



Pink and Grey Galah : Photo Ian Stewart

Ian writes : 'I saw a pair of galahs nesting in this box in woodland on the west of Lake Claremont. They didn't like the front door so they created a back door!'

From the Editor, Hilary Heptinstall

August has been a very busy month for weeding, including a very successful August Busy Bee.(see page 2). FOLC has spent over \$6000 on GreenSkills hand weeding contractors. This was generously funded by a SALP grant of around \$15,000 awarded to FOLC, to hire contractors to supplement our volunteer's efforts. We also appreciate the great work done by Town of Claremont staff and contractors.

Nick Cook writes of the activity at Lake Claremont and our need to drive safely on nearby roads. (See page 9)

Many thanks are due to Nick for his passion for the natural environment and the hard work that he continues to do for FOLC, and also for the Claremont Tree Canopy group. His efforts in protecting our environment are greatly appreciated by the local community.

Graeme and Grace Paton, from our 'Adopt a Spot' group, will be holding a get together for group members on Saturday September 10, at 10am at the FOLC shed. They will meet for tea and coffee and to discuss what is happening with our adopted spots. They look forward to catching up and welcome any new participants in the programme.

AUGUST BUSY BEE

From : Nick Cook Photos : Nick Cook and Heidi Hardisty

25 volunteers turned up for our August Busy Bee. We were lucky that it was a beautiful, sunny morning.

We split into 2 groups.

Group one weeded amongst the 2020 revegetation site along Alfred Rd and filled 49 bags of weeds. It was an outstanding effort.

Group two, led by Heidi Hardisty, worked around the FOLC shed doing some mulching, weeding and planting tube stock.

In total we filled 63 bags with weeds!

It is always lovely to welcome 1st time volunteers. Today we were joined by Adele and Phoebe.

We finished the session with morning tea, provided by Catherine McAulay.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

From : Nick Cook

On Friday afternoon, August 12, our year 10 Community Service students from Scotch College and Christchurch were busy mulching along the main pathway. Many thanks to the town of Claremont for providing FOLC with a community grant to purchase equipment to increase our capacity.

They put our newly expanded fleet of barrows to work and did a fabulous job.



Christchurch students (above)

Scotch College students (below)



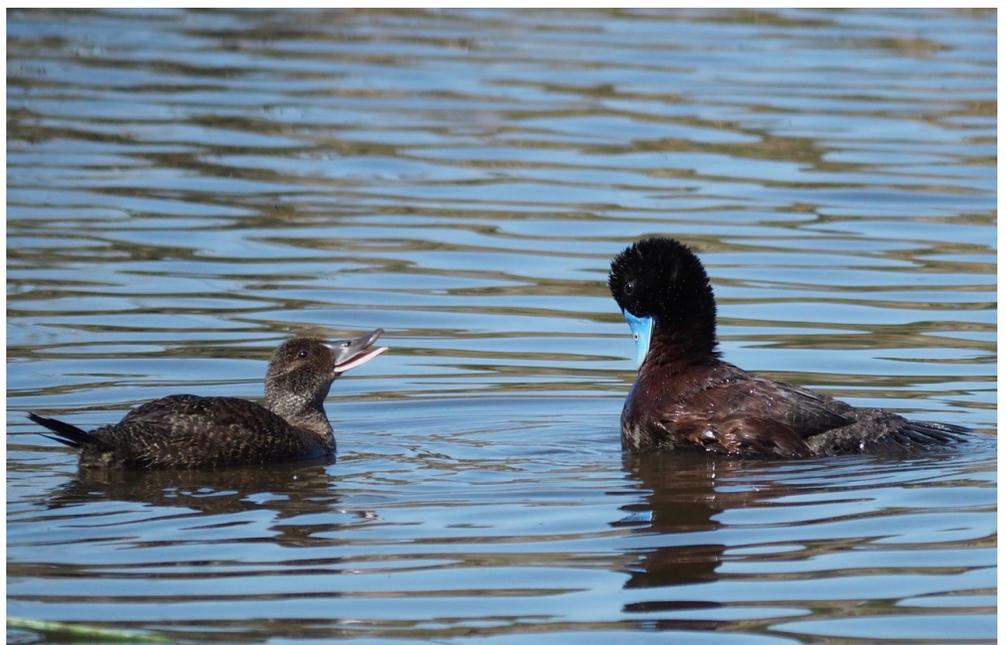
OUR BIRDS

Text and photos by David Free

*Blue-billed Duck, *Oxyura australis**

This small duck is one of our less commonly seen birds. It is an Australian endemic and in WA it is confined to the south-west. The male is very handsome. In breeding season his bright blue bill contrasts sharply with the glossy black head and neck. The stiff tail is sometimes held erect. They nest in dense reed beds, and are reported to sometimes use old coot nests. If threatened they will dive. Like Musk Ducks, they sit very low on the water. Bluebills are omnivores and they feed mostly by diving, preferring deeper water.

