

Friends of Lake Claremont NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,
There's a lot of action happening as the weather warms up - nesting turtles, friendly frogs and I am excited to hear of plans for a plant nursery to be established in the coming year.

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OUR BIRDS

By David Free

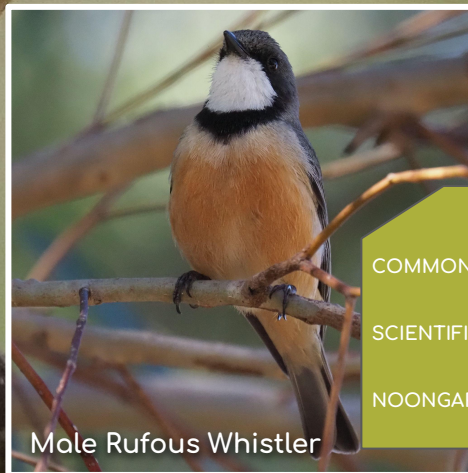
Until about ten years ago we did not see this striking bird around the lake. Now, with the first re-vegetated areas supporting a healthy insect population, they can be regularly seen and heard in our northern bush area.

The female is a pretty bird, her buff underparts streaked with black.

Rufous whistlers are great songsters; both sexes call loudly, especially in the breeding season.

The male is unmistakable with his white throat, black band below and rufous underparts.

Female
Rufous
Whistler



Male Rufous Whistler

SPECIES PROFILE

COMMON NAME

Rufous Whistler

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Pachycephala rufiventris

NOONGAR NAME

Unknown

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SNAKE-NECKED TURTLE NESTING SEASON

By Heidi Hardisty

A kind soul recently rescued a Southwestern Snake-necked turtle who was being attacked by a raven at Lake Claremont. A volunteer for the Friends of Lake Claremont drove the turtle to the WA Wildlife Hospital at Bibra Lake.

Sadly the turtle was suspected of being chronically ill prior to the trauma it suffered from the attack. There were no viable treatments or options to save it, so it had to be humanely euthanised to prevent further suffering.

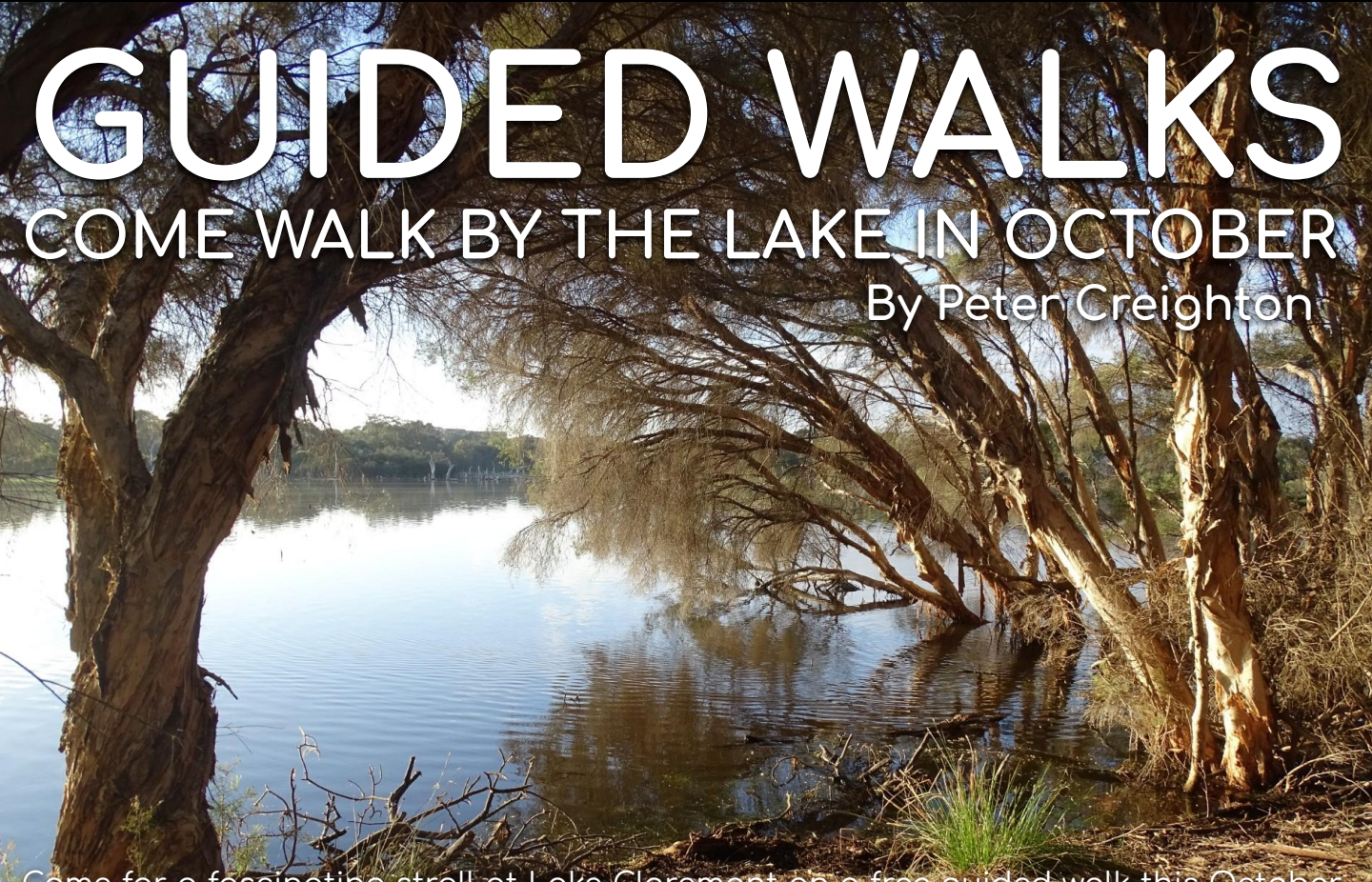
Snake-necked turtles are struggling to survive. As the females come out of the water to lay their eggs in the sandy soil – sometimes up to a kilometre away from the lake's edge – they have many threats to deal with including loss of habitat and attacks by ravens, foxes and dogs.



