



*Scotch College Community Service Students at their final planting session for the season*

### *From the editor*

June has been another very busy month at Lake Claremont. On June 12, members enjoyed a function hosted by The Town of Claremont to celebrate the completion of major plantings and the collaboration between TOC and FOLC. (see page 2 )

The planting season, led by Heidi Hardisty, has been going ahead with many different volunteer groups (see pages 4-5).

Our oldest member, Joan Tock, celebrated her 102nd birthday this month and she is still a regular attendee at FOLC Busy Bees! Congratulations, Joan! You are an inspiration to us all! (See page 8)

In early 2014 our bird man, David Free, was asked to write a column called "David's Birds" in the newsletter, for twelve months.

He agreed, but changed the title to "Our Birds". Eighty plus newsletters later, he is still going strong but is running out of species occurring at the lake! This month features the Pied Cormorant, which David has only seen there once (See page 8). After this he will cover a few species seen in Claremont which do not visit the lake. He will then publish reprints, perhaps updated with more information and/or better photographs!

Well done, David! We all enjoy your lovely bird photos and informative articles.

I am also enjoying Karen Wood's articles. (See page 7) We are very lucky to have input from so many knowledgeable contributors.

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## TOWN OF CLAREMONT VOLUNTEER THANK YOU EVENT

*From : Nick Cook Photos : Kasarla Digital Solutions*

On a beautiful sunny afternoon on Saturday June 12, the Town of Claremont, along with Friends of Lake Claremont, celebrated the official launch of Brenton See's incredible artwork 'Flora and Fauna of Lake Claremont' on the FOLC shed at the lake. The event was marked by a Smoking Ceremony by Traditional Custodian, Iva Hayward Jackson, followed by addresses by Mayor, Jock Barker, who thanked the volunteers for their great work over the years and FOLC Coordinator, Nick Cook who presented Norma Hay with FOLC Life Membership. (See page 3) The volunteers then enjoyed socialising and enjoying delicious food and drinks.



*Iva Hayward-Jackson*



*Jock Barker*



*Celebrating Brenton See's mural*



*Celebrating the work of FOLC volunteers*



## FOLC LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARDED TO NORMA HAY

*From : Nick Cook Photo : Chris Mathews*

On Saturday I had the pleasure of presenting FOLC volunteer Norma Hay with a Life Membership for her outstanding contribution to the Friends of Lake Claremont.

Norma has been volunteering at Lake Claremont for many, many years. She is a dedicated and passionate member of our group.

Norma has led our War on Weeds and is one of the hardest working members of our group. Norma leads a small group of hand weeders (Maggie, Dot and Consie) who are on the ground week in week out. This team is a weeding machine and the most vital part of our strategy to reduce weed loads and reduce the use of chemical weed control at Lake Claremont.

Congratulations Norma and THANK YOU for your significant contribution and your tireless dedication .

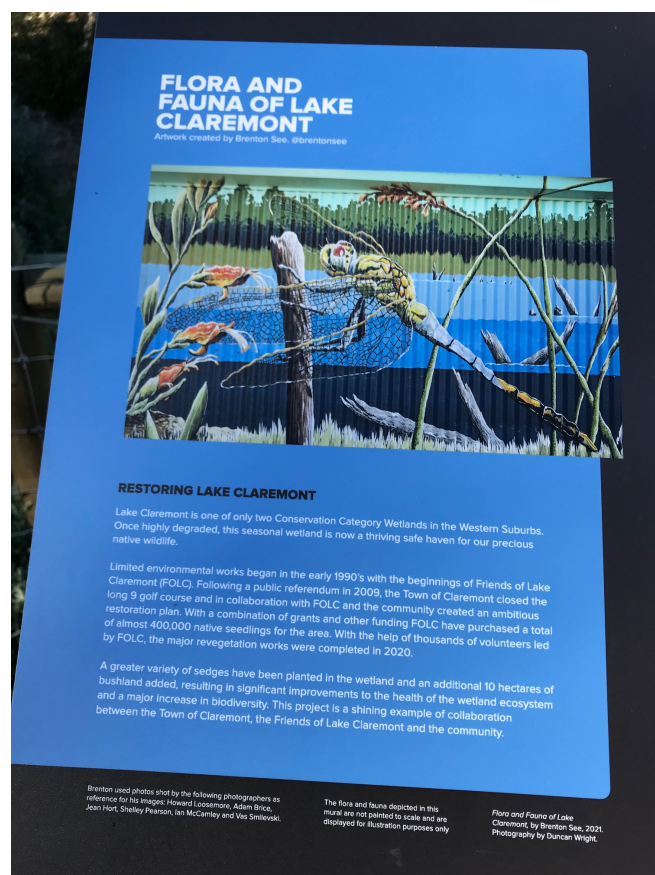
*Norma Hay with her award*



## NEW SIGNAGE AT LAKE CLAREMONT

Thanks to Town of Claremont and FORM WA, new interpretive signage has been installed at the FOLC shed describing the flora and fauna featured in Brenton See's mural.

