



Friends of Lake Claremont



CONTENTS

- ▶ Rushing Around in April
- ▶ Ted's Corner: Hilary Heptinstall
- ▶ April Busy Bee: Removing a Grassy Knoll
- ▶ In Bloom This Month: Red Flowering Paperbark
- ▶ Events: The Winter
- ▶ Our Birds: Southern Boobook
- ▶ Calendar

RUSHING AROUND IN APRIL



Planting rushes in the "trenches"

The planting season got off to a huge start at the beginning of April. 11,000 rushes and sedges were planted in just 6 days! A heap of work was needed before the planting began: brush cutting dead Queensland Blue grass which had been killed with herbicide earlier. Contractors cut narrow trenches through the thick mat of dead grass so that the seedlings could be planted into the soil of the lake bed. The remainder of the dead grass will be left in place; it will slowly decay and should help prevent the spread of the invasive grass and other weeds.

The FOLC led a small group from the Conservation Volunteers WA (CVA) during the week. They planted a total of 7000 seedlings! Over the last few years, the FOLC have developed a strong partnership with the Conservation Volunteers. The FOLC are able to hire the CVAs for at least 2 weeks of the year. As part of the service, the CVAs provide a supervisor, all the tools and a crew of volunteers for the week. Sometimes the CVAs are able to provide us with free planting or weeding days. The FOLC have obtained federal funding from the Caring for Our Country Program to restore the wetland buffer. This grant allows a small portion for labour costs.

On Friday afternoon Scotch College boys, as part of the Year 10 Community Service Program that the FOLC run, planted 200 sedges.

Then on Saturday we welcomed back the Shah Satnum Ji Green 'S' Welfare Force Wing, an Indian group dedicated to humanitarian and environmental volunteering. They planted 3800 rushes in less than 3 hours! The CVAs introduced the FOLC to the Indian group. They will join us for a total of 5 planting sessions. We are very lucky to have their support!

More pictures on the following page!



Bruce Haynes handed out Town of Claremont caps to the Shah Satnum Ji group in appreciation of their huge contribution to the community. Last year they planted 21,000 seedlings at Lake Claremont.



Above: Year 10 boys from Scotch College planted 200 sedges (*Baumea preissii*) as part of the Friday afternoon Community Service Program



Above: Brush cutting Queensland Blue grass to create planting space



The Shah Satnum Ji Green 'S' Welfare Force Wing planting *Baumea preissii* on the south shore of Lake Claremont.



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

The autumn planting of rushes is part of a larger project to restore the wetland buffer. Funding is provided in part by Federal Government's Caring for Our Country Program and the Town of Claremont.



Ted's Corner

Hilary Heptinstall

Recognizing our many volunteers. In fond memory of Ted Tock whose exceptional ethics of volunteerism and community service are an inspiration to all of us.

When we first moved to Strickland Street in 1996, I knew little about Lake Claremont but my husband, Terry, had supervised Cross Country Running while a teacher at Scotch College and had become very fond of the area.

When he saw an advertisement for a vacant block opposite the Lake Claremont Golf course in 1995, he insisted that we have a look, and the rest, as they say, is history!

Soozie Ross was the driving force behind FOLC at the time we first became involved in 2003. I remember planting sessions on the slope leading to the drive in-site, and on the island in the West side of the lake. We also planted paperbarks and other trees in the dried up lake near the gazebo one summer. I remember planting trees with Scotch College boys by the path on the West side of the lake only to find shortly afterwards that they had been vandalised and uprooted!

With the closure of the long Golf Course in 2009 and the FOLC obtaining many substantial grants, the planting has become much more extensive. I decided that my knees were no longer up to kneeling but told Heidi that I was happy to supervise groups, (as a retired teacher, I am good at giving orders!)

One of the sessions that I enjoyed most was with a group of young people from Bank West in 2012. I supervised a team called 'Super Planters' who came dressed in Superman capes and planted a mixture of seedlings in record time. I have also enjoyed working with the Shah Satnam Ji Green 'S' Welfare Force Wing, the Scotch College students and the Conservation Volunteers.

As a 'non-planter', I am happy to volunteer in other capacities and I enjoyed working with Cath McAuley and others to prepare and serve food at Tanya Young's Open Garden Day. It was a wonderful occasion and I enjoyed the company of other volunteers.

Working on the parking for the Royal Show and Caravan and Camping show with Nick Cook was also (surprisingly) a most enjoyable experience and again I loved meeting the other volunteers.

My new task is to coordinate the local primary school planting sessions in June. This is at present a work in progress but hopefully will all come together in time!

I hope that reading this will encourage others who do not feel up to planting to get involved with FOLC – there are so many different ways to volunteer!

