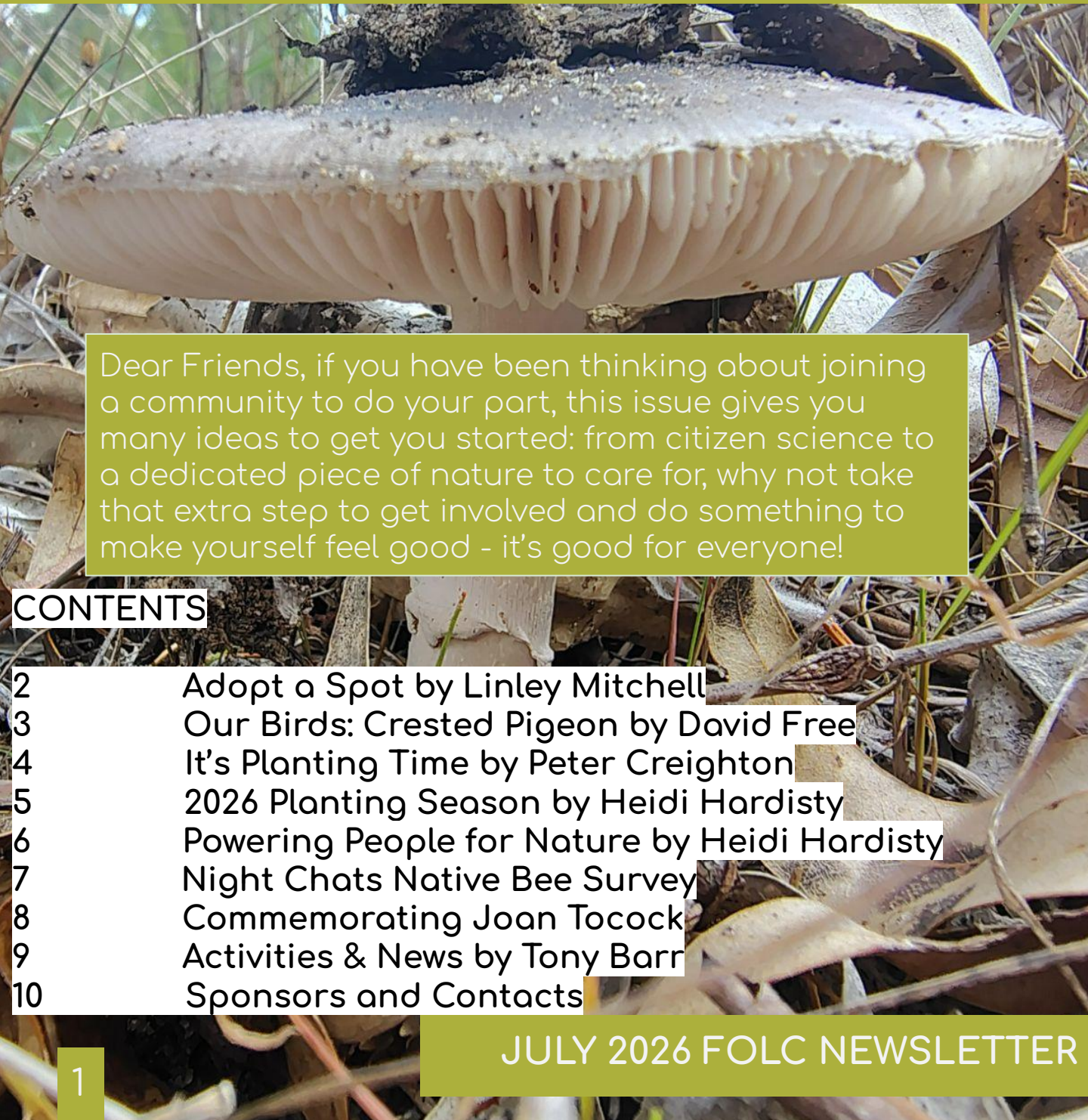


Friends of Lake Claremont NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends, if you have been thinking about joining a community to do your part, this issue gives you many ideas to get you started: from citizen science to a dedicated piece of nature to care for, why not take that extra step to get involved and do something to make yourself feel good - it's good for everyone!

CONTENTS

- 2 Adopt a Spot by Linley Mitchell
- 3 Our Birds: Crested Pigeon by David Free
- 4 It's Planting Time by Peter Creighton
- 5 2026 Planting Season by Heidi Hardisty
- 6 Powering People for Nature by Heidi Hardisty
- 7 Night Chats Native Bee Survey
- 8 Commemorating Joan Tocock
- 9 Activities & News by Tony Barr
- 10 Sponsors and Contacts

JULY 2026 FOLC NEWSLETTER

ADOPT A SPOT

By Linley Mitchell

If you prefer volunteering in your own time, joining the Adopt a Spot weeding program would suit you.

