

# Friends of Lake Gwelup Newsletter Autumn 2007

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~folg/>

Betty: 9444 5640

## From the Presidents Desk:

Sadly on the 4<sup>th</sup> March our neighbouring Star Swamp Bushland was struck by an arsonist. The fire effectively burned out two thirds of the wetland and surrounding bushland of this unique area. If the area is ever to recover it will need a great deal of cooperation by visitors and assistance by volunteers and the City of Stirling. All should be reminded to stay on the tracks in the burned areas to aid recovery and to report suspicious any activity.

In the month of May FOLG will hold our first Guided Night Walk for the year and our Annual General Meeting to which all are invited. FOLG are also arranging the first **Lake Gwelup Reserve Fungi Foray** where the Urban Bushland Council in conjunction with the WA Herbarium will locate and identify the various species of fungi present in the Bushland about the reserve. More information will be available as it arises on our website on the next update.

- Wayne Eddy.

## Urban Foxes



Foxes occur in all southern Australian mainland cities and are excluded only from tropical regions. Within metropolitan areas they generally find refuge in remnant bushlands, industrial areas, quiet gardens and sheds. Primarily carnivores, foxes can survive on a variety of food sources and in urban environments their diet can consist of over 50% local native animals. In urban bushlands, foxes have the potential to eventually eliminate all the native animal species in their predatory range. At Gwelup reserve they are a major predator of turtles (and more significantly their eggs), dig Rainbow Bee Eater chicks straight from their underground nests. Other animals at the Lake Gwelup Reserve such as shingle back skinks, larger insect and grubs, protected waterfowl such as

cygnets, and purple swamp hens are also part of the foxes food source. Even uneaten pet food can be part of the foxes diet and should be removed each night as sharing food left out for companion animals is a known transmission point for [hydatids](#) which can be passed to humans.

*"a nasty and potentially fatal disease (hydatids). Even at a low incidence of infection, foxes are a risk to human health" (ref. Australian Academy of Science).*

Breeding once per year in spring foxes usually produce four cubs in dens under buildings, in parklands and quiet gardens. Fox family groups defend their own territory and usually consist of an adult pair and the offspring from the previous breeding season. Cubs will disperse each autumn in search of their own territory and to make way for the next offspring. Although mostly nocturnal, they can be occasionally seen out and about during the day.

The City of Stirling has advised us that a fox control program involving cage traps has been initiated and in the Trigg and Star Swamp Reserves and already five foxes have been captured. Next year Gwelup and Carine will be targeted.

All residents are encouraged to call the City of Stirling if they sight a fox anywhere in the area and

are reminded that it is a legal requirement to have foxes removed from their property.

*Urban environments are highly productive for foxes and can support population densities up to 10 times greater than occurs in rural areas. – AgNote Aug 2003*

*Hydatid disease causes significant problems to the health of wildlife and livestock and may have ecological and economic effects. But perhaps the biggest concern is for human health. - Australian Academy of Science*

### Guided Day Walks

Sat April 21st 8:am – 9:30am  
Sat 19 May 8:am – 9:30am  
Sat 19 June 8:am – 9:30am

### Guided Night Walk

18 May 7:30pm onwards  
Depending on the season, walks may take a little longer. Adequate footwear and clothing is a requirement. Meet at the Scout Hall off Huntriss Rd. Karrinyup. If you have them, binoculars or a camera can help with your observations.

### Committee Meetings

16 April 7:30pm  
\*\*\* AGM 21 May 7:30pm\*\*\*  
18 Jun 7:30pm

Meetings are held at the Colin Moore Resource Centre Cnr. Lagonda and North Bch Rd Gwelup.



**Western Grass Dart** is one of many local butterflies has several life cycles a year, and can be seen in any season except perhaps winter. As its name implies, it breeds on grasses, including the species mentioned for the wedge grass-skipper but the native grasses on which it breeds have not been well studied. An alternative to growing native grasses is to leave an area of couch grass or buffalo grass in your garden uncut, where the larvae and pupae can develop undisturbed

**Black-winged Stilts** feed mainly on aquatic insects, but will also take molluscs and crustaceans. They rarely swim for food, preferring instead to wade in shallow water, and seize prey on or near the surface. Occasionally, birds plunge their heads below the surface to catch sub-aquatic prey.



**Interesting web sites**

- [Urban Bushland Council](#)
- [WA Naturalists' Club](#)
- [Dept. Environment and Conservation](#)

**Sources:**

- <http://www.science.org.au>
- [City of Stirling](#)

**[Keep an eye on our website for the latest information – it's soon to be expanded!](#)**

**Annual Membership**

Membership Type (please circle)		Single/Family	\$5.00	Concession	\$3.00
<b>Name</b>					
<b>Number &amp; Street Name</b>					
<b>Suburb &amp; Postcode</b>					
<b>Email Address</b>					
I am	Over 18	Under 18	I would prefer to receive my Newsletter by email		YES NO

Return your complete form to: Membership - Friends of Lake Gwelup c/o 87 Joondanna Drive Joondanna 6060

## Friends Of Lake Gwelup Eleventh Annual General Meeting

Members and those interested in joining are invited to the Eleventh Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Lake Gwelup to be held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2006 at 7:30pm at the Colin Moore Resource Centre, corner North Beach Rd and Lagonda Dr Gwelup.

All Committee positions will become vacant at the AGM. Nominations are invited for the following positions:

President  
Secretary/Membership Secretary  
Treasurer  
Minute Secretary  
Publicity Officer  
Newsletter Officer  
Additional Committee Members

For inquiries about the AGM or nominations please telephone Wayne Eddy on 9244 7553.

Nomination Form.

<b>Position</b>			
President		Seconded by:	
Secretary/ Membership Secretary		Seconded by:	
Treasurer		Seconded by:	
Minute Secretary		Seconded by:	
Publicity Officer		Seconded by:	
Newsletter Officer		Seconded by:	
Committee Member		Seconded by:	
Committee Member		Seconded by:	
Committee Member		Seconded by:	

A member may nominate himself/herself for a position on the committee. Nominations need to be seconded by another member of The Friends of Lake Gwelup. The workloads for any of these roles are very interesting and light (perhaps an hour a month) and no previous experience is required

Please return your nomination by 6 May 2006 or by hand at the meeting to:

Nominations:-Friends of Lake Gwelup  
c/o PO Box 7203  
Cloisters Square 6850

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Friends of Lake Gwelup are seeking interested Members to be part of their Committee?

Interested? Call Wayne: 9244 7553 or Betty: 9444 5640