Signs indicating the location of the mural have also been installed around the lake.





## START OF THE 2021 PLANTING SEASON

*From : Nick Cook    Photos : Nick Cook and Kasarla Digital Solutions*

Led by our Planting Supervisor Heidi Hardisty, the planting season commenced on Friday, June 11, with our Year 10 Community Service students from Scotch College and Christchurch Grammar School.

The boys did a great job and managed to plant 480 native tube stock in just over an hour. We planted along the eastern bank of the wetland to stabilise the banks and provide some vegetative cover for our turtles.



*Christchurch Grammar students watching Heidi's planting demonstration*



On Saturday, June 12 volunteers from the Australian Institute of Marine Sciences joined in the planting of Ballaruk bush at the end of Myera St. We are very happy to have them back this year to join us in restoring our remnant bushland.



*Zac Hardisty and Tony Barr (above)  
The AIMS planting group (left)*



We held our monthly Busy Bee on Sunday June 13. FOLC volunteers were joined by members of the public to help us install about 500 plants. Many thanks to Heidi Hardisty for leading all our sessions.

One of our Traditional Custodians, Iva Hayward Jackson also joined us for the morning. It was a great turn out with about 40 volunteers and the group did a great job. We finished in a little over an hour, so we then took the group to do some hand weeding, followed by a terrific morning tea put on by Cath MacCauley and Averil Balfe. Many thanks to all our volunteers!



*Regular volunteers, Alice Thomas and Delia Hendrie*



*Young volunteer, Molly*



*Heidi Hardisty with keen volunteers*



## VOLUNTEER SNAPSHOT

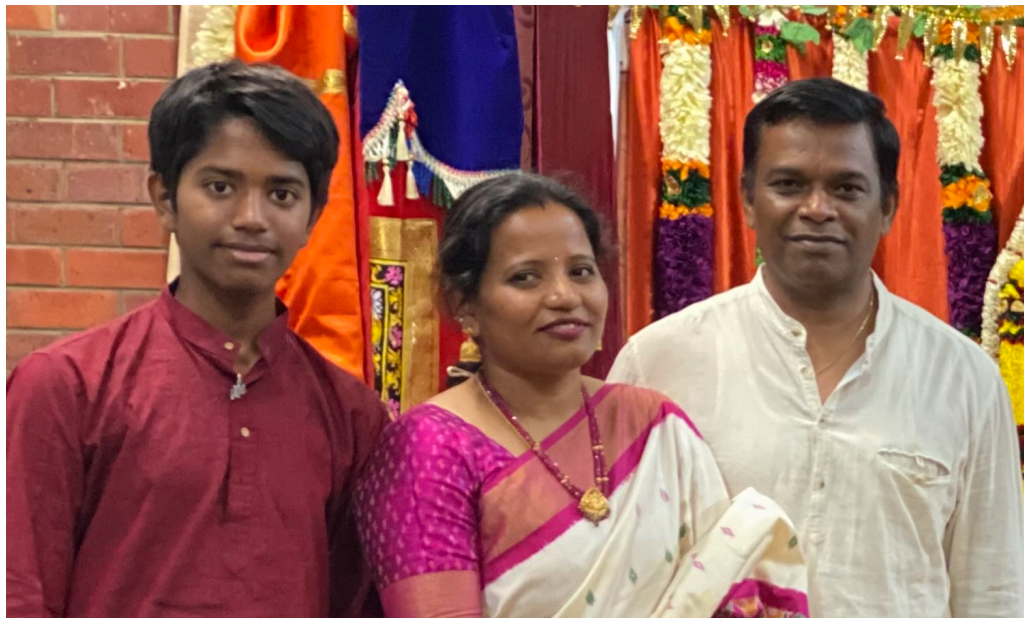
**Naga Srinivas Karsala,  
FOLC's Photographer and Filmmaker**  
*By : Rose Senior*

Naga has made himself a highly valued member of the FOLC team since joining us in March 2020. He started by using his skills to photograph the busy bee sessions and then progressed to filming our Night Chats. He has now expanded his repertoire by designing our publicity posters.