I allocate you an area to weed, as large or small as you like, in an area of the park that is easiest for you to access. You are given basic training and sent a weed guide booklet, electronically. If you are unsure if a plant is a weed or not you can photograph it and text it to me.

I will show you how to weed and where to get bags and where to leave them. You notify me and I notify Town of Claremont to collect them. It is not onerous. You aren't criticised for doing too little and can stop when you like.

It is suitable for anyone who can physically bend down or squat. School aged children, who have done a few hours as part of their community service, say they enjoyed it : the serenity, learning about plants, the satisfaction of clearing their area of weeds and doing something for the wider community.

You could have a Spot with family or friends and do it together. The need for weed spraying is markedly decreased which is better for the environment and saves money which can be used elsewhere.

Contact me via the FOLC email: folcwa@gmail.com

I look forward to meeting you.

OUR BIRDS

By David Free

When conducting the autumn bird census, my daughter Sacha and I were pleased and surprised to see a group of five Crested Pigeons. Only recently has this species moved into the area and we have seen it in only one earlier survey. My book of Noongar bird names does not include this species, which may indicate its previous rarity.

Serventy's 1976 book reports that it was not until the 1950s that it was seen visiting the Perth area. They are named for the striking dark plume on the head.

In flight the wing feathers produce an unmistakable high pitch whistling sound.

Two eggs are laid in a flimsy stick nest typical of pigeons. Crested Pigeons feed on the ground on seeds, leaves and insects.



SPECIES PROFILE

COMMON NAME

Crested Pigeon

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Ocyphaps lophotes

NOONGAR NAME

Not recorded

IT'S PLANTING TIME

By Peter Creighton



Photo credit: Nicky Armstrong

Winter is planting time at Lake Claremont, and many volunteers have been busy getting new plants into the ground. Throughout June, the Friends of Lake Claremont (FOLC) have worked with volunteers of all ages, from primary students to retirees, in planting carefully selected native species. Together, they are continuing the successful restoration of the previously degraded lakeside locale.

While many of the volunteers live nearby, some come from further afield. Nicky Armstrong regularly travels from Falcon, south of Mandurah, to assist in the revegetation work around the lake.

“I grew up in Claremont and loved to explore the lake as a child, but then my family moved away,” said Nicky. “When I joined FOLC in 2019 and started to help with planting and weeding at the lake, it felt like coming home. I love working with the other volunteers and reconnecting to this special place.”

You can see the results of the extensive planting program and learn more about the restoration project, together with the history of the lake, on one of the walking tours provided by FOLC volunteers.

Shorter walks of about 45 minutes along the eastern side of the lake will take place on **Thursday 2 July** and **Monday 27 July**. A longer walk around the whole lake, lasting about 90 minutes, will be held on **Saturday 11 July**. All walks are free of charge and commence at 10 am at the ‘Tree of Wonder’ sculpture, on the northern side of Tee Box Cafe, Lapsley Road, Claremont. There is no need to book - just turn up.

For enquiries about the walks or FOLC, please email folc.wa@gmail.com.

2026 PLANTING SEASON

By Heidi Hardisty

FOLC has completed another successful planting season.

This year we focussed on infill planting where the limestone track was removed on the north side of the lake, creating more habitat for our local wildlife.

It took 3 short planting sessions on the second weekend in June to plant 900 seedlings of mainly shrubs and groundcover plus 5 tuarts and 5 marris.

On Friday afternoon 12 June, we had the help of 30 year 10 students from Scotch College and Christ Church Grammar School. On Sunday morning 25 volunteers from FOLC and the general public planted 400 seedlings. Then the following Monday, another 25 students from John XXIII finished the job off.

The following Tuesday, students from the Presbyterian Ladies College (PLC) planted about 100 seedlings in the Myera Street sump and Ballaruk Bushland, which is the remnant Tuart Woodland - listed as a critically endangered threatened ecological community under the federal environmental laws. Thank you to the volunteers and the Town of Claremont who provided the seedlings.

POWERING PEOPLE FOR NATURE

By Heidi Hardisty



Heidi Hardisty with Marnie Giroud

At the June Night Chats, Marnie Giroud shared her passion for citizen science and explained why it is so important to engage more people to do research. Nature is in decline and needs our help. Citizen science provides an avenue to find and connect like-minded people-enabling thousands of volunteers to collect data – a great help to researchers who can't do it alone.

The Great Cocky Count, held every year in April in the southwest of WA, is one of the largest citizen scientist projects in Australia.

The three different species of black cockatoos are counted as they fly into their roost for the night. The data has been instrumental in estimating the populations of the birds which is still declining mainly due the clearing of their habitat, as well as disease, vehicle strike and shooting.