Thanks to good recent rainfall, we currently have some of these interesting ducks at our lake. Bluebill ducks are rarely seen in the air, so they probably travel at night.



MITFORD STREET PLANTINGS

From : Karen Wood

For all those good people who planted up the Mitford Street - Devon Road corner, but have not yet had a chance to view the results, here are just a few.

We lost some plants during the recent storms, with branches and twigs down, but overall the result is going to be a very beautiful piece of native planting. Well done to all involved!



Devil's Pins, *Hovea pungens* (above)

Eremophila glabra (top right)

Kangaroo Paw, *Anigozanthos manglesii*
(bottom right)



SEPTEMBER NIGHT CHAT

From: Hilary Heptinstall

Nick Cook apologised for the absence of Greg Simpson who was unable to attend tonight. He spoke of Lake Claremont as the largest wetland revegetation area in Perth and acknowledged the efforts of Soozie Ross, Heidi Hardisty and the Town of Claremont. He then introduced Bruce Haynes who he described as the 'Grandfather of Lake Claremont.' Bruce is a local resident and served as a Claremont Councillor for many years.

Nick Cook with Bruce Haynes



Bruce used the analogy of the lake as an ephemeral seasonal water body with a range of supporting relations like that of a mushroom with mycelium. The relations he identified were geographical, biological, historical and contemporary community.

He spoke of the history of Lake Claremont. Prior to European settlement, the area was a large wetland, abundant in animal and plant life. The Mooro aboriginal people lived in the area until the 1940's when they were moved to Lockridge.

The first European settlement of the area was in the early 1930's when William Butler was granted 10 acres for farming and it became known as Butler's swamp. He was joined in 1850 by 'Pensioner Guards' arriving from England.

In the 1950's, it was renamed 'Lake Claremont' and there was talk of building a jetty with a tea room at the end.

In the 1960's the area was used as a rubbish tip, which was eventually covered up. Many possibilities were suggested for the area. Developers were keen to construct 8 storey apartments in the area of the Claremont Tennis Club and Swimming Pool. The Lake Claremont Precinct Association fought this and, fortunately, it did not go ahead.

An 18-hole golf course was constructed but, after a referendum in 2009, the Town of Claremont adopted a plan to turn the area into native bush and recreational areas.

Bruce considered future directions and said that we have a strong community of volunteers working with scientists to ensure the future of the area.

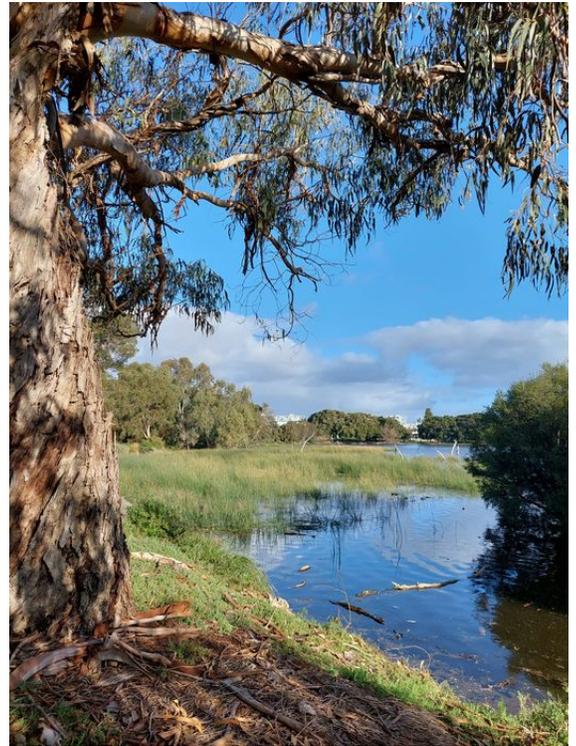
Scientifically and socially, COVID was good for the area, because many people discovered Lake Claremont as a walking place and it is now a very busy area.

Bruce proposed that, in the future, an environmental and indigenous centre should be constructed by the lake.

THE LAKE IN AUGUST

From : Nick Cook and Hilary Heptinstall

High water levels at the lake have led to an abundance of native plants and animals.



TURTLE REPORT

At Lake Claremont our turtles are very special to us. Many thanks to Ali Son who rescued a hatchling on the pathway near the lake.

Ali had recently attended a Turtle Tracker workshop at Bibra Lake and knew exactly what to do. She took the hatchling to the waters edge and released it safely.

FOLC will be holding an information session on how to get involved in the Turtle Tracker citizen science project on Thursday 15th September at 6pm. Please see the article on page 11.



SNAKE SPOTTED

Please be aware!

This snake was spotted on Eastway Crescent in the Lakeway development recently.

This is another very good reason to keep your dog on a lead in the designated areas!

