



Male Blue-billed Duck

Photo : David Free

From the editor : Hilary Heptinstall

As the end of the year approaches, I should like to thank all our regular newsletter contributors for their work during the year. Special thanks are due to David Free for his bird contributions, Karen Wood for her plant articles and Rose Senior for her volunteer snapshots.

2023 has been a very busy and successful year for FOLC. We thank Nick Cook for all the work that he has done as Chairman of the FOLC Board over the years. It has been a wonderful effort and we all give him our thanks. We are pleased to welcome Tony Barr as our new FOLC Board Chairman. Thank you to all our members for their work throughout the year.

We were all very sorry to hear of the death of Carol Bolton who has been a loyal member of FOLC. Rose Senior has written a beautiful obituary. (See page 9).

Very best wishes to all our members for Christmas and the New Year. I look forward to another productive year in 2024.

NOVEMBER BUSY BEE

From : Nick Cook

On Sunday morning Nov 12 we held our monthly Busy Bee. Twenty plus volunteers delivered 2000 litres of water to our thirsty seedlings. It was great to have a number of young people join us and to welcome some first-time volunteers. We finished the session with a terrific morning tea provided by Cath McAuley and her team.



Volunteers working at the lake



Morning tea at the shed

OUR BIRDS

Text and photos by David Free

Yellow-billed Spoonbill, *Platalea flavipes*, Kaaka-baaka

This graceful bird is an occasional visitor to our lake and a couple have been present in November. Spoonbills can be confused with the more commonly seen Great Egret. However, their massive spatula-shaped bill will confirm the distinction. Egrets' bills are shorter and pointed.

Spoonbills feed, mainly on aquatic insects, by sweeping their bills from side to side through the water.



Spring is always an interesting time at Lake Claremont. This year we saw, for the first time, Musk and Hardhead ducks breeding. Another striking looking Duck species, the Blue-billed, which only rarely breeds at Lake Claremont, was seen with young.

(right and cover photo)



FLORA AT LAKE CLAREMONT

From : Karen Wood

Swamp Paperbark *Melaleuca raphiophylla*

There are many sorts of Paperbark in our country but this one occurs from Kalbarri to Albany around swamps, watercourses and salt marshes where the shallow roots reduce erosion. The trees provide food for native animals and insects. Water birds use this species for roosting. We often see ducks and moorhens perched on branches near the lake though I'm not sure why. Perhaps protection? Just resting?

All paperbarks were used by the Noongar people.

The bark could be stripped off to make a clean surface for food to be cooked, served or carried around. Babies could be cocooned in its softness.

The bark was sometimes used on a temporary shelter. Wounds could be first treated with the leaves which have antibacterial and antiseptic properties and then bandaged with clean strips of the bark.

The nectar, as from other species of *Melaleuca*, was soaked in water to make a sweet drink called mangite or mungich. (pictured right)



Broadleaved paper bark *Melaleuca quinquenervia*.

Many of our street paperbarks are *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, which are native to Eastern Australia, but make ideal street trees here in WA. See Devon Road, Mann Street, Cottesloe among others. This species has entirely different leaves to the narrow leaves on most paperbarks around the lake, though there is a fine specimen back from the lake in the north west corner closest to Gloucester Street.

(pictured right)



VISIT FROM QUINTILIAN SCHOOL

From : Nick Cook

On Friday November 10, I hosted two Year One classes from Quintilian School for a walk and talk at the lake.

They have been learning about the history of Lake Claremont and we talked about the environmental impacts of our vegetation works as well as all the creatures that live here.

I love the sense of wonder of children of that age, and was impressed by all the relevant questions that they asked.



QUENDAS AT LAKE CLAREMONT

Julie Mills sent us this beautiful photo of a quenda that she spotted at the Lake.

There have been several reports of daytime sightings recently. The playground near to the Tee Box Café seems to be a popular spot.



The Tree of wonder near Tee Box Cafe.

This attractive sculpture was created by local artists, Anne Gee and Tony Pankiw.

