



Ian Stewart took this photo of a pair of juvenile black-winged stilts before the lake dried up.

From the editor : Hilary Heptinstall

We were all pleased to hear that three trees at Claremont Show Ground were saved after plans to remove them for the Cirque du Soleil were rescinded, due in part to the efforts of the West Australian Tree Canopy Advocates (WATCA). These trees serve as resting and foraging sites for the endangered Carnaby's and Red-tailed cockatoos.

Our Coordinator, Nick Cook, is a co-founder of WATCA and spoke on the radio to Sabrina Hahn about their work. (See page 2)

I always enjoy Rose Seniors snapshots and it is good to read about the new Chairman of the FOLC Board, Tony Barr, in this edition. (See page 4)

Unfortunately the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer is still posing a threat to trees at Lake Claremont and, unfortunately, many trees will have to be removed. (See page 9)

FOLC members, led by Heidi Hardisty, are attending hand watering sessions to aid the survival of recent plantings. Any help would be appreciated ! (See page 10)

YEAR 10 COMMUNITY SERVICE

(From : Nick Cook)

On Friday February 9, the temperature was 42 degrees. I led our yr10 Scotch College students on a tour of the wetland.

We discussed the importance of trees, shade and habitat. We discussed urban heat islands and the devastating impact of shot hole borer. We then visited the ancient paperbark out on the lakebed.



NICK COOK ON THE RADIO

From : Hilary Heptinstall

It was good to hear Nick Cook and Hans Lambers speaking to Sabrina Hahn on ABC Radio on Saturday February 3. They spoke about the importance of tree canopy and the introduction of laws to regulate the removal of trees in urban areas. I fully support them.

It is depressing when driving down freeways, to pass housing developments where houses are packed very close together with not a tree in sight.

Unlike Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart and Adelaide, Perth and other West Australian cities have no regulation for the removal of large trees on private land.

The West Australian Tree Canopy Advocates (WATCA) is a community association established to address this problem. It has groups representing 25 Local government areas across WA and has more than 25,000 community members.

WATCA seeks to work collaboratively with the WA State Government, Local Government, the private sector and community to develop sensible and effective statewide regulation regarding the removal of large trees on public and private land.

OUR BIRDS

From : David Free

Wood Sandpiper, *Tringa glareola*

In February we have been privileged to have a Wood Sandpiper visiting our lake. This shy, dainty, wader breeds in north Eurasia and northern Siberia and is a regular but uncommon summer migrant to southern Australia. It has been a number of years since I last saw it at Lake Claremont.

Wood sandpipers mainly feed on insects, crustaceans, molluscs and worms, which they find on the drying margins of freshwater lakes. They have a preference for well vegetated habitats.



SWAN RESCUE

From : Nick Cook

This is a great example of the collaborative relationship between FOLC and the Town of Claremont.

In February, there was a family of swans at the lake with young that still could not fly. As the water receded, they became vulnerable to predation by foxes. FOLC raised the issue with TOC staff who also shared our concerns.

The Swans were assessed by the Western Australian Seabird Organisation and it was determined that the young birds were in good health and able to fly, meaning that there was no need to relocate the birds. Well done to our Bushcare Officer, Parks team and the Seabird Rescue Organisation!

