



A Buff-banded rail at Lake Claremont Photo : Jim Shultz

From the editor

Quenda release has continued at Lake Claremont. At the time of writing thirty three quendas have been released (some of them from a reserve in Ellenbrook) and a few more will be released before the end of March. (See pages 2 - 3)

Our volunteer sessions have been devoted to construction of accommodation and water stations for our newly released quendas. (See page 4)

FOLC member Bruce Haynes celebrated his 80th birthday this month and we send him our very best wishes. Bruce was a Claremont town Councillor for twenty years and is an honorary life member of FOLC. He has championed the community efforts to make Lake Claremont what it is today!

We thank you, Bruce.

It is always good to learn of the work of other Friends Groups and our Night Chat speaker, Sue Colman, gave us an insight into the work of the very inspiring 'Friends of Mosman Park Bushland' group. (See page 6)

CONTINUED QUENDA RELEASE AT LAKE CLAREMONT

From : Nick Cook

On the evening of March 1 we released two female quendas, one of which had two babies!

We were delighted to have our federal MP, Celia Hammond, join us at the release. It was the perfect opportunity to show Celia how we intend to spend our \$7500 grant to purchase cameras for our monitoring program.



Celia Hammond, Henry and Linley Simmons watch Scott Thompson release a quenda



*Above : Female quenda with babies
Below : Quenda release*

Celia Hammond writes :

"It was an incredible opportunity for me to see two very cute quendas released at Lake Claremont. The Friends of Lake Claremont are a fantastic group, dedicating many volunteer hours to the conservation and enhancement of Lake Claremont.

There are plenty of opportunities to get involved. Check out their activities on the FOLC website."



Continued on page 3

We had further quenda releases in early March and it has been a real pleasure to have small groups of our volunteers and supporters attending.

I had the privilege of releasing a quenda. This was an amazing experience! There have been many highlights in my twelve years with FOLC and this is top of the list. To be holding and releasing a priority 4 threatened species into bushland that we all built with love and sweat (no tears) is very special.

We were joined on another occasion by Bruce Haynes (former Councillor and 'Grand Daddy of Lake Claremont'), Cr Shelley Hatton and original convenor of FOLC Soozie Ross.



Bruce Haynes, Scott Thompson Shelley Hatton with Nick Cook



Johanna Riddell releasing a female quenda

On another occasion, Johanna Riddell released a quenda. As former TOC Bushcare Officer, Johanna did all the behind the scenes work that has gone into getting approvals in place for our quenda release programme. It was a really special moment to have her join us and see all that hard work pay off!

We also want to thank and acknowledge the support of Jared Bray (former coordinator of Parks and Environment TOC, Nada McAdam (current TOC Bushcare Officer), Geoff Barrett (DBCA), the Lake Claremont Advisory Committee and Dr Scott Thompson (Terrestrial Ecosystems) for their contributions and support.

Young female quenda : Miranda and Francois Fontaine

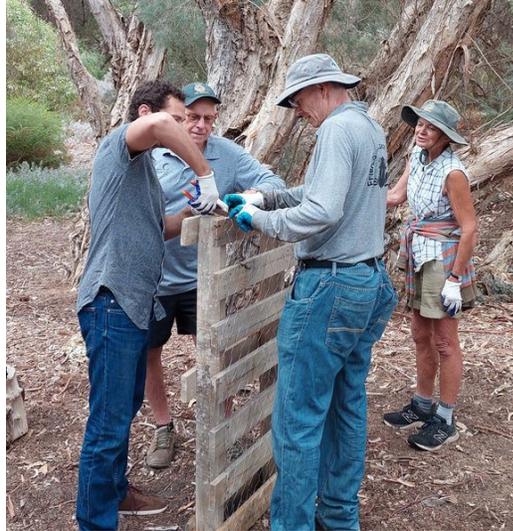


VOLUNTEERING AT LAKE CLAREMONT IN MARCH

From : Nick Cook. Photos : Naga Srinivas

This month has been devoted to constructing 'Bandicoot bungalows' to provide housing for our newly released quendas.

It started with our Busy Bee on March 13 and has continued at Community Service sessions with Scotch College and CCGS students who put together nine bandicoot bungalows and built water stations. There has been great team work and some very productive sessions. We are sure our furry friends love their new homes.



