



**Great Egret**      *Photo : David Free*

David captured this beautiful shot of a Great Egret in breeding colours. Check out the green around the eyes. A pair of them were at Lake Claremont in the last few weeks of December.

---

Happy New Year to all our members! 2018 will be a big year for FOLC. Led by Heidi Hardisty, volunteers will plant around 30,000 native plants and largely complete the major plantings at Lake Claremont. This is a huge milestone for the group!

We start the year with some exciting announcements.

Late in 2017 the Town of Claremont voted to recognise the huge contributions made by Heidi Hardisty and awarded her Honorary Freeman of the Town of Claremont. See page 2.

In January we received the final report from Natural Area Management consultants on our baseline turtle population study. See page 7 for their findings.

January also provided us with record breaking rainfall of 132mm! See page 6.

We are also pleased to welcome Zac Hardisty to the Board of Directors. See page 9.

---

## FREEMAN OF THE TOWN OF CLAREMONT CELEBRATIONS JANUARY 17



*Jock Barker (Mayor of Claremont) Claire Brittain, Heidi Hardisty, Joan Toccock, Paul Hardisty, Nick Cook*

Heidi Hardisty was named as the latest Honorary Freeman of the Town at a morning tea celebration. This is the highest honour that the Town can bestow on an individual member of the community. Heidi was recognised for the enormous effort and contribution that she has personally made in leading the restoration of Lake Claremont over the last 10 years as the coordinator of Friends of Lake Claremont. Congratulations Heidi, it is a very well deserved!

### **AU REVOIR** *From : Heidi Hardisty*

On the eve of my departure, I am very proud to accept the title of Honorary Freeman of the Town of Claremont for my volunteer work at Lake Claremont. It is indeed a great honour!

I have really enjoyed leading the FOLC for the past 10 years. It has been an incredible and highly rewarding journey. With the support of the community and the Town of Claremont, the FOLC have helped transform the old long nine golf course into a beautiful bushland park.

Although I will be heading to Townsville, QLD at the beginning of February with my husband, Paul, this is more of an 'au revoir' than a goodbye. Paul has taken on a 5 year contract as the CEO for the Australian Institute of Marine Science, after which we intend to return to WA.

And I will also be back this winter to lead the last major planting season at Lake Claremont. After this year, the major plantings of the Lake Claremont Park Concept Plan (2010) will largely be complete.

I am lucky to have met so many wonderful people and made so many good friends. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the FOLC Board and members, particularly Soozie Ross, Nick Cook and Claire Brittain, and each and every volunteer who has contributed to this amazing project. I wish the FOLC all the best. Farewell, for now!

## FOLC BUSY BEES

*Text and photo : Nick Cook*

### SUNDAY DECEMBER 10

We have held two Busy Bees since our last newsletter. This was our last for 2017. There was a solid turnout for a very warm December morning (about 14 volunteers aged 15-98)! We started off with a safety briefing and split into 2 groups.

With the park virtually weed free at the moment we focused on some pruning. We find ourselves to be the victim of our own success sometimes!

The bulk of volunteers pruned the Hardenbergia away from other plantings that were in danger of being smothered. The 2nd smaller group headed to the South East section of the wetland buffer (alongside the Par 3 golf course). In this narrow strip of buffer the Scaevola that we planted has grown quite tall and was impeding views of the lake. We wouldn't normally do this sort of work but in the absence of other tasks and in recognition of the community's desire to retain partial views of the lake we felt it to be a worthwhile exercise. Heidi and Joan stayed on at the shed to do a bit of tidying up and reorganizing. We received lots of lovely feedback from passers by. Afterwards we finished up a little early with a welcome morning tea provided by Kate Lambie. (Thank you Kate). I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of our volunteers, in particular a group of about 30 members who are regular contributors.

### SUNDAY JANUARY 14

This Busy Bee was an outstanding success! 14 volunteers attended (good for January) and we headed out into the lake bed to attack the Bushy Starwort weed that we have been dealing with for the last three years. It was a very warm morning and very humid out on the lake as the mud dried out.



The group filled 38 bags and there were a couple of piles to be bagged up the next day (a total of 44 bags). It was a super effort under sticky conditions. Well done everyone!!

I've never seen a group of volunteers enjoy morning tea so much!

*Continued on page 4*

## SUNDAY JANUARY 14 *(continued)*

If you ever thought you were too old for volunteering..... you are wrong! You are never too old! Just look at Joan Toccock! Joan attends all our Busy Bees, takes registration details, directs late comers to where we are working and then helps set up morning tea. Today Joan also did a bit of tidying up around the shed.

It would be rude to give Joan's age away but I can tell you she is in her late 90's! Joan is a FOLC Life member and also a Freeman of the Town of Claremont. An inspiring woman loved by us all!



*Joan Toccock in action (above) and enjoying a well earned morning tea Photos : Soozie Ross*



## NIGHT HERON

*Nycticorax caledonicus*  
From : Cloe Dolan

Cloe sighted this bird on a cool overcast morning at approximately 8am. It feeds during the day in cooler conditions on small fish, reptiles, insects and sometimes eggs. It is about 60cm tall, with a stooped appearance.



