



A pink and grey galah enjoying the blue tree Photo : Ian Stewart

From the editor - Hilary Heptinstall

We had a very enjoyable Volunteer Sundowner on May 22. Many thanks are due to all our volunteers who have worked on our beautiful wetland over many years. (See page 2)

The 2022 planting season promises to be a very busy time. We will celebrate an early National Tree Day at our Busy Bee on June 12, with other events to follow. Thanks to Heidi Hardisty for her organisation of the planting events. (See page 6)

It was very interesting to watch Gardening Australia on the ABC on May 13. It featured local artist, Brenton See, showing his Silo artwork and also his painting of the FOLC Shed and the work of volunteers at Lake Claremont. (See page 7)

We had a very interesting Night Chat session on May 24 where we learned about the work of the Cottesloe Coastcare association. (See page 9) For those who missed the talk, Naga Srinivas has recorded the evening and it may be found on the FOLC Facebook page.

Lance Banister- Jones will be retiring as FOLC treasurer and we thank him for his efforts over years. (See page 11)



VOLUNTEER SUNDOWNER

Text : Hilary Heptinstall Photos : Rose Senior



A sundowner to recognise the work of volunteers was held at the FOLC Shed on Sunday May 22 during National Volunteer Week.

Nick Cook thanked everyone for the work that they have done, over the years, to make Lake Claremont the beautiful area that it is.

He particularly thanked Naga Srinivas who was commissioned by our sponsors to create a photographic tribute to our volunteers. This was screened at the function and is also available for viewing on the FOLC Face Book page.

Nick also recognised and thanked Lance Banister-Jones, who is retiring as Treasurer after many years of service.

Thank you to Cath McCauley and Soozie Ross for organising refreshments for the sundowner. We all enjoyed the beautiful pizza and cake.



Soozie Ross and Kathryn Choule



David Free, Peter Creighton and Lance Banister-Jones



Maggie Patton Averil Balfe and Norma Hay



Group at the FOLC Shed

PLANTING OF EVERLASTINGS

From : Karen Wood

On a recent Sunday morning, four of our enthusiastic volunteers found a sunny spot in a revegetated area to seed about 20 square metres with everlastings. (*Rodanthe chlorocephala* -sub species *rosea*).



This delightful plant, with its pink and white flowers grows well in many parts of Perth, as witnessed on verges round Claremont and other suburbs. Thanks to producers in Kojonup, local nurseries are able to provide seed.

Norma Hay, Linley Simmons, Maggie Patton and Consie Woods raked away mulch in the chosen area, mixed the *Rodanthe* seed with vermiculite in equal parts, scattered the mixture lightly, then covered it with a sprinkling of soil. The seed can also just be raked over. With rain expected, there was not really a need to water. However, a few cans of water were poured on, just to make certain that the area would stay damp until germination. After that, no watering will be required.

So when you are walking in the lake area, in late winter or early spring, do look out for the pink and white heads of these attractive flowers.



OUR BIRDS

Text and photos by David Free

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*.