NOVEMBER NIGHT CHAT

From : Hilary Heptinstall

Nick Cook, wearing his Millennium Kids Tee shirt, introduced our speakers, Catrina Aniere and Preston Momen and Cameron McDiven. He said that FOLC have been planting trees at Lake Claremont, from the 1990's until 2022, and currently have 180 members. They have done a marvellous job, but we need to think about the future and to encourage young people to



Cameron McDiven, Preston Momen, Catrina Aniere, Nick Cook

Catrina Aniere is the CEO of Millennium Kids, which was founded by a small group of students in 1996. The group works with schools to arrange environmental and sustainability education, connecting pupils and teachers with local community groups. We are keen to foster our relationship with Millennium Kids (MK) and have held several (MK) Green Lab 2071 sessions at the lake over the past few years.

Preston Momen is an M K Youth Board member and a very eloquent speaker.

On his walks round Lake Claremont, Preston became very interested in native bees, of which there are 42 species in our park. He became involved with a youth project called Vision 71 in which young people said what they would like the lake to look like in 2071. Indigenous artist, Marli Ryan, produced a beautiful painting from their ideas. Preston said he liked to feel the golden light of the sun and breath the fresh air produced by trees which we have planted.



Preston said that he would like to run a native bee project. Nick informed him that we have native bee expert, Kit Prendergast, as our speaker next month so this will be interesting.

Bella, President of MK Inc, joined Preston in a Q and A session.

Leadership programmes are sponsored by the RAC, who have donated \$10,000 this year. The RAC was represented by Cameron McDiven. He is keen to tell parents and teachers how special it is to work around the lake and to make sure that the activities are fun and social events for students.

There were many questions and we all found it a very interesting and informative session. Thank you to all our speakers.

WATERING SESSION NOVEMBER 26

From : Nick Cook

It was uncertain whether this morning's watering session would take place as the Town's water truck driver was off sick during the week. We weren't sure if we would have our tanks filled but all turned out well!

After a late November heatwave our plants were desperate for a drink!

Eight volunteers delivered 2000 litres of water in 2 hours. It was a great team effort

It was lovely to welcome a first time volunteer and to have young volunteers, Preston (11) and Ethan (15) join us.



JOAN TOCOCK

Happy Christmas to our oldest FOLC Member, 104 year old, Joan Tockock. Joan and her husband, Ted, were among the earliest volunteers at Lake Claremont and the Tockock benches honour them. The adjacent sculpture honours all senior citizens.

Joan enjoying some pre-Christmas cake at her South Perth Nursing home

FOLC SHED KITCHEN EVOLUTIONS

From : Soozie Ross

In September 2018 Friends of Lake Claremont were given use of the shed in the park at Lake Claremont. There was no power or water supply at that time. The shed had previously been used for lawnmower maintenance and storage by the Town of Claremont, when the large Golf Course was in existence (before it became public open space and parkland in 2009).



There was a rustic and grubby metal sink (now not so grubby) which has been relocated on the outside of the shed and will be used for hand washing and any other “outdoor” jobs. The ground level to access this sink has yet to be levelled for ease of access and use.

The internal kitchen space has evolved over time and has been created with items saved from landfill.

The newly acquired kitchen sink was salvaged from a recent house demolition in Strickland St. The long kitchen bench was salvaged from a house renovation in Strickland St. It had been used as a computer/study desk for adolescents. The fridge was donated by Joan Tocock. The white storage units were from the local “Buy Nothing” Facebook group. Ditto for the microwave. The tap was donated by TOC Bushcare Officer. Many of the mugs have been donated over time by members wishing to upgrade our eclectic collection. Kitchen utensils mostly come from my own kitchen clear-out sessions.

A lot of pro-bono work has been provided by Lance Bannister Jones and Owen Ashby to bring the new-look kitchen to fruition. They installed the extended power cables to enable more appliances to be used, also the oscillating fan which helps expel hot air from the shed.



Phil the plumber from TOC (above)

Lance in the naughty corner (left)

Continued on page 9)

We have certainly evolved and now, our kitchen in the shed is very user friendly and designed to be used to reward volunteers for their work in the park or for us to acknowledge all the work done by volunteers behind the scenes.

