



A juvenile Osprey with a Black Swan at Lake Claremont. Photo : Ian Stewart

From the editor : Hilary Heptinstall

July started with the Town of Claremont's traditional Smoking Ceremony on Sunday, July 2 (see page 2)

With all the wet weather this month, there has been a huge growth in the number of weeds at Lake Claremont. It is the worst season that FOLC Coordinator, Nick Cook, can remember. FOLC held an extra weeding session this month to cope with the extra weeds. It is good that our members are always so willing to help and we would encourage people to become involved in our "Adopt a Spot" programme. (See page 11)

We had a very interesting Night Chat session this month with speaker, Dr Anthony Santoro. He encouraged us all to become "Turtle Trackers". (See page 6)

SMOKING CEREMONY

From : Hilary Heptinstall Photos: Socos Studios

On a beautiful, sunny morning on Sunday July 2, the Town of Claremont held a Smoking Ceremony at the FOLC Shed to celebrate the start of NAIDOC Week. There was a good attendance of over fifty people.

Traditional custodian Iva Hayward Jackson greeted us in the Noongar language and gave us some history of the local area. which is now known as Lake Claremont.

It was previously a wooded area known as Galbamoanup, by the Whadjuk Noongar people, the traditional owners of the land. It became Butler's Swamp after the land was cleared for first European settlement of the area in 1831.

Iva lit a fire by placing paper park and eucalyptus branches on hot coals and participants were invited to stand near and inhale the smoke. Fire was important to the Noongar people, both as a way of controlling the environment and in producing medicine for purification.

FOLC Coordinator, Nick Cook, and Claremont Councillor, Jill Goetze, thanked Iva for joining us.

Noongar elder, Bella Bropho spoke of her rich family history in the area and the camps which once existed at Swanbourne. She thanked Friends of Lake Claremont for all the work that they have done in restoring the area .



Above left : Iva Hayward Jackson

Above right : Nick Cook inhales the smoke

*Below : From left : TOC Councillors, Paul Kelly, Shelley Hatton, Jill Goetze
Bella Bropho, Ryan Brown, Iva Hayward-Jackson, Nick Cook*

JULY BUSY BEE

On Sunday July 9, we held our monthly Busy Bee. With our plantings done for the year our focus is now firmly on hand weeding. Our volunteers began at the Alfred Rd/Davies Rd intersection and worked west through the revegetated area. We had a very productive morning and filled 70 bags with weeds. Thank you to Soozie Ross for providing a terrific morning tea and thank you to all our volunteers.



Volunteers at work

OUR BIRDS

Text and photos by David Free

Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus banksii*

This magnificent bird exists only in Australia. Males are black with two bright red panels in the tail. The black plumage of the females and juveniles has some yellow-orange barring and spotting.

They are found mainly in forests and open woodlands, where they feed on the nuts and seeds of eucalyptus trees. Sometimes the fruit of introduced species is taken. The bird pictured feeding was on a Cape Lilac tree. They also eat berries and sometimes insects.

Red-tails are threatened by the loss of their feeding and breeding habitat. They mature only after four to six years, then nest in the hollows of ancient trees. Normally only one egg is produced.



JULY NIGHT CHAT

Our July speaker was Dr Anthony Santoro from Murdoch University. He spoke about the South Western snake-necked turtle – *Chelodina oblongata*. Turtles have been in existence for 250 million years and are unique because the shell is on the outside. Some species can contract totally into their shell.

Anthony Santoro with Nick Cook



Many of the world's turtles are endangered, some critically.

Snake-neck turtles only live in the south-west of WA. They spend most of their life in aquatic habitats and can only feed while in water. After surveying 35 wetlands and 1500 turtles, it was found that the population was 91% adult and 55% male. There is a lack of access to suitable nesting habitats. Turtles have different movement strategies, some are sedentary with a single home range, some have multiple home ranges and others are completely nomadic. They prefer locations with dense emergent macrophytes (aquatic plants). Turtles do not like being translocated. Turtles aestivate (spend the hot dry season in a state of dormancy) to survive the summer.

GPS trackers reveal different nesting behaviours and it has been found that cold fronts trigger nesting. Females generally nest 70m from shore but can easily travel up to 500m or more. They choose an area with 40% canopy cover, 40%, native grass 25% bare ground and 15% herbaceous plants. The average incubation time is 200 days and hatching is asynchronous, a clutch of eggs hatches days apart rather than hatching at the same time.

Anthony discussed the effect of climate change which increases the extent and duration of drying for wetlands. It can lead to reduced reproductive output and decreased survival in the long term. Reduced frequency of cold fronts can lead to altered time and success of nesting. There is greater risk of dehydration during overland migration.

Urbanisation is a threat due to habitat modification and removal.

Predation is also a threat because nests are dug up and eggs eaten. Females may also be killed during nesting migration.

Many initiative have been introduced including

- Nesting refuges
- Nest protection
- Predator control
- Community Education
- Temporary signage
- Wetland restoration

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Anthony along with Murdoch University has initiated the 'Save our Snake Necked Turtles' project and has spoken to many Local Councils in WA.

