



*A Silvereye at Lake Claremont Photo : Ian Stewart*

*From the editor, Hilary Heptinstall*

In this, our final newsletter for 2022, I should like to thank all our regular contributors. I am very grateful to our wonderful photographers, Nicky Armstrong, David Free, Karen Wood, Ian Stewart, Naga Srinivas Karsala and to our writers, Nick Cook, Rose Senior and Heidi Hardisty.

We are also very grateful to all those who have attended our many weeding sessions this year and to our morning tea providers, Soozie Ross and Cath McCauley.

Our Guided Walks have been very popular, (see page 8). Discussions will be held as to whether to continue them next year when the weather becomes cooler. Thank you to all our guides.

Our AGM was a very pleasant occasion and it was good for FOLC members to get together in pleasant surroundings. (see page 6)

Very best wishes to all our members and readers for Christmas and the New Year. 2022 has been a wonderful year for Friends of Lake Claremont and we hope that 2023 will be just as successful,

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## NOVEMBER BUSY BEE

*From : Nick Cook Photos : Nicky Armstrong*

Our November Busy Bee was a great success. Around twenty volunteers weeded the Eastern and North buffer zones and seventy bags were filled!

Thanks to Cath McAuley for a very welcome morning tea.

In December we will move to a 7.00am start time to beat the heat.



*Long time volunteer, Alice Thomas*

## OUR BIRDS

*Text : David Free*

### Little Black Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

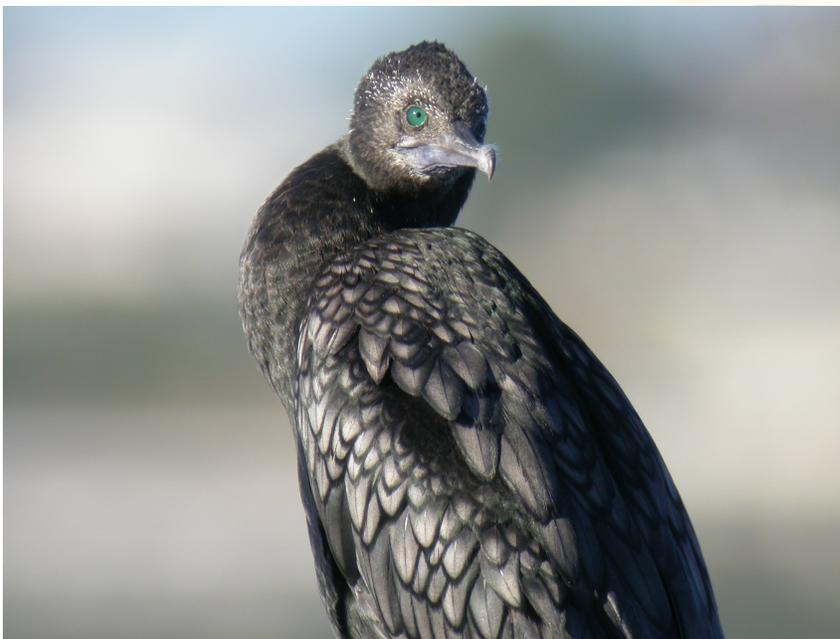
The Little Black Cormorant is very common on the river, where flocks comprising hundreds of birds can sometimes be seen cooperatively fishing. They seem to prefer hunting in water one to two meters deep. We don't often see them at the lake but there has been one there recently. They mainly feed on fish; I assume they are taking frogs at our lake.

This bird is common throughout Australia, except for the arid zone.

Nesting is communal, often in association with other cormorant species, darters, herons and ibis.



*Drawing : Pam Free (above)*



*Photo : David Free (left)*

**IN BLOOM IN NOVEMBER** From : Karen Wood

**Rottnest Island Daisy or Blue Lace Flower.** *Trachymene coerulea.*

It is great to see this charming plant, endemic to WA, in our bushland. It is found in the sandy limestone areas of the south west coast, sometimes in great swathes where the bush is open and sunny. Rottnest Island Daisy flowers from October to February. Mashed bulbs and leaves were used by Noongar people as a body rub to relieve pain. Vapours from the crushed leaves were inhaled for headaches.

**Senecio** *Senecio pinnatifolius*

Senecio is widespread in both Australia and New Zealand. It grows in our State from Dampier along the coast to South Australia and into inland arid areas. A persistent little herb whose foliage varies according to habitat. It can be either annual or perennial. Seeds are dispersed by wind. This one was the very last I found in our bush, so cheerfully noticeable and so reliable. I look forward to seeing them next winter.

**Fan Flower** *Scaevola crassifolia*

This native is rather too enthusiastic for my liking but there is no doubting its ability to attract many species of insects and birds. This one was covered in bees. *Scaevola* grows in coastal areas from Shark Bay right around to South Australia. There are several varieties, *crassifolia* recognised by the thickish leaves which can withstand salty winds. Several hybrids have been developed so that it is a useful garden plant sold in nurseries. All are distinguished by bright blue to purple fan shaped flowers.