March Busy Bee workers



Community service volunteers

OUR BIRDS

Text and photos : David Free

TWO CORELLAS

The Little Corella, *Cacatua sanguinea* (pictured right) is a bird from more northern parts of Western Australia. Only since the early 1960s has it been recorded in the Perth area. Now it can be seen in large numbers around Claremont and there have been requests to council to cull this noisy and mischievous species.



The Long-billed Corella, *Cacatua tenuirostris*, (pictured left) is an even more recent arrival to the area. This species is native to Eastern Australia.

Around the lake the Little Corella is far more often seen than the Long-billed, although they often flock together. They are easy to tell apart; the Long-billed Corella has a red forehead and throat bar, which are lacking in the Little Corella.

I took these two other photos in the past few days. The Ibis is showing the scarlet bare skin under the wings, present in breeding plumage. The Spoonbill is an occasional visitor to the lake.



Australian white ibis



Yellow-billed spoonbill

MARCH NIGHT CHAT

From : Hilary Heptinstall

The speaker at our Night Chat session on March 22 was Sue Conlan from The Friends of Mosman Park Bushland. Sue started the group in 2008 and is also a committee member of the Urban Bushland Council. She works a lot with school children and is passionate about nature and improving living in an urban environment. Her parents were farmers who suffered because of unreliable rainfall. They were subject to short rotation grazing and biodiverse pasture.



Sue is a medical scientist who came to Mosman Park from NSW when the parkland was degraded. She saw that urban nature was crying out for help and wanted to bring like minded people together to learn, speak out, build up friendships and never give up. The Friends of Mosman Park have a very demanding job in their bush care work. They work at the Swan River, the beach and bushland in between. A lot of land has been cleared and the river is dirty. They work closely with the Mosman Park Council in their work and organise 'Clean up the River' days as well as other community activities. The Friends meet for 3 hours each Friday morning for environmental action. The morning tea, served at at 10.00 am is very well earned! They work with APACE native nursery on the propagation of seeds and Rocky Bay members help with the sorting of seeds. They organise walks with the local schools and community and are making an ecological corridor between the river and the sea. Time is devoted to cleaning up the river, and coastal vegetation is planted to protect against erosion. An ecological corridor is being created to link the river to the sea. There are annual school and community planting days.

Salt marsh was cleared, but that turned out to be a mistake because crabs previously bred there.

More birds visit Chidley Point now because grevillea have been planted.

As high rise increases along Stirling Highway, more pressure will be put on the beach foreshore. There are plans for 4 towers including one of 21 storeys on Stirling Highway. Friends of Mosman Park would appreciate our support in the prevention of rezoning of bush areas. For more details, see

<https://consultation.dplh.wa.gov.au/perth-and-peel-planning/mrs-1389-57/>

There were many questions from the audience at the end of this very interesting talk. Thank you for spending your time with us, Sue. It was a very interesting and informative evening. You are doing a tremendous job and we wish you well with all the challenges that you and your group are facing.

We are very fortunate at Lake Claremont that we only have one area to care for!

A BLUE TREE AT LAKE CLAREMONT

From : Hilary Heptinstall

Walkers in the Lake Claremont area will have seen this stunning blue tree.

The Blue Tree Project began in Western Australia and encourages people to find a dead tree that needs 'a blue lease on life' and paint it in memory of a friend who lost their life to depression or had battled the illness.

Trees have been painted across the country and it is good that Lake Claremont can be involved with this cause. It would be good to learn more about this tree.

Nick Cook spoke to a group of Year 10 Community Service Volunteers about mental health awareness before they set to work in assisting the Town with the Blue Tree project.



LAKE CLAREMONT IN MARCH

From : Nick Cook

I was quietly having some lunch at the FOLC shed before the Year 10 boys turned up for their Community Service.

I was not alone! This beautiful Tawny Frogmouth was hanging out on the paperbark above me. This is the first one that I have seen at Lake Claremont!

It stayed perfectly still (as they do) and I was able to show the students and staff when they arrived. It was still in the same spot at 5.30pm and I suspect that it was waiting for a feed of mice?

Please remember to purchase 1st generation rat baits to reduce the incidence of secondary poisoning of our precious native wildlife .