In its first year

- 360 people have attended information sessions
- 120 have become turtle trackers
- 12 wetlands have been monitored
- There have been 81 unique search days, including 1000 volunteer days, 2000 volunteer hours, 1000 turtle observation and 600 nest observations.

We can help our turtles by becoming 'Turtle Trackers'. This involves committing to one or more shifts per week during the nesting season at Lake Claremont, recording turtle and nest observations and protecting observed nests with mesh squares.

Registration can be made through the link below.

Thank you , Anthony for a very interesting and informative talk, and for answering our questions. We all learned a lot!



Please keep your eye out for turtles .A member of the public rescued a hatchling off Cresswell Oval this month. Please contact FOLC on 0401 376 085 for advice.

FUNGI FOR LAND GUIDED WALK

From : Heidi Hardisty

It was a pleasure to welcome experts Roz Hart, Laurton McGurk and Julie Fielder to Lake Claremont on a guided walk to discover fungi at Lake Claremont on a beautiful sunny morning.



Above :Heidi Hardisty, Roz Hart, Tashi and Naeim Kashani

Left: Roz Hart addresses the group



Most fungi grow as thread-like filaments (hyphae) below ground, so we were searching for the fruiting bodies that produce spores, like mushrooms, which typically appear in Perth from mid-May to late July after the onset of substantial rains. Fungi walks are always conducted in the morning as many fruiting bodies are short-lived and dry up on a sunny day. We found over 20 varieties of fungi, mainly decomposers and some mycorrhizal fungi. Decomposers, like the Pixie Cap and Rosegill shown here, are essential for breaking down dead plant material, recycling nutrients and keeping the bushfire-fuel load down.



Tashi with Rosegill (left) and Pixie Cap (right)

Mycorrhizal fungi and most of our native plants have a beneficial relationship. The fungi provide mineral nutrients and water to the plant, while the plant provides sugar to the fungi. It is interesting to note that this relationship is absent in the Proteaceae family, which includes banksias, grevilleas and hakeas.

Fungi also provide food for animals such as snails and brushtail possums. Quendas love to dig up and eat native truffles. Truffles have come to depend on quendas to spread their spores which are located inside the underground mushrooms.

Roz Hart has been studying fungi for over 3 decades and has helped to set up the initiative [Fungi4land](https://fungi4land.com/fungi4land-story/) which highlights the important roles that fungi play in healthy ecosystems. Australian fungi are different from those in other countries, so Fungi4land is currently developing a practical guide for land managers with a focus on conservation and restoration. Donations are still needed to fund its publication. If you would like to donate click here: <https://fungi4land.com/fungi4land-story/>.



A straw mushroom seen on the walk



Fungi walk guide

FUNGI AT LAKE CLAREMONT

From : Karen Wood

Hohenbuelia *(pictured right)*

As we have just had a fascinating fungus walk with some very knowledgeable guides, I am posting this strange fungus seen about a month ago. I was unable to identify it but with help from our experts I learn that it is a variety of Hohenbuelia, probably Hohenbuelia mastrucata.

It was found on a dead, damp trunk not far from the storm drain which runs down from Alfred Road.

This is a very young specimen, the gills of which are still forming. The species is apparently able to consume nematodes. (Research from the US.)



Tremella globispora *(pictured right)*

This jelly like fungus seems to be fairly common in our area. It disappears as quickly as it comes. When I returned to two locations to get a better photo there was nothing. Tremella is a parasitic crust forming fungus that grows on twigs and branches of various trees, both native and introduced.

Apparently some forms of Tremella are commercially grown, though I have not yet found out why or where.



LAKE CLAREMONT IN JULY

From : Hilary Heptinstall

The combination of rainy and sunny weather has led to an abundance of wild life at Lake Claremont and our photographers have been very busy, so I thought that I would share some of their work here.



Pink eared ducks



Straw necked ibis. Photos Nicky Armstrong.



Pink eared ducks inflight over Lake Claremont : Photo Ian Stewart

ADOPT A SPOT – Volunteers required

From : Nick Cook. Photo : Nicky Armstrong

The weed load around the park this winter is the worst that I can remember seeing!

The Towns spray contractors have been restricted by all the wet weather so FOLC have stepped up our hand weeding efforts to compensate.

Please consider joining our Adopt A Spot hand weeding program. We will allocate you an area to keep weed free. We offer some initial weed identification training and ongoing support. The Adopt a Spot program offers the flexibility for volunteers to attend their patch at a time of their choosing.

Please email us at folc.wa@gmail.com to register.

Weeds collected at our extra weeding session on July 29



Galaxy A34 5G

AUGUST CALENDAR

Yr 10 Community Service

Friday Aug 4, 11, 18, 25

Busy Bees

Saturday August 12 ,
Sunday August 13 and 26

August Night Chat

Tuesday Aug 15 at 5.30pm



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 or 0411 052 329

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