**Rottnest Island Daisy**



**Senecio**



**Fan Flower**



## BOTANICAL QUIZ

From : Hilary Heptinstall

Our plant lover and photographer, Karen Wood, has been taking pictures of seed pods on plants which have finished flowering.

She thought it might be fun to put them in to the newsletter as a quiz, and I think that is a great idea!

The question is “Do you know which of our plants/bushes these seed pods come from?”

Answers to Karen Wood at [karenpotterywood@gmail.com](mailto:karenpotterywood@gmail.com)

The first person to answer correctly gets a native plant for their own garden!



A



B



C

## FRIENDS OF LAKE CLAREMONT AGM

*From : Hilary Heptinstall*

There was a good turnout for our AGM held on Sunday November 27 under the trees outside the FOLC shed. The weather was warm and sunny and we enjoyed drinks and nibbles before the start of the meeting. Nick welcomed us all and acknowledged our traditional custodians.

There were several apologies including one from long time member, Kevin McAlpine, who is in hospital after falling from a tree. We send him our best wishes. The minutes of the 2021 AGM were accepted.



*Tony Barr, Zac Hardisty and Nick Cook*



Nick then presented Life Membership of FOLC to David and Pam Free in recognition of their long-time contribution to the quarterly bird counts at Lake Claremont. Unfortunately, Pam could not be present today. We also appreciate David's beautiful photographs and Pam's drawings of our birds which are displayed at the lake.

*David Free with Nick Cook*

Business arising from the minutes included a question about the Environmental Education Centre which has not yet been built. It remains a live issue which Claremont Council are progressing.

The quenda relocation programme has been very successful. Breeding is taking place and there have been many sightings from members of the public. There have been some losses on the roads and the construction of fencing was discussed.

Our financial position remains strong but in the absence of Royal Show parking we will need to explore alternative funding options. SALP funding has decreased, however, Town of Claremont (TOC) Community Grants have been accessed, membership fees have doubled and membership numbers have increased. Nick will set up a committee next year to discuss fundraising. Containers for Cash and Lotteries West were also suggested as possibilities.

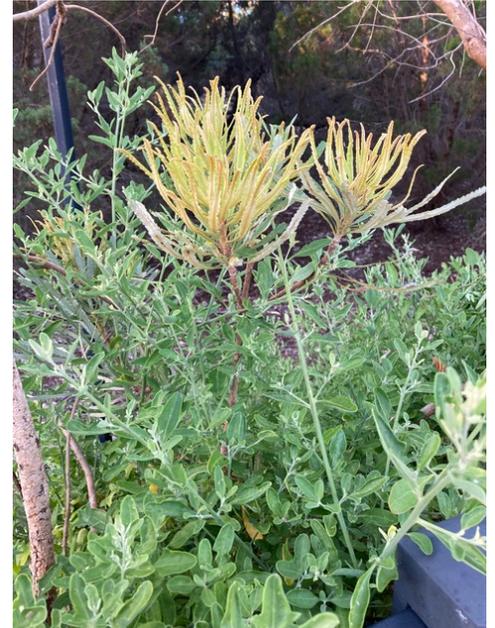
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The present board were re-elected and will be joined by Elaine O'Hare, a retired lawyer who has advised the board in the past.

The financial reports were passed unanimously and FOLC was under budget on spending. Bruce Haynes thanked Nick for his work with TOC on the Lake Claremont Advisory Council, particularly in relation to Cat Laws.

In General Business, Karen Wood expressed her concern about the spread of *Rhagodia* in our bushland and its effect on reducing plant diversity. Nick will raise this issue with the TOC Bush Care Officer.

*A young banksia being smothered by Rhagodia*



Graeme Paton said that it was very hot in the FOLC Shed after their guided walk on Monday and suggested installing 'Whirligigs' in the roof.

Rose Senior suggested stick-on name tags for future meetings so that we can learn other members' names. The possibility of producing a new Lake Claremont Tee shirt was discussed.

The film 'Black Cockatoo Crisis' at Luna Palace Cinemas was viewed by Nick Cook and Heidi Hardisty and is recommended to us all. It recognised Lake Claremont as one of the largest wetland revegetation projects in Australia and held us up as a shining example. We should all be very proud!

The meeting concluded with thanks being given to Nick Cook for the wonderful job that he has done at Lake Claremont over the years. You are an inspiration to us all, Nick! At the close of the meeting, we enjoyed a delicious barbecue. Thank you to Cath MacAuley for organising the food and to those who provided nibbles, salads and desserts. Thanks also to Geoff Ross who manned the barbecue.

*Zac Hardisty, Rose Senior and Henry Simmonds enjoying the barbecue*



## LAKE CLAREMONT GUIDED WALKS

*From : Graeme and Grace Paton*

There have been two walks this month, Averil Balfe led one on November 7 and Grace & Graeme led another on the November 21.