## OUR BIRDS *Text and photos : David Free*

### **Black-fronted Dotterel.** *Elseyornis melanops*

A few of these beautiful, tiny (16-18cm), plovers can be seen in summer, when the water levels are dropping but before the lake dries completely. Look for them scampering on the soft mud, searching for food. The juvenile birds lack the adult's broad black band on the breast. One can often hear the soft "chip chip" contact call.



*Dotterel, Black-fronted. David Free*



*Black-fronted Dotterel. David Free*

## **IN BLOOM THIS MONTH**

*Photo: Geoff Ross Text : Angela Hine*

### ***Kunzea glabrescens* or Spearwood.**

This plant occurs within the Perth region or Swan Coastal Plain and grows on the edges of swamps and rivers. The fruit, which is shown in the picture, is the key identifying feature. It remains persistent on the plant for the majority of the year.



## JANUARY CYCLONIC RAINS

*From: Nick Cook*

On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January we recorded around 132mm of rainfall at the lake in a 24 hour period. Average January rainfall is 9.7mm! The rains were a result of ex-tropical cyclone Joyce.

Having received close to average rainfall in 2017 the lake still had quite a lot of water in it prior to this rain event. The lake is often close to drying up at this time of year. Whilst this summer downpour is very welcome for water levels and especially as a top up for all of our plantings, there is a dark side.



*The flooded Scotch College playing fields Photo : Sara Franklin*

A number of algal blooms have been sighted following the rains. Big rain events like this can wash excess nutrients into the lake and coupled with the warm weather creates the perfect environment for the spread of algal blooms. Blooms were sighted along the eastern shore and the western side of 'Duck Island' near Creswell Oval. Excess nutrients from sporting fields and suburban gardens can contribute to blooms.

Algal blooms can be toxic to humans and animals. They can cause skin irritations. As algal blooms die off they can deplete oxygen levels in the water creating a threat to bird and animal life in the lake. Visitors to the lake should avoid contact with the algae and be sure to keep their pets away from the water. The lake is already off limits to dogs.



---

## TURTLE UPDATE: POPULATION ESTIMATE

*From: Nick Cook*

In 2017 the Town commissioned a baseline population study of our Oblong Turtles at Lake Claremont. Natural Area Consulting Management Services were selected to carry out the trapping and population estimation.

Six individual trapping events were conducted between August and November with ten traps placed at various locations around the Lake. Individual turtles were weighed and measured and notes were taken on their general health/condition. The turtles were then micro chipped and released.



*Healthy Turtles found at Lake Claremont*

A total of 143 turtles were captured (of which 3 were recaptures). Captures included male and female juvenile, sub-adult and adult turtles. The consultant notes that all animals were in good health. Three of the captured adult females were gravid (carrying eggs).

The age structure of the population indicates a high proportion of adults with the ability to produce. No hatchlings were caught. However, this is not unusual, as hatchlings tend to remain amongst fringing vegetation in their early stages to avoid predation. We have confirmed visual sightings of hatchlings in the last 3 years.

Of the turtles trapped 111 were male and 31 female. This gives a male to female ratio of 3.5 : 1. This is considered a high ratio of male to female and the consultants offer a number of possible reasons why this ratio may not be representative of the actual numbers present in the lake. The consultants also note that limited trapping/sampling by Anthony Santoro in 2017 recorded a more 'normal' ratio of 1 : 0.9. Anthony did an honours degree titled 'The impact of urbanization on the South-western snake necked turtle'. Lake Claremont was one of the wetland areas that he studied.

In conclusion, the report states that the estimated population of turtles at Lake Claremont is between 400 and 500. This correlates well with the estimate provided by Anthony Santoro. We have a healthy breeding population that is supported by a range of suitable habitat types. The report also states that ongoing management is essential to minimise predation threats from birds, foxes and dogs.

*Turtle trappers at the Lake*



## POSITION OF NIGHT CHATS COORDINATOR

*From : Rose Senior*

We are looking for a FOLC member to take over the task of coordinating the monthly Night Chats from Rose Senior, who will be spending a lengthy period of time overseas this year.

There are 9 Night Chats a year, taking place in the early evening on the fourth Tuesday of each month from February to October, normally in the Club Room of the Claremont Aquatic Centre.

The job of the Night Chats Coordinator involves liaising with speakers, explaining the purpose and format of the Chats to them, collecting their abstracts, biodata and publicity photos, and ensuring that everything goes smoothly on the night. It also involves sending advanced publicity to the Post Newspaper, liaising with Nick for speakers, Hilary over material for the Newsletter and checking with the others involved that everything is in place for the evening.

Rose has developed a sheet of dates, a checklist of what needs to be done and proforma emails which can be adapted as necessary. She's happy to meet up with whoever takes on this task to explain everything.