As a committee member of the Australian Citizen Science Association (ACSA), Marnie encourages everyone to visit their site and find a citizen science project to join. You don't have to have experience because scientists train the volunteers. Projects are inclusive, empowering and collaborative. "You'll find people out there that share your passion."

One other really successful project in Perth has been the Dolphin Watch program, where 2000 volunteers have been trained and participate, helping to make a difference.

Citizen science projects are designed by scientists and volunteers together, meaning they learn and share their findings together, celebrating their successes and inspiring others to join in. As Marnie said goodbye, she encouraged everyone to check out the ACSA website and the 10 principles of citizen science: [10 Principles of Citizen Science - Australian Citizen Science Association](#)

Thank you Marnie for such an uplifting and inspiring talk.

NIGHT CHATS

Native Bee Survey at Lake Claremont

This month FOLC welcomes Dr Juliana Pille Arnold- an ecologist and zoologist with over 18 years of experience conducting ecological surveys in Australia and internationally. The Town of Claremont commissioned Biologic Environmental to undertake a single-season terrestrial and aquatic invertebrate fauna survey around Lake Claremont. They surveyed three key bioindicator groups: ants, native bees and aquatic macroinvertebrates.

Juliana will be presenting the findings of the bee component of this survey. A total 149 native bee specimens were found representing 27 species across four families, substantially expanded our existing knowledge, with 19 species recorded for the first time in the study area and eight undescribed taxa identified.

Don't miss it!

Hosted by

Friends of Lake Claremont
Tuesday July 21st

Claremont Lawn Tennis Club
Shenton Place, Claremont

Doors open 5:30 pm for refreshments

6pm start

All welcome - gold coin
donation appreciated



JULY 2026 FOLC NEWSLETTER

COMMEMORATING JOAN TOCOCK

by Heidi Hardisty

A special planting session was held at the end of June to commemorate the life and volunteer work of Joan Toccock by her family. They planted 40 seedlings next to the Joan and Toccock bench and 'Together' sculpture on the southeast edge of the lake. Joan was a local hero who volunteered for the community and the environment. She was also one of the founding members of the Friends of Lake Claremont, doing projects around the lake for 10 years before the FOLC group was formalised in 2003 by Soozie Ross.

The planting date was chosen close to Joan's birthday – June 17th. Joan was born in 1919 and died in March last year at the age of 105 years.


Joan's family, including her daughter Joy, her grandchildren and great grandchildren removed the weeds and planted a small garden of native vegetation that they will tend going forward. Joy was chuffed that the location was next to the Toccock bench and was in direct line with Garden Street on the west side of the lake where Joan and Ted lived for more than half a century. The small garden will serve as a reminder of the hard work and passion given by volunteers like Joan and her family to make this world a better place for everyone.





Photo credits: Nicky Armstrong

ACTIVITIES AND NEWS


By Tony Barr


 The weather was very kind to us on our last busy bee, sunshine whilst we were planting followed by rain later in the day ... lovely for the plantings. We've had a nice 100 mm of rainfall halfway through Makuru season – the coldest/wettest months of the calendar. Hopefully there is a bit more rain to come ... the forecast implies there is.

 June's Busy Bee activity was planting along the closed track and adjacent bushland to the north of the lake. This was completed despite the various thicknesses' of mulch and remnants of semi-compacted limestone. The next Busy Bee will be on Sunday July 12 when we will be weeding.

 We are after volunteer(s) who can act as a membership officer, greeting new members and volunteer(s) to assist organising Night Chats.

 We are interested in volunteers to join the Turtle Tracking program and to assist with the camera wildlife spotting around the lake. There have been reports from around the metropolitan area of turtles nesting (or migrating) so please take care when driving in the vicinity of all lakes and wetlands.

 We are continuing with our Containers for Change program (membership id C10906559). This financial year it raised \$2,117. Thank you for all donations during the year. Starting 1 July additional container types (most drink containers including wine, juice, spirits and flavoured milk between 150 mL and 3L) are now eligible to be returned for cash so please continue to collect and return. We have also received 3 large bags suitable for hanging off the back of SULO bins to collect returnable containers at parties. If you would like to borrow them for your events and collect containers for FOLC, please let someone at FOLC know (they are stored in the shed).

 Please contact me via email (folc.wa@gmail.com) if interested in the roles or activities.

JULY 2026 FOLC NEWSLETTER

CONTACT DETAILS & OUR SPONSORS



natural resource
management program



EMAIL

folc.wa@gmail.com

WEBSITE

www.friendsoflakeclaremont.org

FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/folcwa

ADDRESS

FOLC c/-

79 Strickland Street

Mt Claremont, WA, 6910

JULY 2026 FOLC NEWSLETTER