

# Friends of Lake Claremont NEWSLETTER



It's heating up and we can all do our bit to make our local environment a little more habitable during our intense summers. From changing laws, minds or systems to hosing down the grapevine or putting water out for the animals, we all have an opportunity to ease the pressure on our climate-stressed landscape. If you have capacity – why not help out by volunteering with FOLC? We have plenty of opportunities but right now the focus is on watering to keep our new plantings going through the summer. Get in touch if you'd like to do your bit with us!

- Many thanks David Free for the **spring bird survey results** (p2) and **Our Birds** featuring the Swamp Harrier (p3)
  - Our next **Night Chats** features poet John Kinsella on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February** (p4)
    - Tony Barr shares current **Activities and News** (p5)
    - Soozie Ross appreciates FOLC's community spirit (p6)
    - Raffle winners announced (p7)

# SPRING BIRD SURVEY

Conducted on 31 October 2025  
By David Free

On 31st October morning my daughter Sacha and I conducted a survey of the birds at Lake Claremont. The morning was warm and mostly clear with a variable breeze.

The water level was as high as we have seen at this time of the year, above the 2m AHD mark.

We recorded 387 individuals of 37 species. This is our average number of species but fewer individuals than is normal for our spring surveys. Waterfowl numbers were mostly below average.

**“Surprisingly Grey Teal,  
normally abundant in  
spring, were not seen.”**

Breeding activity was noted for Pacific Black Ducks, Black Swan, Coot, Red Wattlebird, Raven and Welcome Swallow.

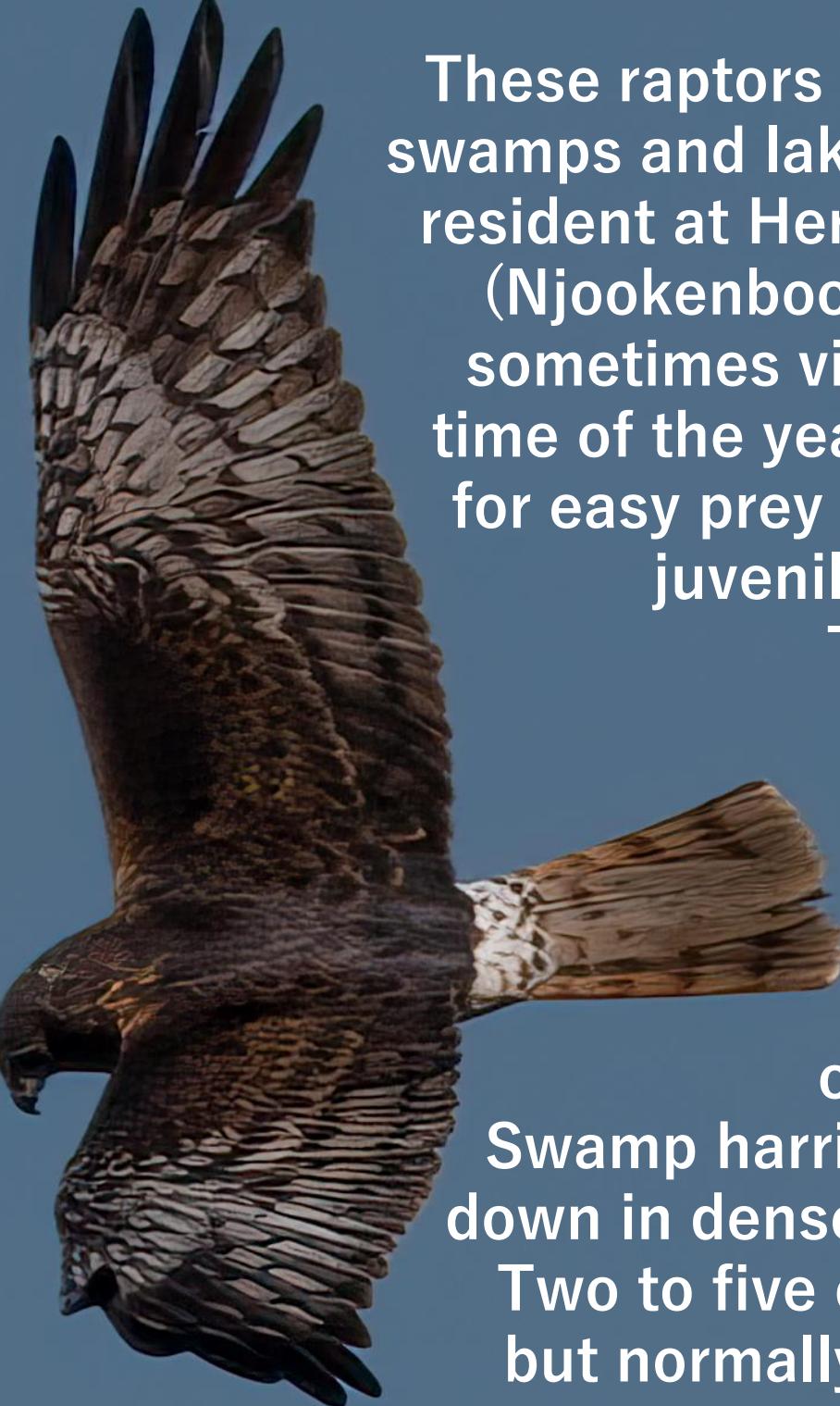
A highlight was the  
**Swamp Harrier**  
(*Circus  
approximans*,  
Dilyordoo). See  
more about these  
interesting birds  
on the next page.



