



Friends of Lake Claremont News July 2022



Black-winged Stilt at Lake Claremont. Photo : Nicky Armstrong

From the editor, Hilary Heptinstall

With the commencement of our planting season, June has been a very busy month at Lake Claremont. Many thanks are due to our planting coordinator, Heidi Hardisty, to our wonderful community volunteers and to the Community Service boys from Scotch College and Christ Church Grammar School. It was good that MLC students also took part this year. (See pages 2-5)

We hope that many of you will be able to join us at our next planting session on July 10. (See page 12)

Congratulations to our oldest member, Joan Tocock, who celebrated her 103rd birthday this month. (See page 9)

Our June Night Chat with Anthony Santoro was on the subject of turtles, (see page 11). The community are invited to become involved using TurtleSAT, a Citizen Science app. Naga Srinivas has recorded the talk, and it can be viewed on the FOLC Facebook page.

I have included a beautiful poem by Margaret Ferrell which was inspired by Simon Youngleson's artwork at the site of the Tocock benches. I hope our readers enjoy it too. (See page 7)

NATIONAL TREE DAY

*From : Nick Cook
Photos : Naga Srinivas*



The
Seedling
Bank



Our 2022 Planting Season commenced with National Tree Day on June 12 and we were delighted that 40 volunteers joined us for this event. We were very fortunate that the showers held off for the entire session.

Our volunteers planted 940 endemic native plants throughout the Ballaruk Bushland and our native bushland. It was a great effort. As some of the volunteers finished the planting, others began to water in the plants. The group was led by our planting coordinator, Heidi Hardisty.

The planting group



Many thanks to Planet Ark for providing “the Seedling Bank” grant which paid for our seedlings

Our planting was made a little easier this year as FOLC contracted GreenSkills to auger 700 planting holes. They also added Terracottem to each hole. This is a water retention agent that will help our plants during the long hot summer.

Our young planters



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The planting session was followed by a great morning tea at the FOLC Shed. Thank you to Averil and Soozie for organising the refreshments.

As we enjoyed our time at the shed, the rains come down. A perfect end to a terrific session!

After a wonderful morning of planting at Lake Claremont, it was great to have an opportunity to support Paddy Cullen and his efforts to save our Carnaby's Cockatoos. Please consider sending an email to the Premier to act now to save these endangered birds. <https://www.savetheblackcockatoos.com/takeaction/>



Heidi Hardisty



The watering team (Photos : Nicky Armstrong)



THE PLANTING CONTINUES

Text and photos : Nick Cook.

We had another planting session on June 19, to complete the Shenton Place planting project for the Town of Claremont. This had been commenced by the Year 10 Community Service students. (see page 5)

A small group of about 20 locals (including quite a few first time volunteers) joined us at 8am. We had about 500 seedlings to plant and water in.

We finished by just after 10.00am and retired to the Claremont tennis club for a terrific morning tea supplied by the Town of Claremont and served up by Soozie Ross.



Planting next to Claremont Tennis Club



Tea at the Club House



YEAR 10 COMMUNITY SERVICE

Text and photos : Nick Cook

The Year 10 students from Christchurch Grammar School and Scotch College have continued to make a great contribution to our planting season. On June 10, they planted approximately 300 native tube stock as part of our infill planting program for 2022.



Christchurch and Scotch students in action

In the morning of June 17, led by our Planting coordinator Heidi Hardisty, 25 students from Scotch College and Christchurch put in a superb effort and planted about 400 plants at Shenton place, adjacent to the Claremont Tennis Club.

Afterwards we held a late afternoon session with a group of girls from the Outdoor and Environmental Education Department of Methodist Ladies' College.

This project is a collaboration between FOLC and the Town of Claremont with TOC purchasing the plants and FOLC doing the planting.



Heidi Hardisty with MLC students

YEAR 10 TREE PLANTING (Text and photos: Nick Cook)

We had another great session with the Year10 team on June 24. It was a perfect day for planting trees.

We planted a mixture of Tuart, Marri, Jarrah and flooded gums throughout the dog off-lead area.

The trees were funded by FOLC and by local resident and dog walker, Graeme, (pictured below) who generously donated \$500 to the Town of Claremont to purchase trees.

The trees will provide much needed shade for park users and provide food and habitat for our wildlife.

The boys are now seasoned planters and did a terrific job.



