



Black Swans with cygnets Photo : Hilary Heptinstall

From the editor

It is lovely to see a full Lake Claremont and to see the water birds with their young. The Black Swans, that nested near the gazebo, are now parents to five beautiful cygnets.

We have now come to the end of our planting season and, this year, we have planted about 4000 native tubestock at Lake Claremont as part of our infill program. We did not receive any grant funding this year, so all plants were jointly funded by FOLC and Town of Claremont.

Claremont Council staff will investigate what would be required for a dual naming of Lake Claremont and will report back to the next Lake Claremont Advisory Committee meeting.

The town of Claremont will host 'Celebrate Lake Claremont Day' on September 19 at the end of Lapsley Rd from 11.00am - 2.00pm.

FOLC will be giving away native tube stock for the community to plant in their home gardens. There will be a lot of activities for children, informative talks for adults and food and art for all. We hope to see you all there!

THE PLANTING SEASON

Text and photos : Nick Cook.

The end of July and beginning of August saw huge activity in planting at Lake Claremont.

It started on Friday, July 30, with our Yr 10 Community Service students from Scotch College and Christ Church Grammar School.

The boys did a great job of planting 480 plants in less than an hour and a half.

We were lucky enough to see this beautiful rainbow.

Photo : Jess Forbes

On Saturday July 31, we welcomed our dear friends from Sha Satnam Ji Welfare Force Wing.

The Sha Satnam crew are master planters and we comfortably planted 800 seedlings in just over two hours. *Sha Satnam planting group (below)*



Bruce Haynes with the gator



Young volunteers

NATIONAL TREE DAY

Sunday August 1 marked National Tree Day, one of our biggest planting days of the year. At around 6am we wondered whether we may need to cancel the event because of the wild weather.

We decided to go ahead, and a great group of volunteers arrived to plant despite the rain and wind.

We had many first time volunteers, including a terrific group from the Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce.



*Above: Heidi Hardisty with volunteer
Below : Empty pots*



Keeping dry!



Zac Hardisty and volunteers



AUGUST BUSY BEE

On Sunday August 8, we held our monthly Busy Bee and welcomed 25 volunteers including a number of new recruits.

The rain held off and the group planted and did a spot of weeding along the way.

It was a great group and we finished up with a lovely morning tea at the shed. Thanks to Averil Balfe, Lesley Osbourne and the many cake makers who provided refreshments.

As we have just about finished planting for the year we wish to acknowledge the hard work of Heidi Hardisty, our Planting Supervisor. Thank you, Heidi. You have done a wonderful job!



Planters in action (above)

The newly planted area (below)



PLANTING AT THE STIRLING ROAD PLAYGROUND

On Friday August 6 we worked on a planting project for Town of Claremont, planting out the newly refurbished Stirling Rd playground.

We asked CCGS and Scotch College to send us some extra manpower and we ended up with about 60 students.

The students put in a solid effort and planted approximately 1000 plants.

It was a wonderful effort!

The planted area at the south end of the lake



Christchurch students (above) and Scotch College students (left)



DUKE OF EDINBURGH VOLUNTEERS

At the end of August, I weeded in the Ballaruk bush with the Duke of Edinburgh volunteers. Three of us filled 14 bags with mostly fumitory.

A lot of beautiful native plants were in flower.



VOLUNTEER SNAPSHOT

David and Pam Free: Lake Claremont birders

Members of the FOLC, and indeed anyone who has walked around Lake Claremont, will be familiar with David and Pam Free. They have done stupendous work in identifying, photographing, describing, painting and counting the numerous bird species that inhabit or visit our magnificent bushland lake in the centre of Claremont. Would David and Pam like to have separate snapshots written about them, since essentially David is the photographer and Pam the illustrator? 'No!' said David firmly. 'We work as a team!'



In 1961 David left England to become a rubber planter in Malay, but seeing no long-term future there he came to Perth in 1969 where he met and married his Perth-born wife Pam. David's work for a Swiss multinational company took them to Tokyo, where their two little girls were born. In Tokyo Pam did a class in Japanese ink painting (*sumi-e*), which uses simple black ink to capture the timeless beauty and complexity of the natural world. Pam's interest in painting had been kindled.

After six years David's company sent him to Singapore, where he and Pam spent the next 18 years, before returning to Perth and purchasing a 1950s architect-designed house in Claremont. They filled its unusual exterior and interior spaces with plants and specially chosen objects from eastern countries.