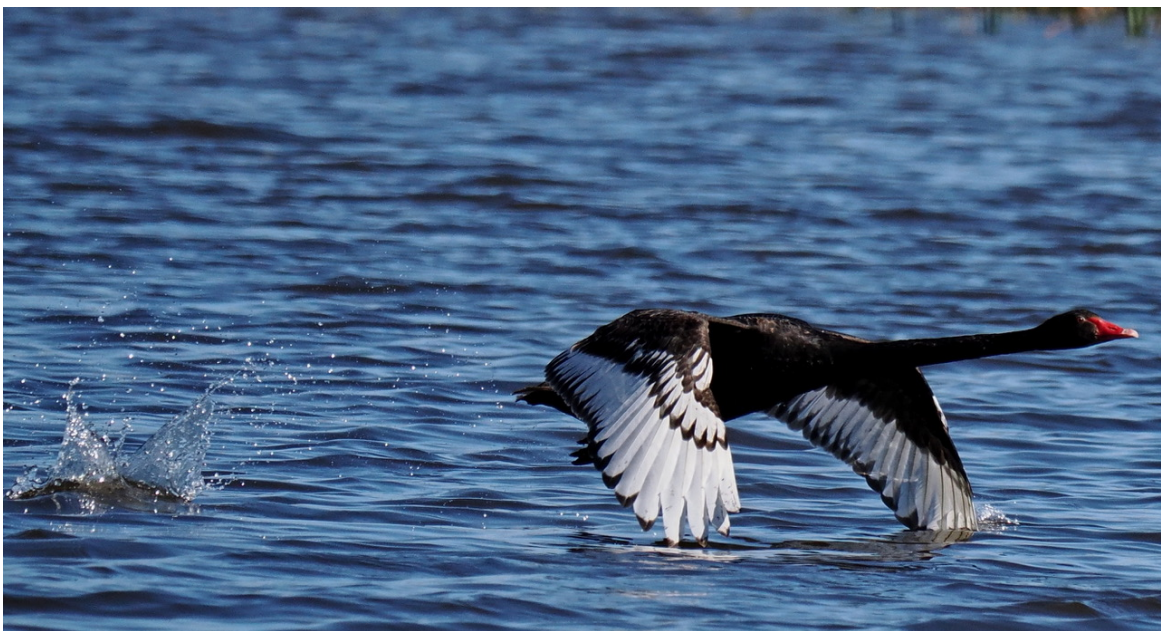
The beautiful Black Swan feeds on aquatic vegetation and can be found in most parts of Australia where there is sufficient water. Each winter several pairs build their nesting mounds in our lake. Clutch size is usually 4 to nine, and the incubation period is 35-45 days. Vincent Serventy, in his 1948 "Birds of Western Australia", identifies Butler's Swamp (as Lake Claremont was previously known) as one of the breeding areas around Perth.

Swans need a long take-off run to get their heavy body out of the water.



Black Swan with cygnets

The early European explorers, familiar only with the all-white Mute Swan, must have been surprised to see this magnificent bird, black except for the white flight feathers.



VOLUNTEER SNAPSHOT - Charlie Townsend

By Rose Senior

The volunteer members of the Friends of Lake Claremont are a varied group of people with a range of ages, skills, interests, passions and personalities. Charlie Townsend, a reliable, low-key FOLC member, can be regularly seen at busy bees weeding, mulching, planting, or supporting Nick when the Year 10 boys from Scotch and Christchurch do their community service on Friday afternoons. Charlie describes himself as a behind-the-scenes person, happy to keep a low profile and do whatever gardening needs doing to support the Friends of Lake Claremont.

Charlie is American, moving permanently to Perth with his wife Jeanne in 2018. It was a wrench for them to leave the beautiful Catskill Mountains in upstate New York - but sensible for them to move to Perth to be near to one of their (twin) sons and his family. The other twin and his family are living in Berlin.



Charlie is 89 years old and Jeanne nearly 87 – and they’ve been married for 58 years! What is the secret of Charlie’s longevity and good health?

‘I’m just plain lucky’, says Charlie. ‘I walk a lot, drink two bottles of beer a day, and don’t overeat’.

What is the secret of his binding relationship with his wife?

‘A common interest in birding’, says Charlie without hesitation.

After spending four years as a fighter pilot in the US Marine Corps (including six months on an aircraft carrier in the Pacific) Charlie enrolled in a computer programming course, meeting Jeanne on the very first day of class. Charlie and Jeanne ended up spending their whole careers in IBM, Charlie as a software developer and Jeanne as a programmer. Their work led them to be based for periods of time in Rome, Stuttgart and Amsterdam, while birding led them to travel the world extensively during their holidays.

Over the years Charlie and Jeanne have taken small-group birding tours to more than 100 countries: 11 countries in the Caribbean and many in South America (including Chile, Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador), Asia (including Vietnam, Cambodia, Bhutan and Myanmar, and Africa (countries spread across the continent from east to west, including South Africa). What is wonderful about birding, says Charlie, is visiting small towns and villages in the countryside, rather than big cities.

How lucky we are to have Charlie as an active member of the FOLC. What a role model he is for us all!

HELPING NATURE – THE 2022 PLANTING SEASON

From : Heidi Hardisty



The
Seedling
Bank



PLANETARK

TOYOTA



1. National Tree Day – Sunday June 12 08:00 -10:00am

FOLC are celebrating National Tree Day early this year. We have been awarded a grant by “The Seedling Bank” to purchase 1150 native seedlings (50 trees, 300 shrubs and 700 groundcover) for infill planting in the bushland around the lake. The program was set up by Planet Ark in 2019 to supply native seedlings to schools and community groups around Australia, helping to restore Australia’s unique landscape.