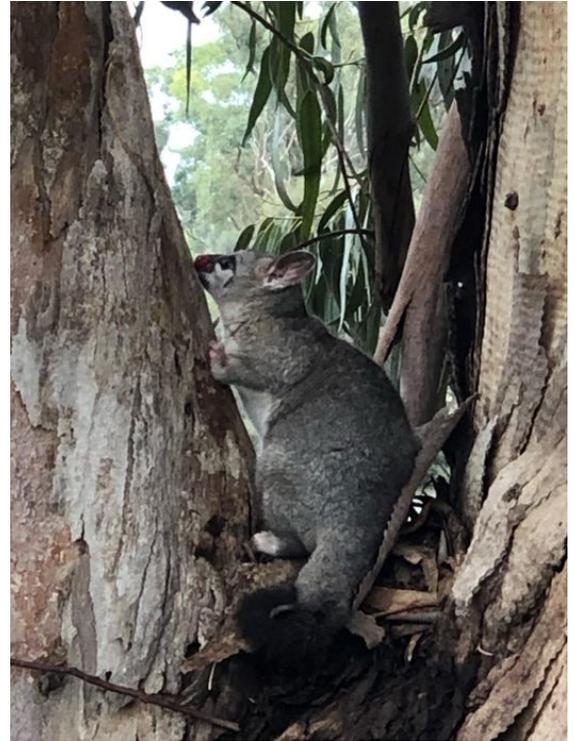


POSSUM AT LAKE CLAREMONT

In mid August FOLC member, John, reported a possum being harassed by Ravens.

A few days later, he sent us an update.

The neighbourhood dispute continues but our possum is fine. He has now moved to another tree so hopefully things settle down. Possums help keep our ecosystem healthy as they often disperse seeds and pollinate plants.



QUENDA ACTIVITY

Our quendas have settled in very well and there has been a lot of quenda activity evident across the whole park. We are expecting a baby boom this spring. Our first baby quenda was sighted by the Town's Bushcare officer this week. Please continue to report any quenda sightings to FOLC.



Quenda diggings

CATERPILLARS AT THE LAKE

Walkers may have noticed black, furry caterpillars on the footpath round the lake.

They are probably the caterpillars of the Black and White Tiger Moth (*Lepidoptera Arctidae*). They usually feed on a few introduced weeds. The larvae protect themselves with a dense covering of irritating hairs.

The adults are important pollinators of native plants as well as a food source for our local insect eating birds and bats.



PROTECTION OF OUR LAKE CLAREMONT SPECIES

From : Nick Cook

We have had a great deal of activity at Lake Claremont lately! Swans, ducks and turtles are on the move. Several turtles have been hit by cars on nearby roads. Please drive carefully!

We have had recent Dugite sightings so please be aware and observe the on-lead designated areas.

We are expecting a little Quenda baby boom this spring! Our recently introduced Quenda have settled in very nicely and dispersed throughout the site, as we hoped they would. Please consider keeping your cats contained. Baby Quenda are particularly susceptible to predation by cats.

Please also consider your choice of rat baits (if you need to use them). There are wildlife friendly options. Rodenticides, particularly 2nd generation baits, are a serious threat to our owls and other birds of prey.

MARGARET FERRELL'S POEM

From : Hilary Heptinstall

We printed Margaret's poem in the July edition of the FOLC newsletter and are pleased to see that the Town of Claremont have now placed it on a plaque near the statues by the Tocock benches for those who walk round the lake to read.



BIRD LIFE AT LAKE CLAREMONT

We are fortunate to have some wonderful photographers who send photographs of birds at Lake Claremont.



Above Australian Shelduck with Pied Stilt Photo : Nicky Armstrong

Below Pied stilt with chick. Photo: Steven Spragg



TURTLE TRACKER CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAMME *From : Nick Cook*

Lake Claremont is home to a near-threatened species of Snake Necked Turtle. This wetland dwelling species is increasingly under threat due to lack of suitable nesting habitat, predation, and mortality from road collisions. Our recent 2021 population survey revealed a concerning lack of juvenile turtles amongst the population.

The Town of Claremont and FOLC have teamed up with Murdoch University and the Dr Anthony Santoro to participate in the LotteryWest funded "Saving Our Snake Necked Turtle Project".

Come along to this Information Night to find out more about turtles, the project and how you can help just by using your smartphone! After the information night, you will have the opportunity to register your interest to become a Turtle Tracker volunteer who will help assist with on ground monitoring for this project.

When: 6.00pm, Thursday September 15

Where: Claremont Lawn Tennis Club



SEPTEMBER DATES

Friday September 2, 9, 16	Year 10 Community Service Project
Saturday September 10	'Adopt - a - Spot' get together 10.00 am
Sunday September 11	Busy Bee. 8am
Thursday September 15	Turtle Tracker Information Night
Sunday September 18	Celebrate Lake Claremont
Tuesday September 27	September Night Chat 5.30pm, Claremont Tennis club



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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POSTAL ADDRESS

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