Photo credit: Mike Bouette

# OUR BIRDS

Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans* DILYORDOO  
By David Free



These raptors favour rushy swamps and lakes. They are resident at Herdsman Lake (Njookenbooro) and they sometimes visit us at this time of the year, searching for easy prey amongst the juvenile waterfowl.

The plumage is variable, but adults have a distinctive white band on the rump.

Swamp harriers nest low down in dense reed beds. Two to five eggs are laid but normally only one or two young survive.

Photo credit: Mike Bouette

# NIGHT CHATS

THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2026

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Night Chats at Lake Claremont**  
**THURSDAY 19 February 2026**

Friends of Lake Claremont is excited to welcome **John Kinsella**, award winning poet to the next Night Chat at Lake Claremont.

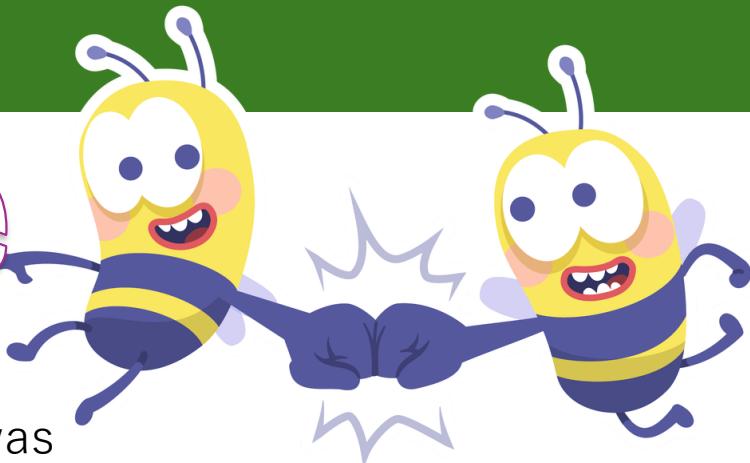
**Thursday 19 February,  
5:30 – 7:00pm at the  
Claremont Lawn  
Tennis Club.**

**Please note that the event will be held on  
THURSDAY evening this coming February.**

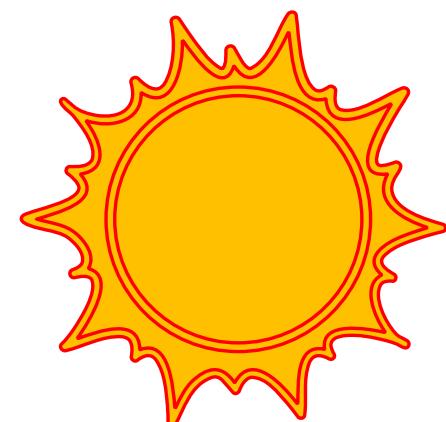
# ACTIVITIES AND NEWS

By Tony Barr

## Busy Bee



The November Busy Bee was again well attended. It was a toss-up whether to start the summer watering regime or do some weeding but the splash of rain during the week tipped the scales towards weeding. However, we are now in the watering season. We are watering roughly **every 2 weeks**, with once a month coincidental with the Busy Bee through to the February Busy Bee. **The watering will commence at 7:30am meeting at the shed and finish at roughly 8:30.**



The rainfall has really tapered off coming into summer, with only 12 mm since 27th October 2025 (as of 24 November 2025), with the annual cumulative rainfall at the Town of Claremont's gauge at Lake Claremont at 813 mm.

We appreciate all donations via the Containers for Change scheme in WA. Our membership number is **C10906559**.



# MARY YATES' MAP RAISED

Thank you to Lance and Jim  
By Soozie Ross



## Friends of Lake Claremont volunteers do all sorts of things behind the scenes.

Lance Bannister Jones and Jim Davies are hanging the magnificent map banner commissioned by the Town of Claremont and made by Mary Yates.

The banner is used for events such as "Celebrate Lake Claremont " which occurs in the Lake Claremont Park annually. This year (2025) the event was sadly cancelled at short notice due to severe storms.

We are very proud to display the map banner in the Friends of Lake Claremont volunteers shed. it serves as part of the display which also includes aerial photos of the area taken over the years since 1948. The displays have before and after photos of revegetation, and the banner is a useful demarcation between the "social and educational area" and the storage area at the rear of the shed.

# RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to our winners and thank you to all who entered

# CONGRATULATIONS!

- 1      Louise Sparrow
- 2      Emily Murphy
- 3      Soozie Ross
- 4      Cath Rauthstone
- 5      Gavin Bunnings
- 6      Moya Weston

# CONTACT

## Our Sponsors



Since 1998



natural resource  
management program



If you would like to contribute to our newsletter, please write to us or join us for our busy bee on the second Sunday of every month.



folc.wa@gmail.com



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PO Box 837  
Claremont, WA, 6910