Please register via the National Tree Day Website to participate:

<https://treeday.planetark.org/site/10026174>

Meet at the cul-de-sac on the south end of Myera St, Swanbourne by 08:00 (or 07:30 if you can help lay out plants).

2. Shenton Place – Sunday June 19 08:00-10:00am

The FOLC will assist the Town of Claremont with two plantings sessions this year. The Town has purchased over 1000 native seedlings to plant along Shenton Place.

Please register via eventbrite to participate: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/folc-planting-day-tickets-347057958697> Places are limited so register early to avoid disappointment.

Please meet at the north end of Shenton Place by 08:00, near the Claremont Tennis Club (or 07:30 if you can help lay out plants).

Continued on page 7

3. McKenzie Park –Sunday July 10 08:00 -11:00am

The Town of Claremont has purchased 1800 native seedlings to plant at McKenzie Park. You must register via eventbrite to participate: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/folc-planting-day-tickets-347062281627> Places are limited so register early to avoid disappointment.

Please meet at the corner of Devon Rd and Mitford St, Swanbourne by 08:00 (or 07:30 if you can help lay out plants).

Helping Nature

The new plantings will increase the habitat for the local wildlife including insects, reptiles, birds and the newly introduced quendas. The plantings will also improve the area's function as an important ecological corridor between other bushlands, the Swan River and the Indian Ocean.

The number of birds and bird species have been increasing since revegetation work commenced in 2010. There are now over 100 species of birds that live at or visit Lake Claremont. Some species of birds have returned, like the Variegated Fairy-wrens.

This ongoing restoration project is one of the largest in an Australian urban setting and has been running for over 15 years.

All participants including FOLC members are required to register on line.

Please contact Heidi Hardisty 0416 614 696 or [folc.wa@gmail](mailto:folc.wa@gmail.com) if you need more information or help registering.

BRENTON SEE

From : Hilary Heptinstall

On Gardening Australia, we met Brenton See, a Perth born mural artist with a focus on painting West Australian flora and fauna. He has painted murals on public and private walls, and even wheat silos. Each work is site specific, drawing inspiration from the local reserves, "I aim for a 15km radius of the mural".

Brenton uses his large scale works to draw attention to the sometimes tiny detail of the natural world, and in particular those unique species of WA. "Every year I learn about new species that are on the brink of extinction, so bringing light to some of these species is more important than the mural a lot of the time... I really have to bring notice to what lives in WA. I think it's so important".

We are so grateful and proud to have your art grace our shed and celebrate all that FOLC and TOC have achieved. You can watch the ABC programme using the link below.

<https://www.abc.net.au/.../my-garden-path.../13881496>

LIFE AT LAKE CLAREMONT IN MAY *From : Hilary Heptinstall*

QUENDA UPDATE

Watch out for our native quendas who have been spotted crossing roads around the Lake Claremont area as they start to search for new territory in the community. Help us to support this endangered species by slowing down while driving in the area. FOLC volunteer, Robin Jolly, was delighted to spot this quenda in early May and sent this lovely photo. We are keen to receive all reports of quenda sightings.

The Town of Claremont have reported recent incidents of dogs chasing quendas and send a reminder that dogs should be kept under control and on leads in the designated areas. They appreciate our continued support of the project.



DUGITE SIGHTING

Not the greatest picture but.....

This approximately 1.5m Dugite was spotted by Heidi Hardisty today just near the fence along the Eastern Buffer zone.

This is another excellent reason to keep your dogs on the leash at Lake Claremont!



AN UNUSUAL VISITOR

We had an unusual visitor today.

Thanks to Marlees Denee for the photo.

Pelicans don't usually visit Lake Claremont because we don't have any fish in the wetland!

TURTLE MOVEMENT

Several turtles have been spotted at the lake recently, including this very healthy specimen.



REMOVAL OF QUENDA WATERING STATIONS



Now that there is plenty of water in the lake, there is no longer a need for our quenda watering stations. Lance Banister Jones and Anthony Barr spent a sunny Saturday afternoon travelling round the lake in the 'Gator' and removing them for storage until they again become needed.

