



# Friends of Lake Claremont



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# Ted's Corner

## David Free



I'm David Free and my wife Pam and I have lived in Claremont since I retired in 1996. The twenty-five years prior to my retirement were spent working for a major Swiss company overseas, seven years in Japan, where both our daughters were born, and eighteen in Singapore. Whilst in Singapore we developed a keen interest in birdwatching, which continues to be an important hobby today.

In 2001 I was asked to take over the quarterly bird population surveys of the lake. Since then Norah Brockman and I have counted the birds four times each year. Thanks to the fine work done by the Friends, with support from the Town of Claremont, the improved habitat in and around the lake now supports more wildlife; we have eighty-six bird species on our list.

For several years I have been a member of the town's Lake Claremont Committee, an advisory body to council.

I joined the FOLC because of a desire to support the important work being done, including lobbying council. I plan, one day, to get more involved in planting, weeding etc.! In the meantime I provide the photo and text for "Our Birds" in the monthly FOLC newsletter. I will also be guiding a bird walk around the lake on 30th October – see the notice in this newsletter for details.

## IN BLOOM THIS MONTH

The Purple Flag (*Patersonia occidentalis*) is a tufted perennial herb with strap leaves and purple flowers that grows up to 1m. It occurs naturally in WA, is hardy and can withstand dry conditions. It belongs to the iris family and so is also known as the Native Iris.

*Photo by Geoff Ross.*





Pacific Black Duck. David Free

## OUR BIRDS

The Pacific Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*) is our most common duck and they can be seen in large numbers when there is water in the lake. This species breeds around the lake, and the adult females can sometimes be seen escorting newly hatched young to the water from distant nest sites. Some even make the hazardous journey from south of Stirling Highway! The normal clutch size is 10-12 young but very high predation rates result in few of the vulnerable ducklings surviving to adulthood.

*Photo and text by David Free.*

## BUSY BEE AND BUSHCARE'S BIG DAY OUT

It was a glorious day. Perfect for caring for our local park with other community volunteers. Norma was filling in for Heidi who unfortunately cannot be cloned. Heidi was running a stall up at Swanbourne primary school for their community fun run day. Norma's dedication inspired her to set up the banner 1 hour before the official start time of 9am. Ever reliable Joan took registrations at her position in the cul de sac off Strickland Street.

There were 12 people who came to do some weeding in the northern section of the park near the old tin shed and we had 2 new willing workers who are Year 11 students from John XXIII College. The section of weeding was around some new planting from earlier this season. Weeds which are very close to, or intertwined with the new plants, are carefully removed by hand. The areas between plants can then be managed by weed spray contractors working within ToC guidelines. The plants are flourishing and there are many in flower, such as the kangaroo paws.

Arnold says he would like a dollar for every time a passing pedestrian who is enjoying the park says "when are you coming to do my garden?"

It was lovely to have a visit from Jane Hockin who moved to Melbourne a couple of years ago. Jane was eager to roll up her sleeves as usual and her company was enjoyed by all.

There were 12 large bags of weeds to show for all the effort put in.

We enjoyed tea and freshly brewed coffee (courtesy of Soozie) accompanied by freshly baked scones (courtesy of Geoff) and delicious strawberry jam (courtesy of Joan).

The occupants of a car passing the morning tea stopped to chat and said that they enjoyed the park so much they would join the group once they had retired from work!

## FRIENDS OF LAKE CLAREMONT GUIDED WALK ON SATURDAY 23RD AUGUST

We were fortunate to have Greg and Bronwen Keighery as our leaders for this walk. They are very knowledgeable about the remnant bushland sites in Perth and particularly in the Western Suburbs as they have lived in Subiaco for over 40 years. They are finalising a checklist of all known native plants for the region.

Bronwen was a Principal Environmental Officer at the Environmental Protection Authority and led the conservation plan for Perth (establishing the Bush Forever Sites).

Greg, a Senior Principal Scientist with the Department of Parks and Wildlife, has undertaken Botanical Surveys throughout Western Australia and has published extensively on the native and weedy plants of the State.



Heidi Hardisty with Bronwen and Greg Keighery

About 50 people (many of them visitors) turned up for the walk on a beautiful sunny afternoon, with many of our plantings in full bloom.

Heidi introduced Greg and Bronwen and told the walkers a little of the history of Lake Claremont. Greg added that the area had been important to the Noongar People who used to gather tubers there in the dry season. It is regarded as a significant wetland in a chain of lakes extending up to Yanchep. Lake Claremont contains fresh water in the winter but becomes saline when it dries up in the summer.

Greg told us about *Senecio condylus*, which had previously been regarded as a weed but was now classified as a species native to Western Australia.

We then split up into two groups, with the brisk walkers following Greg and the ramblers going with Bronwen. I was one of the ramblers!

As we walked round the lake, Bronwen spoke of the various plants that we saw. The 44 year old Moreton Bay Figs, with their huge root systems, are not native but provide a good source of food for the native ducks. She spoke of Green Kangaroo Paw which is suited to wet conditions as opposed to the red variety which prefers dry ground.



