of Perth local governments are actively promoting and incentivising the practice. However, little information is available on the benefits and challenges of transforming the street verge to a native garden, from either the residents’ point of view, nor from key stakeholders with an interest in streetscape management.

This talk will showcase the results of social-ecological research on suburban street verges in Perth, set within current trends in Perth’s urban forest. Natasha will discuss the social benefits and challenges for verge gardeners drawing on interviews with residents, as well as the potential habitat values, based on plant and insect surveys. Western Australia is leading the way in adopting verge gardens, which has likely been facilitated by a complex network of interactions and information sharing across networks including community leaders, industry, local and state government.

Members will be notified by email about registration for this event.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

From : Nick Cook

National Volunteer Week will be celebrated between Monday 17th May and Sunday 23rd May. On Saturday 22nd May the Town of Claremont will be holding a function to celebrate the efforts of FOLC over many years working to restore our conservation category wetland. In 2020 we reached a significant milestone with the completion of the major revegetation works as per the Lake Claremont Master Plan."

VACANCY FILLED

From : Nick Cook

We are very pleased to advise that the FOLC Board have appointed FOLC member Andrew Cuthbertson to the position of Reviewer of FOLC financials.

Recent changes to the FOLC Constitution give our Board the ability to appoint a reviewer to independently review our financial accounts. This decision potentially saves us paying substantial ongoing audit costs. The FOLC Board retains the ability, at anytime, to engage an auditor should they feel it appropriate.

Andrew's 'resume' leaves him substantially over qualified for the role. Andrew has previously been Chairman of Shine (NFP) and also sat on the Town of Claremont's Risk and Audit Committee. We look forward to working with Andrew and appreciate him bringing his experience and skills to the role as a FOLC volunteer.

MAY CALENDAR

DATE	ACTIVITY
May 4	Night Chats Hans Lambers
May 7	Yr10 CSP
May 8	FOLC Busy Bee
May 14 and 21	Yr10 CSP
May 22	Town of Claremont Volunteer Function
May 25	Night Chats Natasha Paul
May 28	Year !0 CSP



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