Anthony Barr and Lance Banister-Jones

It is good to see such a variety of bird life at the lake and to have talented photographers who send photos to us. **Jim Schultz** took these lovely pictures of a Dusky Moorhen and chick (left) and a White-browed Scrubwren (right)



MAY NIGHT CHAT

From : Hilary Heptinstall Photo : Rose Senior

Our speaker this month was Dr Mike Ewing, Chairman of the Cottesloe Coastcare (CCA) group. Mike is a retired plant scientist who had a lengthy career as a researcher and research manager with the WA public sector. He has been involved with CCA for more than 20 years. The mission of the group is to restore areas of remnant natural vegetation in Cottesloe by direct efforts, advocacy and the support of the wider community. *Nick Cook with Mike Ewing*



CCA is motivated by the desire for sustainable natural ecosystems in the suburb. They started out as South Cottesloe Coastcare in the late 1990s and soon expanded to cover land in the Town of Cottesloe (TOC) boundaries. They developed a Natural Areas Management Plan with the TOC and undertook restoration activities, receiving funding grants and continually improving their operational capacity. They became an open, friendly, inclusive group of volunteers serving the public good. At present they are a small volunteer group of mostly longstanding members. They always appreciate fresh ideas and the recruitment of new younger members! They use external funding to employ contractors in targeted roles, and work with local plant nurseries.

Cottesloe covers about 400 hectares. Natural areas are 15.5 ha or 4% of the land area and are mostly west of Marine Parade. It is not an easy area in which to work due to hostile soils and weather conditions, difficult sloping terrain, eroded sand dunes and a lot of people walking there!

Revegetation is a complex process involving site selection, determination of plant species, weed control and watering schedules.

Weeds come in many forms including woody weeds such as Victorian tea tree, and grasses like couch and kikuyu. Control requires a combination of manual and herbicide intervention.

An important area has been that of development of tools for planting, including an auger (designed by a CCA member) which has been invaluable in digging holes for planting. Distribution of mulch on sloping terrain is hard work but improves survival and growth. The South Cottesloe/Vlamingh makeover will create a nature discovery area and there are plans to build a 14 metre tower on which ospreys may nest. We look forward to seeing it!

There were many questions at the end of the evening from the very interested audience. Thank you, Mike. You and CCA are doing a wonderful job! It is always good to learn of the activities of local environmental groups and we look forward to seeing future developments in Cottesloe.

FOLC TREASURER - Lance Banister-Jones

From : Nick Cook

The position of FOLC Treasurer is a very important role within our organisation! Lance has done an outstanding job in his role as Treasurer and Company Secretary. As of 30th June 2022, Lance will be stepping down from the Treasurer's role, that he has made his own for the past 3 years or so. He will remain as FOLC Company Secretary and a Director of the Company. *Nick Cook with Lance Banister-Jones*



From the beginning Lance has focused on making the job of Treasurer easier and less complicated for the next volunteer to take on the role. Lance has been instrumental in initiating improvements in our financial controls and compliance regime. Lance's contribution and his enthusiasm for the aims of the Company have been greatly appreciated by his fellow Directors. His input has always been positive and forward looking. As a career accountant, Lance's experience and, always practical, guidance has been of great benefit to the Directors and the Company through a period of transition away from major revegetation works at Lake Claremont.

On a personal note, the Treasurer and Coordinator work very closely and together are largely responsible for the smooth running of the organisation as well as its good governance and regulatory compliance. It has been an absolute pleasure to work alongside Lance and his support and counsel have been invaluable to me. His approach to the role has always been positive and solutions focused.

On behalf of the FOLC Board and our membership, we offer our sincere thanks to Lance for his significant contribution.

At the same time, we are pleased to announce that the FOLC Board has appointed Jason Parish to the position of Honorary Treasurer of FOLC. Jason is a practising accountant and partner of Carbon Group. He is also Honorary Treasurer of the Conservation Council of Western Australia. Jason's extensive experience with not for profit organisations, coupled with his passion for conservation, make him a perfect fit for our organisation. We look forward to working with Jason and welcome him to the group. *Jason Parish*



DATES FOR JUNE

Year 10 Community Service - June 10, 17 and 24

Planting dates - June 12, 19 and July 10

June Night Chat – June 28 Anthony Santoro – Talking Turtles



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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