MOERLINA SCHOOL students paid a recent visit to Lake Claremont and were keen to spot any recently released quendas.

Although they were very peaceful and quiet they did not see any. Some children claim they saw one on the banks of the lake through their binoculars. Their teacher is not too sure about that but their explorations made them keen to learn more about quendas.



SCOTCH COLLEGE ART WORK

When the traditional Year 9 Scotch College Rottnest Camp could not go ahead the students became involved in various activities around Perth. One of these involved the construction of this interesting art work at the south end of the lake.

Right : Scotch College students with their art work

Below : Rainbow (Photo : Jason Harris)

We have not had the rain that we were expecting this month but Jason Harris took the opportunity to take this beautiful photo of a rainbow at the lake after a small amount of rain in early March.



We are always happy to receive photos to share with our readers.



ANIMAL RESCUES

We had a very unusual visitor at Lake Claremont yesterday who needed our assistance.

This Crested Tern was spotted in early March at T-box Cafe but something was not right about the way it was behaving. David Free spotted it again the next morning on the lake bed so we called WA Seabird rescue to assist.

The bird was finally located at the aquatic centre and has been taken to the WA Wildlife hospital for assessment.

Huge thanks to the amazing volunteers at WA Seabird rescue for their wonderful work.

Crested tern Photo : Geoff Ross



We had an unexpected but very welcome addition to the relocation program earlier in the month. This baby bearded dragon was rescued from the trapping site and re-homed at Lake Claremont.



*Straw necked ibis at Lake Claremont
Photo: Jim Shultz*

LOCAL CAT LAWS

From : Nick Cook

On behalf of FOLC I have been advocating for the introduction of local cat laws for over 12 months now. I have made repeated representations to the Lake Claremont Advisory Committee (LCAC) on this important matter. The members of the LCAC have unanimously supported this proposal and recommended that Council create a local cat law to protect our precious native fauna at Lake Claremont.



The Lake Claremont Management Plan also recommends the introduction of local cat laws as a high priority item.

We are now getting close to achieving this important goal but I need your support!

I would ask that you ALL please consider writing an email to the Town of Claremont in support of the introduction of a Local Cat Law. Both Administration and Councillors need to know that the community supports this initiative! Please send your email to toc@claremont.wa.gov.au

With the reintroduction of quendas at Lake Claremont this issue is now more urgent than ever before!

GRANTS FUNDING UPDATE

From : Nick Cook



The
Seedling
Bank



Our Grants Officer, Jenni Bannister Jones, (*right*) is on fire in 2022!

We started the year with a successful application for \$7,500 from the Commonwealth Government 'Stronger Communities' grants program. These funds will be used to purchase nine additional trail cameras so that FOLC can effectively monitor our quendas and the presence of feral animals at the lake.

In the last month we have received notification of a number of other successful grant applications!



- \$700 from Volunteering WA 'National Volunteer Week Grants Program' to fund a sundowner event to celebrate the wonderful contribution that our volunteers have made to the restoration of Lake Claremont.
- \$2,000 from the Planet Ark 'The Seedling Bank Program'. This money will fund our 2022 infill planting program. Many thanks to Heidi for managing this application!
- \$2,162 from the Town of Claremont 'Community Grants' program. These funds will be used to purchase equipment to support a number of FOLC initiatives such as the Year 10 community Service Program and our quenda monitoring activities.

Well done, Jenni!

FOLC COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

FORESHORE PLANTING EVENT

We had a great afternoon on March 18 with so many smiling young faces! FOLC were approached to assist Town of Claremont in coordinating their Foreshore Planting Event. We teamed up with our friends at Millennium Kids to co-host the event. We had almost 50 volunteers and planted 1500 native rushes between Claremont jetty and the yacht club. This will stabilise the sand and create habitat for wildlife where none previously existed.

Many thanks to Catrina Aniere and Millennium Kids, FOLC volunteer planting supervisors, Cloe Dolan and the TOC Parks team and to Naga Srinivas for the lovely photos.



APRIL DATES

Sunday April 10
 Tuesday April 26
 Friday April 29

FOLC Busy Bee
 April Night Chat
 Year 10 Community Service

7.00 - 9.00 am
 5.30 - 7.00 pm



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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