We are fortunate to have Naga with us, particularly since it might never have happened! His original plan was to come to Perth from Hyderabad for two months at a time to support his wife Anu and son Vaishnov who is in Year 8 at Shenton College. But then Covid struck and his plans to return to India to run his own video production company were put on hold.

What was he going to do in Australia? Naga summed up his philosophy as follows:

*When you're away from home you mustn't sit idle. You must do something regularly to keep occupied – otherwise you forget who you are. I'm a photographer and film maker!*



*Naga with son, Vaishnov and wife, Anusree*

### *Coordinator's note*

It has been an absolute pleasure to welcome Naga and Anu into our 'family'. They have both made a fantastic contribution to the work we do. Naga's exceptional talent as a photographer has taken our FaceBook page and other promotional material to the next level.

Thank you Naga and Anu!



## FUNGI AT LAKE CLAREMONT IN JUNE

From : Karen Wood

### Arching Earth Star *Geastrum fornicatum*.

Geo means earth and strum star. Fornicatum means arched.

This strange fungus is uncommon. Unlike other earthstar species the rays stand up on their tips rather than lying flat on the ground. The fruiting body which contains the spores is raised up, probably so that the spores can be carried some distance away on even the slightest breeze. Earth stars are inedible and possibly poisonous. *(Below left)*

### Dog poo fungus *Pisolithus* sp.

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The Dog poo fungus emerges as a common brown puff ball, mottled and often covered with earth. As it ages it lengthens on a thick stalk and then breaks down into a mass of powdery khaki spores, seen in this photo *(Below centre )*

The young puffballs were eaten by indigenous people if other food was scarce.

The name given to this unfortunate species is not because it grows on dog poo, but because the result of treading on the ripe fruiting body has much the same effect as treading on a fresh barker's nest, horrible in bare feet and unpleasantly smelly in shoes.

### Jelly Fungus *Tremella globispora*

This is a parasitic crust forming fungus, convoluted and translucent like a series of small brains.

Some forms of jelly fungus are useful in the skin care industry and have been used in Asian countries, especially for their hydrating properties. Few of the jellies are poisonous but apparently taste of nothing much at all. The one in the photograph, from the remnant bush, did not look at all appetising nor tempting as a skin reviver! *(Below right)*





## OUR BIRDS

*Text and photo by David Free*

### **Pied Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax varius***

Somewhat similar to the Little Pied Cormorant, this species can be readily distinguished by its larger size and colored bare skin around the face. It is a rare visitor to our lake: I only recall having seen it there once. However, they can usually be observed on the river at Freshwater Bay.

Pied Cormorants feed on fish and crustaceans. They have been known to steal from fishermen's nets. In 1897 a bounty of three pence was paid for the destruction of any cormorant species south of the Moore river. This was discontinued in 1914. In the mid 1800s larger quantities of cormorant guano were harvested from Shark Bay.

Pied Cormorants nest on the ground, or on low bushes or trees, in crowded colonies. The clutch size is normally two to four.



### **JOAN TOCK TURNS 102**

Congratulations, Joan!

Love and best wishes from all your friends at Friends of Lake Claremont!



## YEAR 10 COMMUNITY SERVICE *From: Nick Cook*



It was the final session at Lake Claremont for the Scotch College students, so we took them on a special planting project. They planted Tuarts, Marri and Sheoak trees. We commenced planting on the turfed areas in the north of the park and also added three Tuarts on the Alfred Road verge. These trees will provide food and habitat for our native birds, especially our endangered Carnaby's cockatoo!

The Scotch College students this semester have been a terrific group and it has been a real pleasure working with them!  
We look forward to seeing the CCGS students again next term.

## ADOPT-A- SPOT NEWS

*From : Jenni Banister- Jones*

Your patch needs you! Thanks to all this rain, the weeds are back! There is a lot of annual veldt grass (pictured) plus a number of thistles, mallow and onion weed. The latter has bulbs which make them very difficult to eradicate. However, pulling out the leaves should reduce their reserves and vitality.