We had eight people joining each walk, and as well as hearing about some of the history of the lake, they were given an introduction to the FOLC. Our walks started at the Tee Box then moved on to the “Together” sculpture overlooking the lake. This generated quite a bit of discussion about the sculpture and the birds at the lake. We then strolled up the eastern buffer to the shed, pointing out anything of interest on the way. Unfortunately no quendas showed up, but a member of the public recognised us as FOLC members and mentioned he had seen them regularly down near the café.

The shed was the highlight for most, I think, both Brendon See’s mural on the outside, and Mary Yates’ mural/map on the inside.

All participants expressed their genuine appreciation & enjoyment of the walks.

## CAT CONTAINMENT LAWS

*From : Nick Cook*

I am pleased to report that, at its November 29 meeting, Claremont Council voted to progress new cat containment laws to the public consultation stage.

The proposed new laws will see Lake Claremont declared an area prohibited to cats.

This is a big step forward for the protection of the wetland and our precious native fauna!

The Town of Claremont is also set to double the fine for failing to pick up dog poo.



## LAKE CLAREMONT IN NOVEMBER

*From : Nick Cook*

The water level at the lake continues to be high and it is good to see so much animal and plant life at this time of year. It remains a very popular spot for walkers.

### TURTLE ACTIVITY

We had a turtle nesting event this month with about eight turtles spotted by our turtle trackers. Some of them were already returning to the lake, but several nests were protected. Thank you to our turtle trackers for all the work they have done this season.

### QUENDA ACTIVITY

Our quendas have settled well and there have been many sightings this month and our walkers are enjoying their presence. A young one, I spotted near the 'Together' sculpture, was probably in the pouch of when its mother was relocated to Lake Claremont earlier in the year.



Unfortunately, quendas are prone to wander and there have been a few road deaths. One quenda was killed at the junction of Alfred and Rochdale Roads but was not one of ours as it was not micro-chipped. It had possibly travelled from Bold Park. This quenda was photographed by a local resident.

### NEW BEE HOTEL AT LAKE CLAREMONT

*From : Heidi Hardisty*

A new home to attract native bees was created and installed in the remnant bushland by students from Methodist Ladies College. On a sunny afternoon in November, fifteen students and four teachers from the Outdoor and Environmental Program enjoyed setting up the hotel. *(pictured right)*



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I also led the group in a weeding session, teaching them basic weeding techniques and principles of weed management. 18 bags of thistles and lettuce weed were removed from the bushland and wetland buffer.

**THANK YOU MLC!**

**DATES FOR DECEMBER**

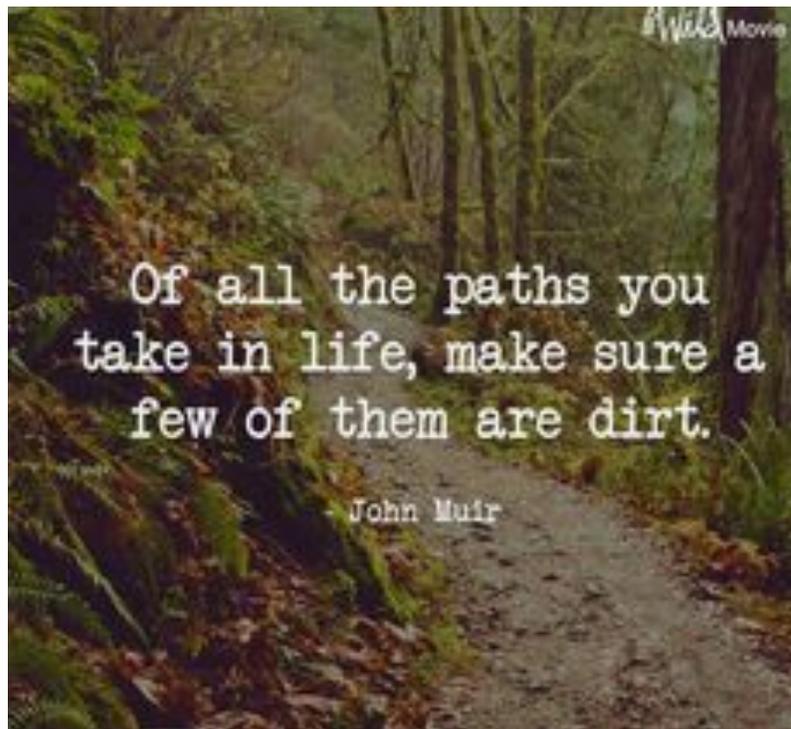
**Monday December 5** Town of Claremont Volunteer function

**Sunday December 11** Busy Bee. 7am

**DATES FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY**

**Sunday January 8.** Busy Bee 7am

**Sunday February 12** Busy Bee 7am





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](http://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](mailto:heptins@bigpond.net.au) 0411 052 329

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