*Thank you, Rose, for your efficient organization of Night Chats during 2017 . Ed*

---

## FOLC NOTICES

*From : Soozie Ross*

### T Shirts

New T shirts for FOLC are being ordered. We have just about run out of the green ones and the new ones will be 100% cotton which will hopefully feel cooler to wear. The T shirts will in due course be made available for those members who work around the lake and need to be identified as FOLC volunteers. The Adopt a Spot members and regular Sunday Busy Bee members come into the category of those who will be eligible for the new shirts.

### Membership renewals

The New Year brings membership renewal time. Soozie Ross (membership secretary) will be sending out reminders soon. There are many members who have adopted the longer membership renewal options (two or five years) and Soozie will let you all know whether or not your subscription is due.

The membership fee remains the same, individual 1 year \$10, family \$20, and pro-rata if paying additional years in advance. The latter option can make it easier for all of us as Soozie won't be chasing you for membership fees, and you will have to make the payment / transfer less frequently.



## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FOR A NEW LAKE CLAREMONT MAP

*From : Mary Yates*

In the same style as the Yargine Walking Trail, created for the Town of Claremont some years ago, I am now about to begin on another map, also for Claremont Council. This is to exclusively cover Lake Claremont and its immediate surrounds.

I would appreciate input from any of our members who may have old photos (specially) for me to copy, and anecdotal or handed down stories about our Lake from a past era. Alternatively I would love to be put in touch with anyone who might have information.

It is exciting that some details have already turned up!

From photos relating to the Lake I can draw people and scenery.

I can include the buildings, histories and people, which were on the side of the Lake, in Davies, Alfred and Shenton Roads with a slightly vague area towards the coast in the west.

I will not be able to include everything but will have a good try!

This is our area so I would be thrilled to receive anything (however small) or to hear from you by email on [myates@tpg.com.au](mailto:myates@tpg.com.au) Thank you in anticipation.

## YEAR 10 COMMUNITY SERVICE *From : Geoff Ross*

For some years the Friends have been involved in a school community service program where Year 10 boys from Scotch College and Christ Church Grammar schools come together on a Friday afternoon for a couple of hours to contribute to the Lake's ongoing care and maintenance program.

The Friends support this by providing leaders for a small group of boys who then assist and educate the boys about the lake and the benefits and importance of environmental care. The program is a significant element of the boy's community service experience.

If you are interested in assisting in an ongoing, casual or standby basis, it would be greatly appreciated. There is a real benefit in being involved in this program for the Friends as well.

## OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER *From : Nick Cook*


We are very pleased to have Zac Hardisty join our Board of Directors. Zac has been involved with the group since 2009 when the first plantings were done. From 2013 Zac has assisted Heidi leading volunteers during planting season, including corporate planting days and CVA volunteers sessions..

Zac is studying Environmental Science at UWA. Zac's youth and experience make him a valuable member of the team and a welcome addition to the Board.


*Zac Hardisty*



## UPCOMING EVENTS




**Night Chat at Lake Claremont**  
**Nyungar Knowhow**



**Speaker**  
**Neville Collard**

Welcome back Neville Collard telling his stories of local Nyungar knowledge passed on through the generations.  
 Meet on the south shore of Lake Claremont at Stirling Road Park. Please bring along a camping chair or picnic rug to sit on. Refreshments served.

**FEB 27<sup>th</sup> 6:00 -8:00 pm**  
**Stirling Road Park, Claremont**



[www.friendsofclacklaremont.org](http://www.friendsofclacklaremont.org)

## Calendar February 2018

Day	Event	Time
Friday <b>February 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	World Wetlands Day	
Friday <b>February 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Year 10 Community Service Program	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Sunday <b>February 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>FOLC Busy Bee and Tea</b> Lake Claremont	8:00 – 10:00 am
Monday <b>February 12<sup>th</sup></b>	FOLC Board Meeting	5:30 - 7:00 pm
Friday <b>February 16<sup>th</sup></b>	Year 10 Community Service Program	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Friday <b>February 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Year 10 Community Service Program	1:30 - 3:00 pm
Tuesday <b>Feb 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Night Chats at Lake Claremont</b> Stirling Road Park	6:00 -8:00 pm

Check out the yearly calendar on the [FOLC Website](#) to find dates of future events.

---

Like us on facebook!

Had a great moment at Lake Claremont?

Why not like us on facebook and post your picture and story?

Friends of Lake Claremont facebook page

<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.

---

[www.friendsoflakeclaremont.org](http://www.friendsoflakeclaremont.org)

Newsletter articles and photos from members are most welcome and should be sent to the editor, Hilary Heptinstall  
[heptins@bigpond.net.au](mailto:heptins@bigpond.net.au) 0411 052 329

CONTACT

E-mail: [folc.wa@gmail.com](mailto:folc.wa@gmail.com)

Phone: (08) 9384 2820

Fax: (08) 9383 4213

POSTAL ADDRESS

Friends of Lake Claremont Ltd.

P.O. Box 837

Claremont WA, 6910



natural resource  
management program