*Senecio condylus*

We learned of Flooded Gums, Purple flag, Running postman, Parrot bush and Hardenbergia comptoniana which has established itself on the temporary fencing erected to prevent trampling of the new plantings. We found a small olive tree that had self-seeded. Bronwen said that, in some areas, it is not permitted to grow olive trees close to native bushland.

Bronwen gave us a wonderful insight into the native flora around the lake and I am sure that we all learned a lot. Bruce Haynes was able to fill us in with a lot of history of the lake and it was interesting to compare the plantings that were done this year with those of four years ago.

It was lovely to have 95 year old Joan Toccock with us to share her planting and weeding experiences at the Lake over the years.

It was a wonderful afternoon and I would like to express our thanks to Greg and Bronwen for leading our walk and sharing their vast knowledge with us.



*Green Kangaroo Paw*

*Article and photos by Hilary Heptinstall.*



*Bronwen explains the difference between a native plant and a weed!*



*Joan Toccock, Bruce Haynes and Bronwen Keighery*

# BEFORE AND AFTER - AN AMAZING TRANSFORMATION

*Photos by Naeim Kashani*

In May 2006 the Town of Claremont applied for and won a grant from Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP) to restore the island on the west side of Lake Claremont. See the wonderful results shown here. The total project was worth \$18,345: TOC - \$5,429 for weed control, Friends of Lake Claremont volunteers did \$4,600 worth of labour and maintenance and SALP contributed \$8,316 for admin and plants.



*Island 2006*



*Island 2014*



## NOTICES

### **Adopt-a-Spot**

Now that the planting season is over our full attention is turning to weeding. Individuals, families and groups are encouraged to adopt a kitchen sized plot in the park at Lake Claremont to keep rubbish and weed free all year long. All it takes is a monthly visit. Gloves and instruction are provided.

For more info please contact Heidi M 0416 614 696 or email: [folc.wa@gmail.com](mailto:folc.wa@gmail.com)

### **2014 FOLC AGM on 21st October**

The FOLC AGM and barbecue will be held on Tuesday 21st October. Arrive at 6pm at Heidi Hardisty's house: 12A Myera Street, Swanbourne. Guest speaker: Andrew Head, Supervisor of Parks and Environment, Town of Claremont. Topic: Lake Claremont Now and into the Future.



*Enjoying a Bush Walk*

## **2014 Bush to Beach Walk on 12th October**

You are invited to participate in the 2014 Bush to Beach Walk. This walk is being organised by the Friends of Shenton Bushland Inc in conjunction with the Friends of Mosman Park Bushland. We have invited a number of guest presenters to interpret the route along the way.

This walk is being organised to celebrate the completion of the Wardun Beelier Bidi stage of the Whadjack Trails Network that the Friends of Shenton Bushland initiated over 10 years ago as part of the campaign to save the Underwood Avenue Bushland.

Each year since then the Friends of Shenton Bushland have

collaborated with other friends groups to organise a walk through remnant bush lands and coastal areas in Perth's western suburbs.

The walk is planned to begin at 10am on Sunday 12th October at the North Fremantle Train Station. The walk is 14km long, with a stop for a picnic lunch break at Chidley Point and ends at the Cottesloe Train Station early in the afternoon. Details of the walk are still being arranged with the Friends of Mosman Park Bushland so these details may change. Anyone who registers will be notified of any changes.

Participants are welcome to walk the entire trail or sections that suit their interests. Register on line at Bush to Beach Walk.

## **Birdlife Australia WA Guided Walk on 30th October**

David Free will be guiding a walk from 7.30 to 9.30 am on Thursday 30th October. Meet at 7.30am at the Lake Claremont Golf Club car park on Lapsley Road, Claremont. We will look for waterbirds and bushbirds around this pleasant suburban lake. Following some new sightings in recent months, we now have eighty-six species on the list.



*White-necked Heron feeding at Lake Claremont*

*Photo by David Free*

## **Celebrate Lake Claremont Spring Fair**

It was a big disappointment that the Celebrate Lake Claremont Spring Fair was rained out on Sunday 21 September 2014 but hopefully it will be back bigger and better next year. Special thanks and condolences to Maryanne Martino of the Town of Claremont who put so much effort into organising the event.



Heidi with our new display board at the Swanbourne Primary School Fun Run and Fair on Sunday 14 September 2014. Did you see it?

## **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



# October

2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 FOLC Busy Bee – Weeding 8:00-10:00am Annual Bush to Beach Walk – 10am – 3pm Meet at North Fremantle Train Station	13 FOLC Board Meeting – 5:30 pm	14	15	16	17 Year 10 Community Service Program	18
19	20 National Bird Week/Aussie Backyard Bird Count Starts National Water Week Starts	21 AGM and Barbecue 6pm	22	23	24 Year 10 Community Service Program	25
26	27 Adopt-a-Spot-Weeding by CVA 8:30 am – 2pm	28	29	30 Birdlife Australia Bird Walk 7:30 – 9:30 am Meet at Lake Claremont Golf Club	31	

## CONTACT

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