APRIL BUSY BEE - REMOVING A GRASSY KNOLL

What to do with the excess Queensland Blue trenched out of the lake bed (mentioned in the previous article)? Pick it up and remove it of course. An ideal task for the FOLC at their monthly busy bee held the second Sunday of every month. A huge heap of grass was removed while volunteers enjoyed the beautiful weather. The idea is to prevent the decaying grass from blowing back into the trenches on top of the newly planted rushes and help reduce the nutrient load. Queensland Blue was probably introduced from South Africa and has a useful purpose as turf, but it is a highly invasive species for the wetland.



Joan Tock registered the volunteers.
Spot the new FOLC flag!



Bruce Haynes removing dead Queensland Blue from the lake bed.

IN BLOOM THIS MONTH

The Red Flowering Paperbark (*Melaleuca viridiflora* – red form) is the Melaleuca variety that most looks like, and is confused with, Bottle Brushes. The difference is the bark of the tree which is papery and white. The tree is drought tolerant yet is suitable for all soils including wet areas and it attracts honey eaters.



Photo by Geoff Ross

EVENTS - THE WINTER PLANTING SEASON

The winter planting season is about to begin and the FOLC need your help to plant another 45,000 native seedlings! The planting season will kick off with the Local Residents Planting Day, on the second Sunday, 8th June 9am – 12pm. We will be joined by the Shah Satnum Ji Green 'S' Welfare Force Wing who will serve a delicious vegetarian curry for lunch.

The FOLC will host the Conservation Volunteers WA from Monday to Friday June 16th -20th and June 23rd -27th 8:30 to 2:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to join in these planting sessions. Please register at folc.wa@gmail.com

Look for more public planting dates in this month's calendar or the event's page on our website <http://www.friendsoflakeclaremont.org/>

Local schools can also get involved. School planting sessions are for registered classes only. If your school hasn't booked yet, please contact us soon at folc.wa@gmail.com.

OUR BIRDS

Southern *Ninox Boobook (novaeseelandiae)*. The call of the Boobook is perhaps the best known of all Australian nocturnal birds – the soft double hoot can be heard shortly after dusk, sometimes until first light. These carnivorous birds feed only at night; they spend the day roosting in tree hollows or under dense foliage. One has been seen using a nesting box on the slope to the west of the lake, below the Lakeway development. Boobooks are widespread in all parts of Australia where there are sufficient trees for their breeding hollows.

Photos of the Juvenile and Adult Southern Boobook by David Free



Like us on facebook!

Had a great moment at Lake Claremont? Why not like us on facebook and post your picture and story?

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Lake-Claremont/159586380873009?ref=hl>

The Friends of Lake Claremont Ltd. (FOLC) is a community organization established and run by local residents all of whom are volunteers.

Our mission is to assist in the conservation and enhancement of Lake Claremont, a Conservation Category Wetland and Bush Forever Site

The FOLC welcome Alex O'Neil as our new editor. Alex is in her final year at UWA studying Communication and Media Studies and English.

May / June

2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					23 Year 10 Community Service 1:30 – 3:00 pm	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6 Year 10 Community Service 1:30 – 3:00 pm	7
8 Local residents planting day – with the Shah Satnum Ji Green 'S' Welfare Force Wing 9:00am – 12:00 pm	9 FOLC Board Meeting 5:30 – 7:00 pm	10	11	12	13 Year 10 Community Service 1:30 – 3:00 pm	14 Planting Day with the Shah Satnum Ji Green 'S' Welfare Force Wing 8:30am – 3:00 pm
15	16 Planting with local schools and the conservation volunteers of WA 8:30am – 3:00pm	17 Planting with local schools and the conservation volunteers of WA 8:30am – 3:00pm	18 Planting with local schools and the conservation volunteers of WA 8:30am – 3:00pm	19 Planting with local schools and the conservation volunteers of WA 8:30am – 3:00pm	20 Planting with local schools and the conservation volunteers of WA 8:30am – 3:00pm Year 10 Community Service 1:30 – 3:00 pm	21 Planting Day with the Shah Satnum Ji Green 'S' Welfare Force Wing 8:30am – 3:00 pm
22 Church and Community Planting Day 1:00pm – 4:00pm	23 Planting with local schools and the conservation volunteers of WA 8:30am – 3:00pm	24 Planting with local schools and the conservation volunteers of WA 8:30am – 3:00pm	25 Planting with local schools and the conservation volunteers of WA 8:30am – 3:00pm	26 Planting with local schools and the conservation volunteers of WA 8:30am – 3:00pm	27 Planting with local schools and the conservation volunteers of WA 8:30am – 3:00pm Year 10 Community Service 1:30 – 3:00pm	28 Planting with the Big Help Mob 9:00am – 1:00pm
29	30					

CONTACT

E-mail: folc.wa@gmail.com

Phone: (08) 9384 2820

Fax: (08) 9383 4213

POSTAL ADDRESS

Friends of Lake Claremont Ltd.

P.O. Box 625

Cottesloe WA, 6911

<http://friendsoflakeclaremont.org/>