



Friends of Lake Claremont



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Kevin McAlpine removing bamboo at the May Busy Bee

Ted's Corner

Kevin McAlpine

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

I have been a community volunteer helping with planting and weeding programs around Lake Claremont since the early 1990's, before the formation of a formal FOLC. I moved into the area in 1988 with my wife Michelle when we bought our first house. I remember walking and running around a lake that at the time used to retain water all year. From memory, it wasn't until the late 1990's that it started to fully dry out over summer on a regular basis. This is probably a good thing because water quality in the lake has since appeared to improve.

My day job entails working for the Marine Ecosystems Branch of the Environmental Protection Authority where I provide advice to the EPA, Government and development proponents on minimising the impacts of development on the marine environment. Back in the early 1990's it was through my job facilitating the implementation of conservation recommendations (known as System 6) for the EPA that I received the opportunity to sit on the Town of Claremont's Lake Claremont Committee (LCC) and later continued my membership on the committee as a local resident. It was through this committee that I also became involved with the very first community planting sessions around the lake back in the early 90's. Although they were smaller than the current programs, they did make a difference and set the scene for the current planting programs through the FOLC and Town of Claremont. It has been fantastic to see such great progress with re-vegetation around the lake in recent years and the increasing diversity of bird life it has encouraged.

In 2003/04 I also coordinated a water quality monitoring program in the Lake for the Town of Claremont to determine whether water quality had altered significantly since the monitoring programs undertaken in 1988/89 and the mid 1990's. The results suggested that although nutrient (phosphorus) levels had not reduced, there had been a reduction in the effects of nutrient enrichment (algal blooms), and hence an improvement in the quality of the lake. All other parameters had not changed.

My term on the LCC finished some years ago, but I still get involved in the planting and weeding programs whenever I can and bring along my wife and three children when they have spare time. I firmly believe that we, as a society, need to invest more in environmental protection and conservation, and that we have a responsibility to protect natural ecosystems and the amazing diversity of life they support in order to maintain the environmental processes that sustain our planet, and hence the future of humankind.



Local Resident's Planting Day with Special Guests the Shah Satnam Ji Green 'S' Welfare Force Wing

THE WINTER PLANTING SEASON BEGINS

The winter planting season has begun! The Friends of Lake Claremont are mobilizing a small army of volunteers to plant 45,000 native seedlings for 2 major grant projects:

1. Community Environment Grant (2013/14): as part of the Caring for Our Country initiative by the Australian Government to restore a portion of the wetland buffer. 11,000 native seedlings will be planted along the south east edge of Lake Claremont this winter adding to the 11,000 rushes already planted in mid-autumn.
2. State NRM (Natural Resource Management) Grant Programme (2013/14) of \$50,000 for the extension of revegetation of the northern section of Lake Claremont to restore indigenous woodland. The 35,000 seedlings will be planted by volunteers, a requirement of the grant funded by the Government of WA.

The weeks in June are packed with planting sessions with community members and groups, students from local schools and the Conservation Volunteers of WA.

On our first public planting day 8th June, the FOLC welcomed back the Shah Satnam Ji Green 'S' Welfare Force Wing. This amazing group, dedicated to helping humanity, helped plant 5200 seedlings by the end of the day on the State NRM project to create native woodland north of the lake.

The group was back again the following Saturday 14th June to plant 5000 seedlings for the same project.

In the next edition, look for more reports on the planting season, including the amazing work done by the Conservation Volunteers and the students from local primary and high schools.

MAY BUSY BEE

In May the Friends were out trimming the plants along the footpaths near the remnant bushland. A bit of weeding was done on the east bank of the lake pulling out invasive bamboo shoots. See 'Ted's Corner' for picture of Kevin McAlpine removing bamboo.

NOTICES

OUR NEXT PUBLIC PLANTING SESSIONS

- ▶ Planting for the Birds - Sunday July 13th 9am – 12pm
- ▶ National Tree Day - Sunday July 27th 9am - 12 pm

Both events are located on the north side of Lake Claremont. Details can be found on our website.

<http://www.friendsoflakeclaremont.org/>

ADOPT-A-SPOT IS COMING!

Following the planting season the FOLC will be launching their new initiative: Adopt-a-Spot. Individuals, families and school/community groups are encouraged to join the program to adopt a small 'spot' of the Lake Claremont Park to keep it weed and rubbish free. To register your interest please email us: folc.wa@gmail.com

SPECIAL EVENT: WALKING WITH THE EXPERTS – AUGUST 23RD

A special guided walk around Lake Claremont will be led by world renowned biologists Greg and Bronwen Keighery Saturday August 23rd 1:00 – 3:00pm.

Story in our next edition. Entry by gold coin donation. Register now: folc.wa@gmail.com

BRING ONE, GET ONE TREE

The Earth Carers - Plastic Free July – 'Bring one, get one tree' – initiative at cafe's in Perth's western suburbs. Bring a reusable cup for your takeaway coffee and the Friends of Lake Claremont will receive a tree to plant at the park.

Participating cafés: Dancing Goat, Bellissimo, Bay Rd Pantry, Lake Espresso, Davies Ground, The Lane Cafe, Lemon Lane



SUN DOWNER - 3RD MAY

The Friends of Lake Claremont held a Sundowner on Saturday May 3rd. It was a very pleasant evening, which was attended by a large gathering of friends, old and new. We enjoyed delicious refreshments before being introduced to naturalists Mike and Mandy Bamford.

They spoke of the importance of preserving our wetlands and said that Lake Claremont is considered one of the most significant in the metropolitan area. They talked about the various types of frogs and Mike made some convincing frog calls! Concern was expressed at the dearth of long necked turtles, which were once very common in Lake Claremont. Apparently they are still abundant in other areas.

We then set off on our walk from the Stirling Rd Park to the Strickland St entrance. We sighted a few birds and heard moaning frogs. Mike had a bat detector but, although we heard bats, we were not fortunate enough to see any. We saw a very impressive spider but, on the whole, the lack of wild life was rather disappointing.

However, we had a very interesting and enjoyable walk and enjoyed the company of Mike and Mandy and their sharing of their extensive knowledge with us.

Thanks to all those who provided the delicious refreshments!



OUR BIRDS

White-faced Heron (*Ardea novaehollandiae*). This elegant, long-legged bird is often seen foraging around the lake. It will walk slowly and wait motionless for long periods before striking at its prey, a wide range of vertebrates and invertebrates. It has been seen tackling a very small turtle. One pair nested in the now fallen eucalyptus at the south-east corner of the lake – look for a shallow, untidy nest of sticks.

IN BLOOM THIS MONTH

The Holly-leaf Tailflower (*Anthocercis ilicifolia*) is native to the south-western coast of WA from south of Kalbarri to Perth. It is a colonising species common after fire or disturbance.



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

July

2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Planting with Scotch College Year 9s – 9am -12pm	5
6	7	8	9 FOLC Board Meeting	10	11	12
13 FOLC Busy Bee – Planting for the Birds – 9am – 12pm	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Year 10 Community Service Program - Planting	26
27 National Tree Day 9am – 12pm	28	29	30	31		

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