

Friends of Lake Claremont NEWSLETTER

Dear friends,

It's freezing and sunny and dry. It's hard to believe we're heading into our first spring, Djilba, but the evidence is there in the yellow blooms of acacias. We know also to expect little rain for the next nine months with the confirmed El Niño weather system this coming summer. Enjoy the cooler nights while they last, and don't forget to mulch!

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OUR BIRDS

By David Free

In recent days the Fan-tailed Cuckoo has often been heard calling in the Ballaruk bush.

SPECIES PROFILE

COMMON NAME

Fan-tailed Cuckoo

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Cacomantis flabelliformis

NOONGAR NAME

Koordoomal

Its voice is an unmistakable, loud, descending trill. However, this bird is noted for its ventriloquial ability and it is more often heard than seen.

In WA this species spends summer in the lower south west, visiting us only in the cooler months.

Fantails parasitise smaller birds, preferably species which build domed nests, such as thornbills.

They feed mainly on insects and their larvae.

With thanks to Mike Boutte for this photograph.

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IMPROVING CAT OWNERSHIP IN WA

By Bruce Webber

The WA Government is currently reviewing the Cat Act 2011, which provides for the control and management of cats and promotes the responsible ownership of cats.

Feedback for the review is being sought from the wider community up until 31 August 2026. This is your opportunity to help shape the future of cat welfare and responsible pet ownership across Western Australia and set the standard for other states to chase.

The WA Feral Cat Working Group will be making a submission to this call for feedback. We encourage everyone with an interest in responsible cat ownership to also submit a response. You do not need to be based in Western Australia to take part.

We have produced guidelines for the submission available for download as a PDF from this page: https://wafcw.org.au/media_post/western-australias-cat-act-2011-review-feedback-guidance/

Our positions are evidence-based and draw on only the best, robust scientific studies. Please use or adapt our content to prepare your own submission.

You can complete the survey here: <https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/local-government/community/cats-and-dogs/review-of-the-cat-act>

Please let your friends and colleagues know, or share one of our social media posts on the opportunity:

FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1AvB5F7i6v/>

LINKEDIN

<https://www.linkedin.com/posts/wafcw-western-australias-cat-act-2011-review-activity-7488509738419154944-hc2A>

X

<https://x.com/WAFCWG/status/2082752353367957741?s=20>

BLUESKY

<https://bsky.app/profile/wafcw.bsky.social/post/3mru2x6hyi22s>

Dr Bruce Webber
Executive, WA Feral Cat Working Group
www.wafcw.org.au

AUGUST 2026 FOLC NEWSLETTER

TOGETHER

AT LAKE CLAREMONT

By Peter Creighton



Photo credit: Nicky Armstrong

Visitors to the eastern side of Lake Claremont are readily drawn to a statue depicting two older people sitting tenderly together. The couple, captured in bronze by local sculptor Simon Youngelson, represents Joan and Ted Tock, who were among the first volunteers to work on restoring the wetland area and to join the Friends of Lake Claremont (FOLC).

Joan is fondly remembered by her friend and FOLC founder, Soozie Ross. 'Joan was such an inspiration, still weeding in her nineties and helping at events well after her hundredth birthday,' recalls Soozie. 'She was dedicated to making the lake a place for all to enjoy forever.'

Joan was made a life member of FOLC and a Freeman of the Town of Claremont. She died in 2025, aged 105, and flags in Claremont flew at half-mast on the day of her funeral.

The sculpture, entitled 'Together', is one of several public art works that can be seen as part of the free guided walks offered by FOLC in August. Shorter walks of about 45 minutes along the eastern side of the lake will take place on **Thursday 6 August** and **Monday 24 August**. A longer walk around the whole lake, lasting about 90 minutes, will be held on **Saturday 15 August**. All walks commence at **10 am**. There is no need to book - just meet the FOLC guide at the **Tree of Wonder** sculpture, on the northern side of **Tee Box Cafe, Lapsley Road, Claremont**.

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

NIGHT CHATS

The Energy-Water Nexus and Climate Change

This month FOLC welcomes climate change, water and energy expert Cilla de Lacy to Night Chats at Lake Claremont. Cilla led the nation's urban water industry in responding to the Millennium drought which saw our major cities almost run out of drinking water.

In 2004 ecologist Tim Flannery predicted Perth could become the first 'ghost metropolis' due to climate change significantly reducing rainfall and dam supplies. What transpired was a massive collaborative effort between Water Corporation, CSIRO, Departments of Health, Water and Environmental Protection, and the Perth community to become world leaders in climate resilient water planning and greenhouse gas emission reductions.

Then when the Millennium drought hit much of southern and eastern Australia's major cities, proposals for desalination plants were met with public outrage and cries of 'energy in a glass.' These were overcome by promises to power plants with renewable energy. In WA our largest ever wind farm at Emu Downs was built to power our first major desalination plant in Kwinana in 2006. Fast forward to today and the race to net zero by 2050 and the march of AI is again ramping up debate about our energy and water future.

During her time as Mayor of Nedlands, she led a community campaign to install underground power in Nedlands to protect street trees and the electricity network from the impacts of climate change and drove policy changes to improve the fairness and equity of underground power. In her recent work in state energy policy, she sees parallels between the current energy transition and the work she did in urban water in response to the Millennium drought.

Hosted by

Friends of Lake Claremont

Tuesday August 18th

Claremont Lawn Tennis Club

Shenton Place, Claremont

Doors open 5:30 pm for refreshments

6pm start

All welcome - gold coin donation appreciated



Cilla de Lacy

ACTIVITIES AND NEWS

By Tony Barr

🌈 We had a good busy bee in July, very pleasant morning to weed amongst the 2025 plantings in the eastern buffer. We've had a bit of a dry spell towards the end of the Makuru season – and it's not looking very prospective for decent rainfall in the next week (end of July-early August). Fingers crossed there are some substantial falls on the way. However, the lake itself is quite full as it did not dry out last summer.

🐝 We will be weeding again at the Busy Bee on **Sunday August 9 (8 am at the shed)** with the weeds unfortunately enjoying the rain and periods of sunshine. All are welcome. As usual, the Busy Bee will be followed by a morning tea.

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

🐢 We are also interested in volunteers to join the Turtle Tracking program and to assist with the camera wildlife spotting around the lake. The aim of the turtle tracking program is to protect the nests from predators such as foxes. Any assistance would be appreciated. I went to an information session for Turtle Tracking Leaders in July. The current advice is not to interfere with turtles unless they are in imminent danger. Please contact FOLC if you see any turtle activity outside the lake. The nesting season should be starting soon, and as the lake was full over summer, the turtles probably didn't aestivate and have had ample opportunity for breeding activities.

🐛 You may also have noticed that PHSB (polyphagous shot hole borer) contractors have been conducting surveillance, treatment, and trap installation. Hopefully the treatments the Town is carrying out have reduced the numbers of the pest.

✉ Please contact me via email (folc.wa@gmail.com) if interested in the roles or activities. The Lake Claremont Advisory Committee is meeting in August. If you have any issues you would like to raise with LCAC or the Board of FOLC, please contact me via email at the address above.



EMAIL

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WEBSITE

www.friendsoflakeclaremont.org

FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/folcwa

ADDRESS

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OUR SPONSORS



natural resource
management program



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