



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

### Coordinator for Nights Chat at Lake Claremont

FOLC runs the very successful Night Chats at Lake Claremont, welcoming speakers the third Tuesday of every month from February to October. A coordinator is needed to liaise with the speakers, gather information, schedule and promote the talks. If you are organised and have good communication skills, this takes about 1-2 hours per month. For more info and to apply for the position, please contact Heidi Hardisty [folc.wa@gmail.com](mailto:folc.wa@gmail.com).

- David Free and his daughter Sacha have completed a bird survey for **Our Birds** on page 2 with refreshing news of regeneration.
  - This month's **Night Chat** is on **THURSDAY February 19th** with award winning poet **John Kinsella** (p3)
  - This month's **Activities and News** by Tony Barr (p5)
  - Town of Claremont offers free **Nature Play in the Park** for little ones to build healthy habits (p4)



# OUR BIRDS

Inland Thornbill *Acanthiza apicalis* DJOOBI-DJOO LBANG  
By David Free



On 11th January my daughter Sacha and I conducted a survey of the birds at Lake Claremont. The morning was sunny with an easterly breeze, initially cool but becoming warm.

Unusually for this time of the year, there was still water in all parts of the lake. The water gauge shows about 1.6m AHD. The bushland was very dry.

We observed 567 individuals of 40 species. The number of individuals is above average and the species count is well above our summer average. Breeding activity was noted for Black Swans, Purple Swamphen and Eurasian Coot.

Worth noting was our sighting of a pair of Inland Thornbills. *Acanthiza apicalis*, djoobi-djoolbang. In the south-west this pretty little songster primarily inhabits forest understories. It is uncommon in the metropolitan area and we have not previously recorded it in our surveys. This is another example of the increasing health of our regenerated bushland.

# NIGHT CHATS

John Kinsella and POEMS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Thursday 19th February @ 5:30pm Claremont Lawn Tennis Club



Join us for a very special night with John Kinsella, internationally acclaimed and prize-winning poet on 19<sup>th</sup> February. His awards include the Australian Prime Minister's Literary Award for Poetry and the Western Australian Premier's Award for Poetry (three times).

John will be discussing Poems for the Environment. Copies of John's *Collected Poems* will be available to purchase on the night.

Please note that Night Chats will be held on Thursday night this month at the Claremont Lawn Tennis Club, on Shenton Place in Claremont.

Doors open at 5:30 pm for refreshments, with a 6:00 PM start. No bookings are required, but a gold coin donation is appreciated. Everyone is welcome.













# NATURE PLAY IN THE PARK

Starts Wednesday February 11, every week for 8 weeks  
Meet at Lake Claremont Park at 9am or 10:10am

Nature Play WA, in collaboration with the Town of Claremont, is excited to invite families to Nature Play in the Park, a FREE eight-week healthy lifestyle program designed for three and four-year-olds and their families.

## PROGRAM DETAILS

 When: Every Wednesday for eight weeks, from February 11th  
 Session times: 9:00am or 10:10am  
 Where: Lake Claremont, Claremont

 What to expect  
 Fun learning adventures  
 Nature-based crafts  
 Physical activity and outdoor play  
 Food exploration  
 Nature storytelling  
 Online podcasts and videos for families

Register now via Town of Claremont website

Registration is ESSENTIAL as spaces are limited. If the program is booked out, you can join the waitlist. If a spot becomes available, Nature Play WA will contact you via email.

Held at Lake Claremont Park, the program encourages more time spent playing outdoors along with a range of fun activities promoting more healthy eating, physical activity and emotional wellbeing. Featuring eight weekly outdoor sessions, and an online learning component for families, this is a fabulous way to deepen your child's connection to nature while learning more about how outdoor nature play supports early childhood growth and development and strengthens your child's health and wellbeing.



# ACTIVITIES AND NEWS

By Tony Barr

We are well into summer now and as such (until the Year 10 program restarts after the February Busy Bee) we have been watering the 2025 plantings with alternate Sundays at the eastern buffer and Myera Street cul-de-sac. The Monday group has also been watering around the zig-zag path plantings.

The rainfall has really tapered off in summer, with only 3 mm in mid-December (just before the raffle draw) with a few other sprinkles of rain that haven't registered. The annual rainfall at the Town of Claremont's gauge at Lake Claremont was 816 mm.

There is a Lake Claremont Advisory Committee meeting on the Thursday 12th February. If anyone has an issue they would like to raise, please send an email to [folc.wa@gmail.com](mailto:folc.wa@gmail.com)

As mentioned above, the **next watering Busy Bee** for the season will be on **February 8**. Please attend if you can.

# CONTACT

## Our Sponsors



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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.



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PO Box 837  
Claremont, WA, 6910