(An article on the topic of “behind the scenes” will be coming up in a future newsletter)

Owen and Lance in construction mode



Carol Bolton

5.10.1935 – 27.11.2023

It is with great sadness that the Friends of Lake Claremont say farewell to Carol Bolton, who died on 4 December aged 88. Carol was a well-loved and well-respected member of our community who regularly attended Night Chats, visited the Tee Box and walked round our beautiful Lake (as she had done with her husband Geoffrey who died in 2015), reflecting on everything going on around her as she took her daily walk.

I was fortunate to get to know Carol two months ago, at the October Night Chat in the Claremont Tennis Club. I remember perching on chairs on the verandah, chatting away as the sun went down, and realising how much we had in common. Would Carol be happy for me to interview her for one of my FOLC Newsletter Snapshots? No problem! So round I went to her house, where she served me with tea and biscuits and shared with me her passionate belief in community, and what she wanted to do in 2024.

While many of us go round the lake focusing on birds, plants, bushes, trees, fungi, insects, native fauna, predators and so on, Carol was an inveterate people-watcher. She just loved observing the different ways in which human beings use the lake: joggers, impatient cyclists ringing their bells, walkers who record how quickly they stride from A to B, dog-owners getting impatient with their pets who want to linger over interesting smells, young women running along with their babies in pushers, mothers encouraging their toddlers to scoot faster and so on. Carol planned to write an article for our Newsletter entitled ‘Homo Sapiens’, all about the ways that human beings use the Lake – often so involved in their personal worlds that they fail to acknowledge people who say ‘good morning’ as they stroll along at a more leisurely pace. How much I would have enjoyed Carol’s article!

RIP, dear Carol. You will be sadly missed by our whole community.

Rose Senior

FOLC AGM 2023

From : Hilary Heptinstall

The FOLC AGM was held at the park near the FOLC shed on the afternoon of Sunday August 3. The weather was perfect and there was a very good turnout of members who enjoyed drinks and nibbles before the meeting commenced.



AGM participants



Nick Cook with Tony Barr

Nick Cook welcomed us to Noongar Country. He expressed sorrow at the recent death of our member Carol Bolton who was a great contributor to FOLC.

One third of the Board must resign and renominate for re-election each year.

There was a motion to re-elect Tony Barr and Zac Hardisty and to appoint a new board member, Eva Czislawski. *(pictured right)* Eva has done a lot of work around Lake Claremont. She has just completed Year 12 at Shenton College and has been a member of their Sustainability Committee.



Nick Cook has served 13 years as a director, so a special resolution was required for his re-election.. He has resigned from his position of Chairperson of the Board and Tony Barr was elected to this position.

The Board want to develop a strategic plan for FOLC and Delia will ask for feed back which she will analyse to develop a draft strategy for the future direction of FOLC. The Urban Bushland Council (UBC) has managed groups to help develop a strategic plan and some groups have already done this.

In the absence of royal show parking FOLC have been exploring fundraising options. In 2024 we will hold a raffle, it is hoped this will raise up to \$10,000. FOLC members and others have been very generous in donating some fabulous prizes.

Zac Hardisty addressed the meeting and there was much discussion about the sort of trees that we should be planting around the lake with regards to species survival, tree canopy, and environment for native animals. A questionnaire will be sent out to investigate this issue.

Heidi Hardisty said that the Town of Claremont has now allowed Royal Show parking on the east side of the lake at the start of turtle nesting season and feels that FOLC should question this.

Don Tregonning suggested that we set up a mini botanic garden with plant names near to the shed.

Bruce Haynes thanked Nick Cook for the wonderful work he has done in his time as Chairman. This was met with applause and we then adjourned for a delicious barbecue.

TOWN OF CLAREMONT VOLUNTEER FUNCTION

This was held on December 4 at the McKenzie Pavilion. It was a very enjoyable occasion and there was a good attendance of FOLC members who received certificates. Our photographer Naga Srinivas and his wife, Anu, were among them.



FOLC Photographer Naga Srinivas Karsasal and Anusree

DECEMBER Busy Bee Sunday December 10 at 7.30 am at Myera St Cul-de-sac



natural resource
management program



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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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