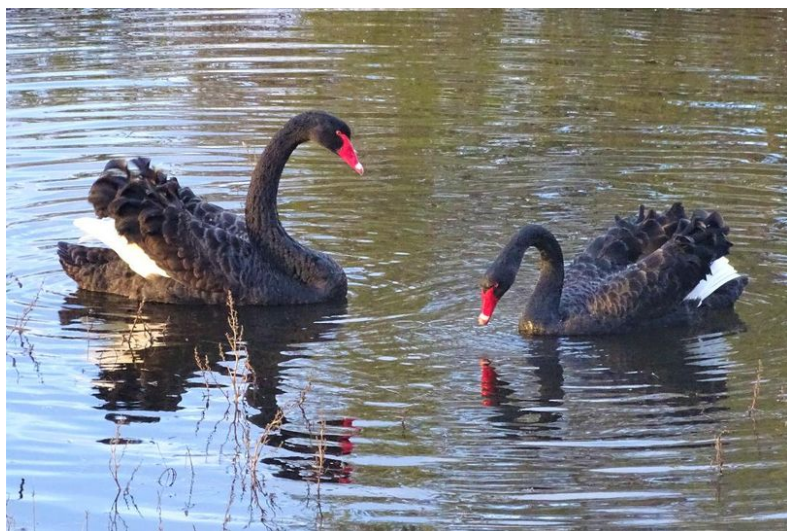


Photo by Nicky Armstrong

VOLUNTEER SNAPSHOT – TONY BARR

By Rose Senior

This Snapshot provides a welcome opportunity to introduce Tony Barr, already a member of the FOLC board of management for four years and now its chairperson. Tony likes to keep a low profile, so I'm interviewing him so we can find out a bit more about him!

Tony was born in Cornwall in the southwest of England. In 1970, when he was four years old, his parents took advantage of the Assisted Passage Migration Scheme to move to Australia for the cost of twenty pounds and find jobs in their adopted country. After spending time in Melbourne, Tony and his family moved first to country Victoria and then to Canberra, where from the age of 10 Tony completed his education.

Tony undertook a physics degree at the Australian National University, the topic of his honours thesis being heat transfer when spacecraft re-enter earth's atmosphere.



In 1989 he moved to WA, where he worked on a four-year project for the CSIRO on the interaction of lakes and wetlands on the Swan Coastal Plain - ending up working for the CSIRO for almost 20 years! Tony currently works as a hydrogeologist in a mining company located in Osborne Park, where he documents the distribution and flow of groundwater in mining areas.

Living as he does in Davies Road and following his passion for understanding the interaction of ground water and surface water, it didn't take long for Tony to meet Nick, Heidi and Bruce and be coopted onto the FOLC Board. Apart from supporting the collaboration between FOLC and Millenium Kids to encourage young people to become citizen scientists (under the Green Lab initiative), Tony participates in busy bees, does turtle tracking, promotes containers for change and maintains quenda drinking stations.

It is a privilege to have Tony as Chair of the FOLC Board. With his leadership skills and ability to foster collaboration between colleagues, I have no doubt that Tony will help the Friends of Lake Claremont to accommodate change as we move further into the 21st century.

CONTAINERS FOR CHANGE

From : Tony Barr

This is a reminder that the Friends of Lake Claremont have registered with the Containers for Change scheme. Our registration code is **C10906559**.

We would appreciate you collecting your, (and your families/neighbours/friends) containers and taking them to a recycling station. We have a number of green string bags at the shed marked with this code that can be used to collect the containers, but other bags (e.g. garbage bags) can be used.

Additional information about the scheme – types of containers accepted for refunds and various sites where these can be deposited are described below.

The scheme is described on the Containers For Change web site:

<https://www.containersforchange.com.au/wa/>

It currently covers the following types of containers (marked with a 10c refund):

- Beer bottles and cans
- Single-serve pre-mixed spirits containers
- Soft drink bottles and cans (up to 3L)
- Flavoured milk cartons (150 mL to 999 mL).

It does not currently cover:

- Wine bottles
- Plain milk containers.

Some juice and water containers are part of the scheme (but not all).

Two local methods of collecting the containers for the scheme are the depot at Shenton Park (ParaQuad Industries, 6 Orton Rd, off Selby St, 9am-4pm daily, closed public holidays) and collection bins at the Showgrounds (Ashton Rd, Gate 8, 7am-7pm when no events taking place) and Claremont Therapeutic Riding Centre, Brockway Road.

If you drop off a bag to one of the collection centres, please ensure it is waterproof, securely fastened and marked clearly and with our code.



TOWN OF CLAREMONT LOCAL ANIMAL LAW

From : Nick Cook

I am very pleased to be able to advise you that, at its last Council meeting, the Town of Claremont's Local Animal Law was passed.

This is a very significant step forward for the protection of our precious native fauna both at lake Claremont and the Swan river foreshore!

I should like to thank you all for your support when we have called you to action and to make a submission! I really appreciate your backing of this initiative which was led and championed by FOLC.