It is now turtle nesting season. Please be on the lookout for turtles that are nesting and keep your dog on a lead and away from turtles as much as possible. If you spot a turtle out of the water please call FOLC on 0403 845 527.

FOLC would like to thank WA Wildlife for their generous help. You can donate to the hospital via their website [WA Wildlife - Wildlife Rehabilitation Perth - Protecting wildlife, preserving tomorrow.](#)

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GUIDED WALKS

COME WALK BY THE LAKE IN OCTOBER

By Peter Creighton

Come for a fascinating stroll at Lake Claremont on a free guided walk this October. The walks, conducted by volunteers from the Friends of Lake Claremont, highlight the diverse history of the area, its birds and animals, and several public artworks along the route, all amidst the glorious spring flowering of the restored bushland. Jenni Bannister-Jones, who has conducted walks at the lake for about five years, says that even long-term locals are in for a pleasant surprise. "Many who come on the walks find that there is much more to the lake than they ever imagined," observed Jenni. "Some visitors recall how different the place was in their younger days, and how much more vibrant and accessible it is today."

Shorter walks of about 45 minutes will take place on **Thursday 1 October** and **Monday 26 October**. A longer walk, lasting about 90 minutes, will be held on **Saturday 10 October**. All walks commence at 10 am at the Tree of Wonder sculpture, on the north side of the Tee Box café, Lapsley Road, Claremont.

The walks are open to anyone who would like to find out more about the lake and to enjoy its delightful surrounds. There's no need to book – just turn up. For more information about the walks or the Friends of Lake Claremont, please email folc.wo@gmail.com.

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SURPRISE!

A WILD MOTORBIKE FROG APPEARS

By Heidi Hardisty



Heidi with her friendly frog

This beautiful motorbike frog hopped out an empty weed bag and onto Heidi during a weeding session at the end of September. Seventeen lads boarding at Christ Church Grammar School gave up part of their Sunday morning to weed whiteflower fumitory on the eastern buffer at Lake Claremont.



Whiteflower fumitory smothering a Zamia palm

The lads removed a total of 30 bags of this highly invasive creeper - which left unchecked smothers native shrubs. Thanks goes out to the boys and their teacher Ollie who ensures the boys volunteer in worthwhile community projects.

NIGHT CHATS

Nature Positive Financing with Judy Fisher

Biodiversity loss is now recognised as a source of economic and financial risk. Business and investors, often unknowingly, have a high dependency on nature. As ecosystems degrade it can impact economies, human well-being, financial markets and business portfolios.

Nature-positive financing promotes the advancement of nature while redirecting economic investments away from activities that are harmful to nature. Healthy natural ecosystems are critical to ensure the survival of people and ensure healthy resilient lives. The time has come for business and investors to move from risk awareness to risk preparedness.