Contractors have sprayed in open areas. The remaining weeds are all growing up through the native trees and shrubs so hand weeding is the only way to get rid of them! So please, head down to your spot and farewell them before they set seed!

And while you're there, don't forget to admire the wonderful mural.

If you'd like to join the Adopt-a-spot program, please call Lance on 0418 922 885 or email [folc.wa@gmail.com](mailto:folc.wa@gmail.com)





## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' VISIT

*From : Heidi Hardisty*

It was a pleasure to guide a walk for international students with UWA CELT (Centre for English Language Teaching) last week. Students came from Brazil, Vietnam, China, Philippines and Argentina.

The students were treated to a visit by a Forest Red-tailed black cockatoo and a hot lunch!



*Heidi addressing the group*



*Students enjoying lunch*

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SESSIONS

*From : Nick Cook*

On Sunday mornings, we hold volunteering sessions with our Duke of Edinburgh candidates.

On Sunday June 27, it was just Matt and I. We hit the weeds along the path edges on the east side. Chemical control is no longer used on the path edges in an effort to minimise exposure to herbicides. It was a very productive morning.

Thanks to all the people who stopped to say hi or offer thanks for our work. So much lovely feedback from the public.





## JUNE NIGHT CHAT

*From : Hilary Heptinstall*

Tuesday June 22 saw a full house at Claremont Tennis Club to hear our guest speaker, Professor Kingsley Dixon (right) speak on the topic of 'Food, fire and biodiversity'.

Kingsley is an ecologist, botanist and conservationist who also has a very good knowledge of geology!

He is passionate about the bush and would like to change the school curriculum to include indigenous history and culture.

He spoke of the formation of Australia when plate tectonics split the world into continents. Australia was attached to Antarctica until 65 million years ago.



As an island continent Australia became a refuge for many species which did not develop elsewhere.

As the continent moved north, it became hotter and, 20 million years ago, lightning strikes caused fires which caused the centre of the continent to dry, separating WA from the rest of Australia. WA became a home to many unique plant species including Kangaroo Paws, Ground Orchids and Banksias.

Banksias survive well in infertile soil. Carnaby's Black Cockatoos adapted to eat Banksia nuts. As Banksias have become scarce, Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoos and Carnaby's Black Cockatoos have moved to the city and feed on pecan nuts, macadamia nuts and almonds, much to the annoyance of growers.

We now have fragmented landscapes and need to rebuild in a caring and engaged way. Kingsley will become Chair of an international organisation which, will address decades of ecosystem degradation.

It is important that we all care for our bushland and work to protect and enhance our environment.

There were many questions from the very interested audience. Kingsley finished by saying that he was very impressed with our group and that he wished we lived in his area, City Beach!

Thank you for a fascinating and very informative evening, Kingsley.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### FUNGI FOR LAND

*From : Heidi Hardisty*

Save the date!

Fungi for Land. A special guided walk to view the special and interesting fungi around Lake Claremont will be held on Sunday July 18th from 10:00 -12:00 for FOLC members and their families. You will receive an invitation by email very soon.





## JULY NIGHT CHAT

Title: Honeybees - not the "honeys" of the bee world

*Tuesday July 27 July. 5.30pm at Claremont Tennis Club*

We are always pleased to host Dr Kit Prendergast (right). This month's chat should prove very interesting. With the rise of backyard bee keeping here in Perth what are the impacts on our native bee populations?

The Bee Babette, Dr Kit Prendergast, is a native bee ecologist and conservation biologist. Under a Forrest Scholarship she undertook her PhD investigating native bees in the urbanised region of the SWWA biodiversity hotspot. Kit has also undertaken the first native bee survey at Lake Claremont, producing a report available for the general public and management authorities to read. She is the author of a number of books including 'Creating a Haven for Native Bees' and 'Abuzz About Dawson's Burrowing Bee.' In 2019 she was a Finalist for the Young Achiever of the Year Scott Print Environmental and Sustainability Award.

As always please register by email to reserve your seat.



## PLANTING DATES

We will be planting at our next Busy Bee on Sunday July 11th. Please meet at 08:00 at the Myera Street cul-de-sac.

National Tree Day is Sunday 1st August. Meet at 08:00 at the FOLC shed. Please register here: <https://treeday.planetark.org/site/10024330>

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SESSIONS

Sessions will be held on Sundays July 4, 11 18 and 25





natural resource  
management program



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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](http://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](mailto:heptins@bigpond.net.au) 0411 052 329

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