



Friends of Lake Claremont NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

What a time to be alive. While we can feel powerless in the face of global events, we always have the power to act within our own community and these actions have global consequences. That being said, what a perfect excuse to join us for some grounding time in nature. Read on for inspiration to create a better world for all.

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OUR BIRDS

By David Free



SPECIES PROFILE

COMMON NAME

Tree Martin

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Petrochelidon nigricans

INDIGENOUS NAME

Kabi-kalangkoorong

Photo credit: David Free

Two small insect eating birds can often be observed flying over our lake, the Welcome Swallow and the Tree Martin. Tree Martins can be distinguished from swallows by their shorter tails and dull white rumps. Sometimes we see mixed flocks of martins and swallows, twenty or more individuals, feeding above the lake.

These busy birds are found in all but the most arid parts of Australia. They nest in tree hollows and sometimes in crevices in cliffs; some of our birds use the roof of the gazebo, nesting between the corrugated iron and the ceiling.

Open the door to possibility with a guided walk at Lake Claremont this April

By Peter Creighton

Joining a free guided walk at Lake Claremont offers more than just a snapshot of local history. As you stroll through this restored urban wetland, you'll discover a sanctuary designed for both nature-based leisure and active recreation, with options suiting all ages. Quiet walking trails through the restored bushland and an observation platform give the chance to spot many of the bird species seen in and around the lake. Beyond that lie sealed paths for walking, jogging and cycling, nature-based playgrounds for children, as well as barbeques, picnic areas and several popular cafes. If that is not enough, there is an aquatic centre, a gym, an outdoor fitness station, designated off-lead dog exercise areas and a nine-hole golf course, all on the fringes of the parkland.

So why not join one of the walks offered by the Friends of Lake Claremont (FOLC) in April? You just may find yourself returning again and again to enjoy the new possibilities you will have discovered!

The walks are scheduled for:

Thursday 2 April (45-minute walk)

Saturday 11 April (75-minute extended walk)

Monday 20 April (45-minute walk)

All walks commence at **10am**. No bookings are required - simply meet the guide at the **Tree of Wonder statue, located on the northern side of the Tee Box Café, Lapsley Road, Claremont.** For more information, please contact FOLC at folc.wa@gmail.com.

Author Paul H. Brown

DRYANDRA WOODLAND NATIONAL PARK

By Hilary Heptinstall

Paul is a local author and environmentalist and spoke to us at the March Night Chats on the topic of the Dryandra Woodland National Park which is also the name of his newly published book. The Dryandra Woodland is 28,000 ha of bush located about 164km south-east of Perth. It features the largest remnant area of native vegetation in the south-west of WA consisting of mainly Wandoo trees in a habitat that was reserved in the early 1900s.

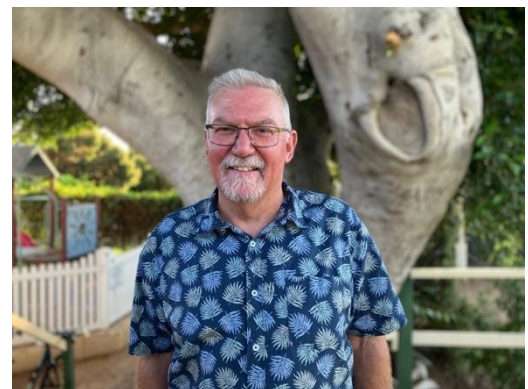
The Wandoo trees provide hollows of all sizes and dead wood on the ground provides shelter and termite food for animals such as Woylies. Woylies are keystone creatures as they eat fungi spores. Each woylie moves 500-800 tonnes of soil per year and spreads seed to allow them to grow somewhere else.

It is a good environment for South-West endemic birds and has 122 species of bush birds plus 33 species of water birds. Some ground nesting birds are threatened, including malleefowl, stonebush-curlews and quails.

Also threatened are owls, Peregrine Falcons and the Yellow-plumed honeyeater. Western Australia has more endemic birds than most states with only Queensland having more.

The community works to protect the indigenous species and since 2015 baits have been used to control for cats and foxes.

Thank you for speaking to us, Paul. It was a very interesting evening which we all enjoyed.



Paul has written a book called 'Brownie the country Yobbo' which has the subtitle 'Funny inappropriate Aussie yarns. Written for crusty old men.'

NIGHT CHATS

DESERT DISCOVERY

CITIZEN SCIENCE IN REMOTE AUSTRALIA

Desert Discovery Inc has been conducting biennial ecological surveys in remote areas of Australia since 1996. Mark Conlan, President & Treasurer of the group, will showcase the contribution that volunteer citizen scientists are making to land management and conservation in Australia's stunning outback.



Hosted by

Friends of Lake Claremont

April 21st

Claremont Lawn Tennis Club
Shenton Place, Claremont

Doors open 5:30 pm for refreshments

6pm start

All welcome - gold coin
donation appreciated

ACTIVITIES AND NEWS

By Tony Borr

It seems as though summer is over with the remnants of cyclone Narelle providing a curtain call to the season. At least **75mm** of rainfall has been recorded at Lake Claremont weather station (80 at Swanbourne and 65 at Perth BoM stations) so the lake and vegetation have had a good drink.

We have an event coming up on **Saturday 9th May (3:30-5:30pm)** run by the Town of Claremont: **An Afternoon at the Lake**. This is aimed at children but food trucks will also be there. We'll be asking for some volunteers closer to the event.

NatureLink (<https://naturelinkperth.org/>) is a wonderful resource hosted by Murdoch University that lists numerous activities available in Perth and wider in Western Australia associated with the environment. If you are looking for something to do or join (apart from FOLC of course) there are multiple activities advertised on the site including workshops, talks and events.

In a similar vein, with the school holidays approaching, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (<https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au>) runs a **Nearer to Nature** program with various activities for different age groups in the holiday period.

The next **Busy Bee** will be on **April 12 @ 8am** at the FOLC Shed. We'll most likely be weeding unless we have high temperatures between now and then. Please attend if you can, all welcome and we'll guide you on what to do!

CONTACT DETAILS & OUR SPONSORS



natural resource
management program



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