This fantastic and progressive move is the result of two years of advocacy by FOLC! It was well worth every moment. This was not an easy road and, initially, we were met with strong resistance. Well done all of you!

I would also like to thank the members of the Lake Claremont Advisory Committee, who unanimously supported this throughout the long journey. Town of Claremont should also be congratulated for responding to public consultation on this issue and arriving at a very progressive and sensible decision.

Special thanks are due to, FOLC member, Claire Brittain, for her advocacy on the Foreshore Advisory Committee over the years.



Nick Cook was spending some quiet time at Lake Claremont when he was joined by this beautiful Tawny Frogmouth



*The dry Lake Claremont in February
Photo : Hilary Heptinstall*

MILLENIUM KIDS GREENLAB PROJECT

From : Nick Cook

On Sunday February 18, the Friends of Lake Claremont and Millennium Kids Inc teamed up for a buzz-worthy GreenLab Project! Young eco-environmentalists and their families swarmed to build native bee hotels at Lake Claremont. It was a hive of activity, as kids got their hands dirty and learned about the birds, native plants and bees. Special shoutout to Preston, the bee extraordinaire, who led the charge in constructing our cosy hotels. With a lot of pollen power, we're creating a buzz about the importance of our native bee buddies! Dr Kit Prendergast led a 'trail of knowledge' tour to scope out our most friendly plants and spots for our native bee hotels, to be installed later in the year.

Thank you to everyone who endured the heat and brought their shining minds on a sunny day. The youth team were grateful to lead the prep with Cathy's help. We look forward to the next GreenLab workshop taking place next month at the lake.



Preston Momen and Kit Prendergast (above) with participants at the event



FLORA AT LAKE CLAREMONT

From : Karen Wood

Red-Eyed Wattle *Acacia cyclops*

Of all the hundreds of native species of Wattles, *Acacia Cyclops* is my favourite. Its flowering is much more sporadic than the extravagant displays of gold we see on other wattles but the seed pods, as pictured here amply make up for that.

The green, twisted pods appear in late spring. (*Pictured below left*) At this stage the seeds inside are a soft green and were crushed and used as soap by the Noongar people. The leaves were also useful, crushed then rubbed onto the skin as an insect repellent. Gum oozing from the trunk apparently made very good chewing gum.

Sometime around January the pods ripen and split open to reveal a shiny black seed with a bright red surround. (*Pictured below right*) The pods by now have dried and darkened so the spectacular “cyclops” eye is revealed. These seeds, along with the seeds of other *Acacias*, could be ground into a floury paste and baked into a damper called Mereny.



NIGHT CHAT SESSIONS IN 2024

From : Nick Cook

Our first Night Session for the year will be held in April, with our Federal member of parliament, Kate Chaney, as our speaker. Kate will be outlining her recently launched 'Curtin's Pathway to Net Zero' initiative. This involves a collaboration between local community members and local experts. We are looking forward to hearing all about it!

Our Night Chats events are held at the Claremont Lawn Tennis Club on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Refreshments are available from 5.30pm and the talk commences at 6pm.

Kate Chaney with Chris Bowen, Minister for Climate and Energy (left) and Claire Gardner, Net Zero Project Leader (right)