BALGA TREES

Some lovely Balga (grass trees) were installed, in late June, at the corner of Davies Rd and Alfred Rd. Sadly, only one of the remnant trees, which were transplanted from the railway reserve, survived but Metronet has supplied extra trees to make up for the loss.



TOGETHER

Local resident, Margaret Ferrell (pictured below) was inspired to write this beautiful poem after viewing Simon Youngleson's art work at Lake Claremont.

Together

There they are
seated at the lake, taking
in the changing light
and colour as the sun
begins its descent.
We are certain to find
them each time we walk
this way.

His left arm is around her
waist, her arm resting on his
knee. They are comfortable
together. Words are not needed.
They incline towards each other.
In their later years they seem to be
grateful for the stillness and quiet.



We imagine their lifetime has brought
its strain and stress along with a mixture
of joy, laughter and the unexpected –
because we recognise from their
demeanour that life has honed them
to a smoother state.

They remind us of our own mortality,
our degree of resilience to what lies ahead.
These two older people have found
contentment, noticeable to all who come their
way.

There they are seated at the lake, at peace,
whether in rain or sunshine –

owing their life to a sculptor of discernment,
insight and genius.

Margaret Ferrell ©

Published in WA Poets Creatrix Journal 56, March 2022

VOLUNTEER SNAPSHOT Annabelle Walsh

By Rose Senior

Many volunteers work for FOLC in essential, behind-the-scenes ways. One such person is Annabelle Walsh, who lives north of the Lake and has walked her dog at the Lake for many years, observing all the changes that have taken place with interest and admiration. Annabelle has chosen not to volunteer for FOLC in a physical way, since she's busy running her own accommodation business. However, when she saw a request from Nick for a volunteer with technological skills who could run the FOLC website, Annabelle was quick to put her name forward.

Annabelle enjoying a bush hike



Annabelle is a local girl, growing up on a farm in Margaret River and spending her high school years in Perth as a boarder at PLC. With a diploma in computer programming, Annabelle has worked at the Burswood Casino and a London law firm before working at Clayton Utz in Perth.

Annabelle has had the opportunity to travel with her husband, who is in the oil and gas industry. After spending two and a half years in Norway, where their first son was born, she spent five years in Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur and then Miri, Sarawak). Between postings Annabelle had her second son, and also set up her own business offering short-stay rentals in the western suburbs – a business that has gone from strength to strength over the fifteen years of its existence.

Nick proudly calls Annabelle 'the FOLC Webmaster', a job that involves updating the FOLC website (friendsoflakeclaremont.org) on a regular basis and resolving issues that inevitably arise when additional accessory systems make the website, driven by the content-management system WordPress, even more complex.

Thank you, Annabelle, for your determination to keep us at FOLC in control of our online presence as, in your own words, 'technology marches on'!

JOAN TOCOCK TURNS 103

From: Hilary Heptinstall.

Congratulations to our oldest member, Joan Tocock, who celebrated her 103rd birthday this month. Joan has been an active member of the Friends of Lake Claremont since its inception and still takes an active interest in all our activities.



Joan with Norma Hay and Soozie Ross



Joan (centre) celebrating her birthday at Claremont Library with her knitting group friends

FOLC SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

From: Hilary Heptinstall

A Special General meeting was held on Sunday, June 26 to consider the following resolution.

"That Friends of Lake Claremont Ltd adopt the 'Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) template Constitution for a charitable purpose company limited by guarantee', (modified as set out in the attached draft Constitution) to replace the existing Friends of Lake Claremont Ltd constitution as at 1 July 2022."

Elaine O'Hare with Nick Cook



Recently retired lawyer, Elaine O'Hare, is a FOLC member who has joined the Board as a 'Special person' to advise on legal matters.

