



Friends of Lake Claremont NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

We need someone to help with our wonderful **Night Chats** program and events - this involves scheduling and marketing our speakers - what a great opportunity for someone who's keen to educate our community on how we can further care for our environment. Are you that person? Do you know someone who would be perfect for the job? If so, please get in touch: folc.wa@gmail.com.

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OUR BIRDS

By David Free



Photo credit: David Free

SPECIES PROFILE

COMMON NAME

Red-kneed Dotteral

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Erythrogonys cinctus

INDIGENOUS NAME

Dirl-dirl

The changing seasons and varying water levels in the lake make it a suitable feeding area for different bird types. Dotterels feed on invertebrates found in very shallow water and on the soft mud exposed as the lake dries and we can expect to be visited by the beautiful little Red-kneed Dotterel soon for this reason.

This pretty wader is normally found in groups of just a few birds, but in March 2019 I observed more than thirty at our lake, the most I have ever seen.

This species is described by R E Johnstone as being rare to uncommon, so we are especially fortunate that they decide to come to Lake Claremont. The more commonly seen Black-fronted Dotterel will almost certainly also appear soon.





Murals by Brenton See adorn the FOLC shed

Guided Walks Return to Lake Claremont

By Peter Creighton

After a restorative summer break, the popular free guided walks at Lake Claremont are set to recommence this March.

Following the significant winter rains of 2025, the lake remains a vibrant place, providing a watery habitat for the diverse wildlife that lives and breeds in this hidden pocket of the western suburbs and a peaceful haven for visitors from near and far.

Led by our friendly and knowledgeable volunteer guides, these easy lakeside strolls offer more than just scenic views. Participants will discover aspects of the area's rich history, including Noongar and European occupation, examine several artworks, and observe native wildlife in this restored environment. The walks also showcase the area's remarkable transformation from a former rubbish tip and golf course into a thriving, biodiverse sanctuary.

The scheduled walks are on:

- Thursday 5 March (45-minute walk)
- Saturday 14 March (1-hour extended walk)
- Monday 23 March (45-minute walk)

All walks commence at 10.00 am. No bookings are required - simply meet at the Tree of Wonder statue, located on the northern side of the Tee Box Cafe (Lapsley Road, Claremont). Whether you are a regular or a first-time visitor, these walks are a wonderful way to connect with nature and the local community. For more information, please contact the Friends of Lake Claremont at folc.wa@gmail.com.



Poet

John Kinsella

By Rose Senior

For the first night chat of 2026, the Friends of Lake Claremont hosted John Kinsella, internationally acclaimed and prize-winning poet, to discuss a selection of his Poems for the Environment. These poems were from his three volumes of poetry written between 1980 and 2023 and published by the UWA Press.

John is a man with a mission, an activist who speaks with passion about the degradation of the natural world by human activity. An imposing man: tall, with a shock of white hair, black shirt and jeans, expansive hand movements and a voice that resonates around the room, John read a selection of his poems, explaining that in poetry "you can speak about things you might not be able to say any other way". John's poems covered a range of environmental issues in Western Australia, ranging from the destruction of the Julimar State Forest by Alcoa (north west of Toodyay), to the construction of further highways in the south west to provide smoother transport for logging trucks and road trains. I particularly enjoyed a poem on "The Chain Saw Effect", and John's "Bulldozer Poem", in which he delved into the personalities of bulldozers, which express the inorganic nature of modernity. Thank you, John, for sharing with us your deeply-held beliefs and concerns regarding the conservation of our precious environment. Even if politicians ignore what you are saying, the general public, including the Friends of Lake Claremont, are certainly listening!

NIGHT CHATS

DRYANDRA WOODLAND NATIONAL PARK



Tuesday 17th March

Claremont Lawn Tennis Club
Shenton Place, Claremont

Doors open 5:30
6pm start

Gold Coin Donation
All welcome, please join us!

Join us for the March Night Chat with author Paul H Brown who will speak about his new book on Narrogin's fantastic Dryandra Woodland. There has not been a wildlife book written on Dryandra Woodland since 1970. The book celebrates the mammals and birds of the National Park which is one of only two sites left in the southwest harbouring a suite of native mammals once widespread across WA. Clearing, foxes, feral cats and bushland degradation have had devastating impacts elsewhere, but the Dryandra Woodland is an oasis for wildlife such as Numbat, Woylie, Echidna and Chuditch (Western Quoll). Paul Hepburn Brown worked for Parks and Wildlife for 30 years and Department of Water and Environmental Regulation for 10 years as a senior executive. He grew up in Northam and has worked as an ecologist, bushland manager, forest fire fighter and now author. Copies of Paul's book, plus a hard-copy bird list, will be available to purchase on the night.



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ACTIVITIES AND NEWS

By Tony Borr

We are almost at the end of summer. The Year 10 boys have taken over the watering of the eastern buffer. The Monday group has also been watering around the zig-zag path plantings.

We have had only 1 mm of rainfall so far this year, and although the lake level is dropping, there is still a large area of water which the waterbirds are enjoying. However, there are some pools of stagnant water on the lake bed which are used for mosquito breeding. It is strongly advised to cover up around the lake, particularly around dawn and dusk. The Town is aware of the problem and is undertaking mosquito larva control measures.

The Lake Claremont Advisory Committee met during February. The town is planning an event for early May as a replacement for last years cancelled Celebrate Lake Claremont event. There was discussion of the pest control and weeds. If you find weeds, particularly prickly ones, in the park including lawn area, you can inform the council of the location through the Snap Send Solve app. The agenda and minutes of the meeting may be found on the Town of Claremont website.

The next Busy Bee will be on March 8. Please attend if you can.

CONTACT DETAILS & OUR SPONSORS

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY Coordinator for Nights Chats

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 as well as 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.



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natural resource
management program



Since 1998