When Pam was invited to paint panels depicting birds commonly seen at the Lake, she readily agreed. She had the painting skills, and David had the photos from which she could paint, so that all the birds' markings could clearly be seen.

Now, as you walk round the Lake, you can see these panels, each with a selection of birds and brief descriptions by David (plus QR codes for further information). As David remarked, one of the most rewarding experiences for him is going to the bird hide and watching young mothers talking to their children about the different birds that live on the Lake - and seeing which ones they can spot.



Fairy Wren by David Free

OUR BIRDS

From : David Free

*Australian Shelduck, **Tadorna tadornoides***

This Australian endemic is the largest and perhaps the most striking looking duck found at our lake. The sexes are similar but the female has white around her eyes. In the breeding season they are normally seen in pairs; the male jealously guards his mate. They normally nest in tree hollows, sometimes a considerable distance from the water. Shelducks are normally amongst the first to breed and, on August 5, I saw a pair with seven newly hatched ducklings.

Shelducks feed on plant material and invertebrates.



Shelducks in flight (above)



Shelduck with chicks (left)

AUGUST BIRD COUNT *From : David Free*

On August 2, my wife Pam and I conducted a survey of the birds at Lake Claremont. The morning was cold, cloudy and still, with very light rain coming as we finished.

Following the wettest July in decades, there was a good depth of water in the lake. The gauge by the jetty showed 1.75m.

We recorded 414 individuals of 39 species, slightly above the average species number for our winter surveys. Breeding activity was noted for Black Swan, Purple Swamphen and Eurasian Coot. In comparison with our previous twenty winter surveys, Grey Teal and Pacific Duck numbers were below average. Ravens, Magpies, Silvereyes and Honeyeaters were more abundant than normal.

IN FLOWER IN AUGUST

From : Karen Wood

Grey cotton head *Conostylis candicans*

Conostylis are relatives of the Kangaroo Paw and are, like their relatives, bird attracting. This plant is common on stable dunes and in the scrub around Perth. It is found near the coast between Shark Bay and Augusta where it thrives in the salty, windy conditions. Conostylis can withstand periods of drought but dislikes humidity, in common with many of our South West native plants. It is an attractive and reliable addition to the replanting around the lake. (*Below left*)

Guichenotia ledifolia

This is named after Antoine Guichenot, a botanical collector.

It is from a genus of about six species. All occur in the south and south east of Australia, so are fairly widespread. It is native to a dry summer climate, but is not a fussy plant so is reasonably hardy in other parts of the continent, providing the soil is well drained. It is growing very well in replanted areas around Lake Claremont. (*Below centre*)

Hardenbergia Comptoniana (Also known as Australian sarsaparilla or purple coral pea.)

This is named after Franziska Countess von Hardenberg a 19th century Austrian botany patron.

This is a member of the pea family, a vigorous and at times over enthusiastic climber, especially when the soil is moist and there is plenty of sunshine. It is a brilliant purple, when set against the yellow/gold of the early flowering wattles. (*Below right*)



FUNGI AT LAKE CLAREMONT

From : Heidi Hardisty

Roz Hart led an intrepid group of FOLC members on a very memorable walk around Lake Claremont on July 18th. Despite the numerous downpours during the walk, more than 20 people attended and had a wonderful time spotting over 20 species of fungi that had fruited with the seasonal rains.

Fungi have important roles to play in nature. They act as decomposers, mycorrhizal partners or disease instigators. Fungi that grow on Tuarts can grow on the bark, making holes for insects in both the bark and the wood. Eventually there is enough wood digested by fungi that the wood is soft enough for birds to create hollows big enough to nest in. Fungi provide vital nutrients to plants, and wildlife can use fungi for shelter and food. Quendas, which may be reintroduced to Lake Claremont, eat truffle-like fungi in the soil. Roz is collaborating on a soon to be released book "Fungi for Land", which will provide a much needed guide for land managers involved in conservation and restoration work.

Roz is a microbiologist who has had an interest in fungi for over 3 decades. She showed us how to look at the gills on the underside of the fungi with a mirror so that no damage is done to the fruiting body. On the underside of the Rose Gill (*below*), she pointed out the gills which are very effective in helping the fungal spores to spread, so assisting in reproduction.