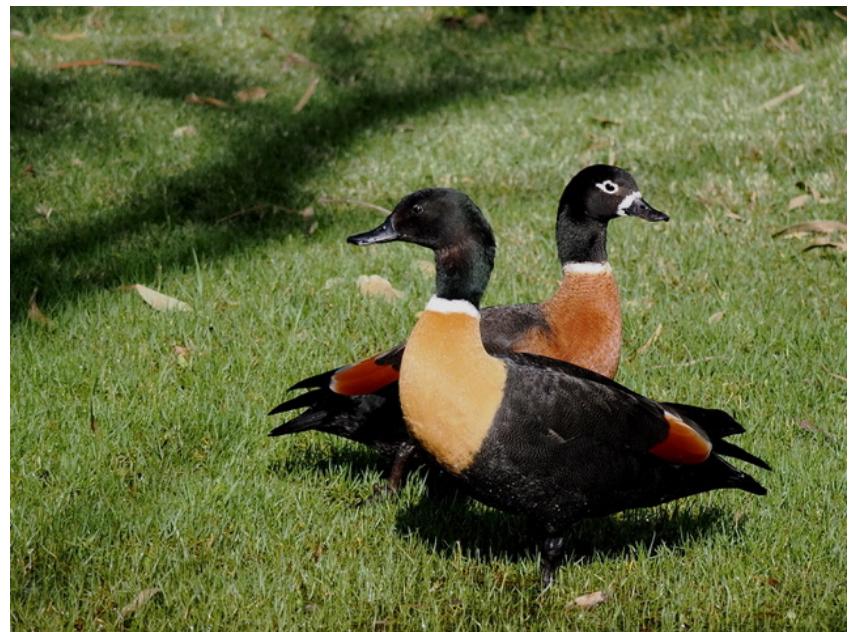
This motion was passed unanimously in record time, and members enjoyed coffee and cake, provided by Soozie Ross and Norma Hay, on a warm sunny afternoon.

OUR BIRDS

Text and photos by 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 often nest in tree hollows, sometimes a considerable distance from the water. Shelducks are usually among the first waterfowl to breed and at this time of the year we often see them with ducklings. Shelducks feed on plant material and invertebrates.



Left : Pink and Grey Galah enjoying the nesting box installed by FOLC (Photo David Free)

Below : Black swans (Photo Nicky Armstrong)



JUNE NIGHT CHAT

From : Hilary Heptinstall

Our speaker was Anthony Santoro, a Ph.D. student at Murdoch University. (*Pictured right with Nick Cook*)

Nick describes him as 'Lord of the Turtles'! His research focuses on the *Chelodina oblonga*, otherwise known as Oblong turtle or South-western snake-necked turtle. He spoke on the topic of the population status of the Oblong turtle at Lake Claremont.

Many of the world's turtles and tortoises are extinct, threatened or near threatened. Anthony's PhD research results have shown a generally strong population of adult turtles but very few juveniles.



His objectives were to characterise the population status within Lake Claremont. This will involve

- Providing an assessment of potential nesting habitat
- Providing an assessment of nest predation
- Providing a review of turtle carapaces collected over the last few years
- Providing management recommendation to help ensure the long term viability of this important species within Lake Claremont.

Methods of assessment included six overnight trapping sessions in November and December using funnel traps and fyke nets. The location was varied each night to cover the entire lake. Weight, carapace length, tail length and sex are recorded. Cadaver, nest habitat and nest predation are studied.

The latest population assessment estimated a minimum of 478 individuals and a potential total of about 1747 individuals. There is a greater size variation in females. 88% of the captured population were adult and 71% were male.

Most of the cadavers found were female and there was strong evidence of predation. This is possibly because, while females leave the lake to nest, males remain in the water. Most captured turtles were adults which suggests that population recruitment is falling. Projected drying of the lake will put extra pressure on the population.

Anthony hopes to engage the local community in identifying the cause of the falling population. He will be asking for volunteers later in the year and training will be provided.

This was a fascinating presentation and there were many questions from the audience. Thank you for spending your time with us, Anthony.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Busy Bee Sunday 10th July: Planting

08:00 -11:00 am

McKenzie Park (corner of Devon Rd and Mitford St, Swanbourne)

FOLC needs your help for a special planting project in Swanbourne. The Town of Claremont has purchased 1800 native seedlings to plant in McKenzie Park and enhance the area for the community and the wildlife.

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).

Please click here to participate: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/folc-planting-day-tickets-347062281627>



Smoking Ceremony and Traditional Land Care Talk

Please join us to celebrate NAIDOC week with Noongar man, Phil Walley-Stack, for a traditional smoking ceremony and an educational session at Lake Claremont. He will be talking about traditional land care, hunting and foraging. We are very pleased to Co-host this event with the Town of Claremont.

Sunday 10 July 2pm-3.30pm

FOLC shed, Lake Claremont

Please follow the link below to register

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=918983&>

JULY CALENDAR

Sunday July 10 8.00am

Sunday July 10 2.00pm

Mon 11 July

Fri 15, 22, 29

Tuesday July 26

FOLC Busy Bee - Planting (See above)

NAIDOC Week celebration 2pm FOLC shed

FOLC Board meeting

Year 10 Community Service program

July Night Chat - Simon Cherriman



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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