POLYPHAGOUR SHOTHOLE BORER UPDATE

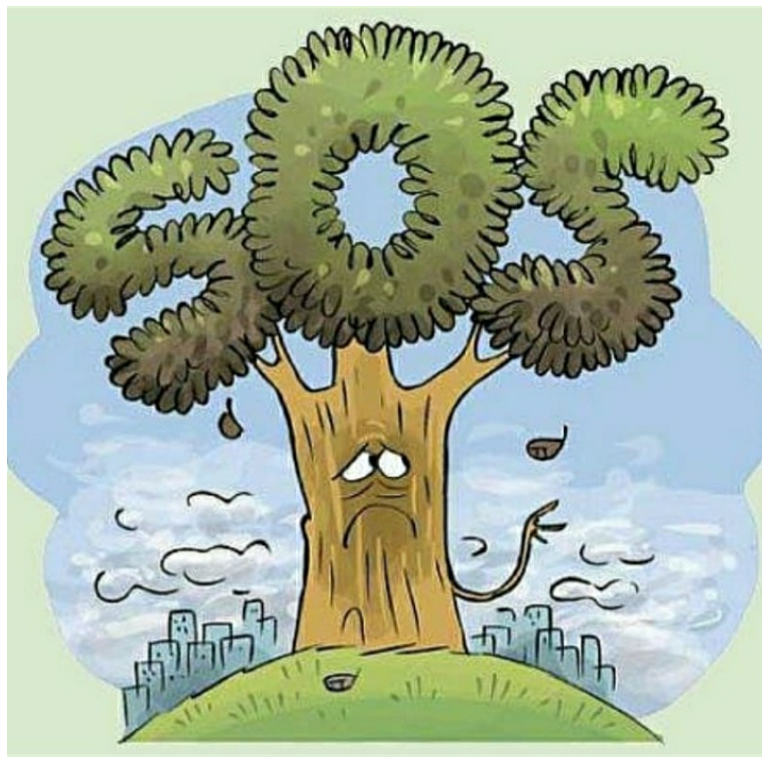
From : Nick Cook

"The Lake Claremont Advisory Committee was recently advised that DPIRD would be commencing tree removals at the lake around early April. Around 80 trees, many of them significant specimens, have been identified as requiring removal due to infestation by the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB)!

Be prepared, this will be quite confronting!

It is very important that members of the community be aware of the signs of PSHB and the potential for it to affect trees in their home gardens. Early detection can be treated by reduction pruning rather than wholesale removal of heavily infested trees. Plenty of great information can be found on the DPIRD website, link below.

[Polyphagous shot-hole borer | Agriculture and Food](#)"



LONG HOT SUMMERS AT THE LAKE

From : Karen Wood

For millennia our native West Australian plants have adapted to cope with frequent, long hot summers, nutrient poor soils and little rainfall.

These harsh conditions have certainly been seen over the last month or more in Perth. So what has that meant for our revegetated areas at the Lake Claremont Parkland? How are the replantings managing?

Well, there is certainly a lot of dead wood. Even trees with good canopies are dispensing with lower branches which in due course fall to the ground. I note that some clearing is wisely happening.

Acacias in particular are weathering the dry weather well, as are the banksias, templetonia, calothamnus, olearia and guichinochia. I have noticed that some Rhagodia flowers have gone quite brown, potentially dead.

It is good to know that those in charge of future plantings are looking carefully at survivors to ensure that during heatwaves, bound to become more frequent, deaths are minimised.

PLANTING AND WATERING FOR THE SWELTERING SUMMER

From : Heidi Hardisty

Many seedlings planted last winter in the remnant bushland have perished in the hot, dry summer conditions. But those remaining are doing well thanks to the enormous hand-watering efforts by volunteers.

Bi-weekly watering Sunday mornings began in November, and now weekly watering is being conducted with the help of Year 10 students from Christ Church Grammar School and Scotch College who are part of the Community Service Program run by FOLC on Friday afternoons.

850 shrubs and ground cover were purchased with funds won by FOLC through Planet Ark's 'The Seedling Bank' grant program. Of these seedlings, 120 were annuals so died off in summer naturally. 120 had to be removed as they were found to be an invasive species. Another 50 were removed by the council due to a drainage project. Only 220 have survived which equates to a 39% survival rate (220/560).

The 120 seedlings thought to be Native Pellitory (*Parietaria cardiostegia*) turned out to be a weed species (*Parietaria judaica*) and will be replaced with a suitable species by the nursery. Likewise, the Town of Claremont will replace the seedlings they removed when they extended and deepened the sump at the end of Butler Street in Swanbourne.

Please consider joining in our next watering event 07:30 am Sunday 3rd March.

Thank you!

See photos on page 11



Hand watering. Kevin McAlpine with grandchildren.

Delia Hendrie



Area off Strickland St where trees have been removed due to PSHB

DATES FOR MARCH

Sunday March 3
March 8, 15, 22 and 29
March 10.
March 17

Hand watering session 7.30 am
Year 10 Community Service Program
FOLC Busy Bee 7.30am
FOLC /Millennium Kids Greenlab



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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