One of the most interesting fungi we saw was quite a large fungus at the base of a tree. It's called the Ghost Fungus (*below*) because it glows in the dark!

We also spotted a Russula fungus, common name 'Snappy Cap' as the stem and flesh when broken, snap like the sound of breaking carrot or a piece of chalk . These are mycorrhizal fungi which partner with trees and shrubs for the benefit of both.

Roz's favourite was...the slime mould *Lycolala epidendum* which looked like small pink globs of chewing gum within the mulch.

At the conclusion of the talk, Roz encouraged participants to become citizen scientists and to share fungi observations on the international platform <https://www.inaturalist.org/> via the Australian Fungimap platform.

Thank you to Roz and to those participants who contributed the photos.



Rose Gill fungus



Ghost fungus

More photos on page 10



*Above : Trembling Tremella
Below : Bracket fungus (Photo: David Free)*



A cup fungus - a decomposer



TURTLE UPDATE

From : Nick Cook

Our turtles are out and about looking for a place to lay their eggs.

They can travel approximately 800m from the wetland.

Yesterday this female was spotted near Alfred Rd and assisted across the road by a member of the community. About an hour later I received another call about a turtle (I suspect the same turtle) found on Cleland St in Mt Claremont and was released back at the Lake.

Thanks to members of the community for calling for advice and offering to assist. There is information on the home page of our website about what to do if you find a turtle.



AUGUST NIGHT CHAT

From : Hilary Heptinstall Photo : Rose Senior

Our presenter, Mark Beeson, spoke about his recently published book, '**Environmental Anarchy?** Security in the 21st Century.

Mark is Professor of International Politics at UWA and has taught at many different Universities in the UK and elsewhere in the world. He posed the question 'Why is the environment is such a bad state?'

He commended Friends of Lake Claremont (which he only recently visited for the first time) for all that they do to protect our local environment.

Mark Beeson with Heidi Hardisty



When most foreign policy makers are asked to label themselves, most say that they are 'realists'. They think that people strive for security and that states should pursue power to this end even if it means producing more guns, bombs and submarines. There is a dilemma in that we can never be completely secure.

Some contemporary Marxists think that capitalism is wrecking the environment throughout the world.

He spoke of 'Economic inequality and the psychological effect of insecurity'. Anxiety levels are high among young people and Greta Thunberg articulates it well. The 'Extinction Rebellion' draws attention to the situation and the future of our grandchildren is a major concern.

Governments throughout the world are obsessed about economic growth and not 'big picture' issues. A global view is necessary. We should consider the many less fortunate states where the young have no chance of employment and a good life like us.

97% of scientists make predictions about the future of the planet based on good science but these views are not taken seriously by politicians.

The challenge is in getting wealthy countries to act. China and the USA should have an arms control agreement and the money saved could be spent on helping the impoverished countries of the world.

Interstate conflict is becoming more rare, though intrastate conflict is increasing.

A great example is the European Union. Europe is now conflict free and can divert money and attention to environmental and social issues.

Thank you for your insight into contemporary issues, Mark. The audience found your talk very interesting, and we were given much food for thought.

Note: Mark Beeson's book is published by Policy press, July 2021

ACTIVITY AROUND THE LAKE

From : Nick Cook

DUCK RESCUE

Not long after we wrapped up National Tree Day today, I had a call from a resident at The Cedus about 2 orphaned Pacific Black Duck chicks that had wandered into their garden shed.

These ducks have been known to nest at the Swan River and then walk their young (as a group) to lake Claremont!

Two very healthy and super cute orphans were safely tucked away in a box and taken to WA Wildlife for care. They will eventually released in about 14 weeks when they can care for themselves

Big thanks to members of our community who take the time to assist our precious native wildlife and to the volunteers that care for and rehabilitate these beautiful creatures.

WOOLY CATERPILLARS

There are a lot of woolly caterpillars at Lake Claremont again this season.

Last year they were quite helpful by eating mostly weeds!



SEPTEMBER DATES

Year 10 Community Service - Friday September 3, 10, 17 and 24

FOLC Busy Bee - September 12

Celebrate Lake Claremont - Sunday September 19

September Night Chat - Tuesday September 28. Regional Ecologist, Geof Barret, from DBCA will talk about Quenda relocation. Details to follow.



Brown Honeyeater Photo: Nicky Armstrong



natural resource
management program



Had a great moment at Lake Claremont?

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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

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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