Judy Fisher is the Director of Fisher Research Pt Ltd and Adjunct Associate Professor at UWA. She was an expert, organiser and speaker at the Nature Positive Finance Workshop hosted by the Banque de France in Paris in June 2026. A key final message was that economic activities and financial systems are fundamentally dependent on nature and its relationships to people. Judy will discuss the relevance of the workshop findings to Perth's business', investors, natural environment and interconnected communities.

Hosted by
Friends of Lake Claremont
Tuesday 20th October

Claremont Lawn Tennis Club
Shenton Place, Claremont

Doors open 5:30 pm for refreshments

6pm start

All welcome - gold coin
donation appreciated



Judy Fisher

THE NEW CAT LAWS

By Paul Hardisty

FOLC welcomed Dr Bruce Webber, executive director of the WA Feral Cat Working Group, to talk about the latest science on the impacts of domestic cats, be they roaming pets, strays, or feral animals, and why introducing new cat laws in WA matters.



Bruce Webber and Heidi Hardisty

He dispelled common myths such as "my cat is well fed and so doesn't kill", and "my cat needs to roam", pointing out that no other domestic animals (except honey bees) are afforded the freedom to roam that cats are. And the consequences of allowing cats out, day or night, are dire for Australian wildlife and the cats themselves. Current estimates are that roaming pet and feral cats kill over 3 billion wild animals a year, that's almost ten million every day.

Every week, hundreds of pet cats that are allowed to roam die unnecessarily from vehicle strike or disease.

Dr Webber's message was clear: indoor cats are safe, healthy and happy. Roaming cats are killers against which our native animals have little or no defence.

Cat containment is a win for everyone.

FUNDING GRANT SECURED

By Elizabeth Borthwick



Since 1998

Our new grants officer, Delia Hendrie, has successfully applied for Swan Alcoa Landcare Program funds totalling \$18,000, which will allow a team to help with hand weeding around the lake next year.

Thank you, Delia; as Heidi Hardisty commented: "Weeding is one of the most important jobs to make our planting projects a success and keep the bushland healthy!" and without the important work you do we would not have access to these resources.

We have also applied for a Let's Grow Grant which would be put towards revegetating part of the remnant bushland and are waiting for the results.

ACTIVITIES AND NEWS

By Tony Barr

We had good weather for our busy bee in September followed by the AGM. We weeded north of the shed and gathered a huge bounty of weeds – a lot of fumitory and thistles. Additional weeding around the lake meant we filled all our bags over a couple of weeks. A huge thanks to all involved.

Following on from July's night chat by Dr Juliana Pille Arnold on the bees around Lake Claremont, for those interested the full report from Biologic Environmental on the Invertebrate Fauna survey they conducted is included in the Lake Claremont Advisory Meeting agenda for the 13 August 2026 meeting on the Town of Claremont's website:

https://www.claremont.wa.gov.au/media/eycdsgub/lake_claremont_advisory_commit_pmrc24wmqukhkbpbrz1bw_v3.pdf

The AGM went well following on from the Busy Bee and a Morning Tea/Brunch with a BBQ. Thanks to all those that attended and contributed. Paul's model of a proposed plant nursery was a big hit and we'll be trying to progress this project over the coming year. We are planning a board meeting on October 11. If anyone has anything they would like to raise, please send an email to folc.wa@gmail.com or a message to 0403 845 527.

The next Busy Bee is on Sunday 10 October. We are shifting to the summer period and will be starting at the earlier time of 7:30am, finishing around 9:30am. All are welcome. The Busy Bee will be followed by the usual morning tea.

A correction is needed to an article in August's newsletter. Bruce Haynes has pointed out that the Together statue figures are NOT Ted and Joan Tocock. The original concept was to have two medical figures looking over the lake where they could be seen by persons coming from Lapsley Road. This was a celebration of the medical community response to the Covid-19 pandemic. A change in location was then negotiated by Bruce to its present location between the Tocock chairs, and the sculptor negotiated a change to two elderly persons, understood as a celebration of persons enjoying the lake. These changes were agreed to by the donor of the sculpture. The Together poem was a post installation project, unrelated to the original or subsequent project.

A big thanks to everyone who helped with the show parking in the last weekend of the month. We raised over \$11,000 for FOLC over the show period. We also thank the Town of Claremont for outsourcing the parking to community groups and allowing us to keep all money raised. Saturday was a bit quiet (some event in Melbourne possibly being a distraction) but on Sunday we were turning people away at the gate as we filled the venue.



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WITH THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



natural resource
management program

