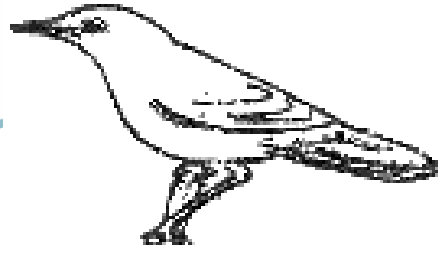


# May-June 2024

Wetland Warbler



Clamorous Reed-Warbler



Number 190

Inside this issue:

Terrific Accomplishments –Help	2
An Afternoon at the Hide	3
Working Bees	4
From Long Beach to Waterline	6

## Wetland Warbler

### RAMSAR REVIEW

The Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands are currently undergoing a review titled Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands Ramsar Site Management Plan.

As you are aware “Wetlands are vital for human survival. They are among one of the world’s most productive environments; cradles of biological diversity that provides the water and productivity upon which countless species of plants and animals depend for survival.

The Convention on Wetlands is the intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. The Convention was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975.

(The Convention on Wetlands Home page (ramsar.org)

The Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands are part of this convention (since 2001 and one of 12 in Victoria) being recognized as Wetlands of International



Importance.

Melbourne Water has engaged the services of *Streamology Pty Ltd* to conduct the review, so that the wetlands continue to satisfy the criteria for a Ramsar listing. These include identifying threats, undertaking risk assessment of the threats; and prioritising management actions to maintain the unique biodiversity values of the wetland.

Various stake holders have been invited to make input on the draft including FESWI.



#### FRIENDS OF EDITHVALE - SEAFORD WETLANDS INC.

Assoc No. A0017388A  
ABN - 95 886 101 621

P O BOX 2031, EDITHVALE  
VIC 3196

[www.edithvale-seaford-wetlands.org](http://www.edithvale-seaford-wetlands.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/edithvaleseafordwetlands/>

**President** Cathy Smith  
0438 302 208  
**Vice President** Robin Clarey  
0405 466 651  
**Secretary** Margaret Hunter  
9587 0786  
**Treasurer** Rosalie Cooper  
0409 388 066  
**Committee**  
Hilary Bray  
Rex Chugg  
Peter Murphy  
Nola Pitman  
Jaye Williams  
Julie Stephens  
**Seaford W'Bees**  
Rex Chugg 9766 6056  
Julie Stephens 0448 585 590  
**Bird Hide Roster**  
Robin Clarey 0405 466 651  
Nola Pitman  
**Guided Tours**  
Marg Hunter 9587 0786  
**Newsletter**  
Robin Clarey 9786 2213  
**Warbler Collator**  
Cheryl Meier 9772 4484  
**Membership Database**  
Inez van Polanen  
**Website**  
Rosalie Cooper 0409 388 066  
John Cooper  
**Facebook**  
Alison Kuitert  
Allan Broomhall  
**Instagram**  
Jaye Williams

# TERRIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS—HELP

The Friends of Edithvale Seaford Inc is a robust organisation established in 1988 and has ever since been offering interesting and fascinating wetland experiences to the public like the little story on the next page. (*An Afternoon at the Hide*)

Apart from opening the hide on weekends, members conduct talks and walks for schools and other groups around the wetlands. We often have a presence at community events; and maintain a website and a facebook page; and produce a bi-monthly newsletter.

Over the years the Friends have transformed 'empty' cow paddocks around the wetlands into strong effective buffer zones – so important given their highly urbanised nature and, on the same theme, endeavoured to protect them from other urbane incursions.

## Terrific Volunteers

We have been able to do this because we have fantastic volunteer base for 'front of house' activities, but *now* we do need a little bit of extra help behind the scenes. We need to do some succession planning for various jobs. None are very demanding.

**Members and Payments** Would you be interested in keeping an eye on our membership list— sending reminders when membership fees are due and welcome letters to new members. This would also need some co-ordination with the following.

## Financial Dealings

Would you be interested in keeping an eye on our finances. All financial dealings are digital by bank deposits – almost no petty cash. You would receive a monthly report of monies spent by committee members on their organisational debit cards. You would also pay annual expenses eg - subscriptions, rental, insurance (about 6 in total). Annually, this is backed up by an accountant. Probably takes up to 4 hours a month.

**Newsletter Preparation** This has been done by one person for many years. It could be changed to regular website review and updating by someone interested in website management. Alternatively, could continue in its present form by someone who is interested in writing on a regular basis.

Please have a think about it.

You would get all the help you need to slip into the job with continued support afterwards. You may like to attend a committee meeting before deciding – 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, 7:00pm – 8:30pm, Longbeach RSL, 4 Thames Prom, Chelsea Victoria 3196. All welcome.

We look forward to hearing from you. Email the committee at:  
feswiwetlands@gmail.com



# AN AFTERNOON AT THE HIDE

Ali Fulcher

**I**t was a very quiet shift on Sunday, but with some drama. Roger had gone outside to take a phone call, so I was the only one who saw the swampie cruising low to the water as a lone coot ducked under each time it passed.

This went on for some time (poor coot!) but at one point, the swampie dropped into the water and sat there for a bit. One of the photographers said he saw it do this a few months back and got a photo of the swampie on the water. We all thought that was really unusual, but this was the same.

When it took off, it had the coot in its claws, but it may have been too heavy because it dropped the coot. I was following the swampie so I didn't see where the coot went and I don't know if it survived, but the swampie perched in the reeds for some time, probably preening its wet feathers, before flying off. Then Roger came back.

I didn't get a photo — I couldn't take my eyes away from the binoculars!



## EDITHVALE BIRDS



Nankeen Night Heron Photo: Ross Fernley



Shoveller Photo: Steve McDonald



Glossy Ibis Photo: Steve McDonald



Pelican in Flight Photo: Roy Burgess



# FROM THE CLC MEETING

Client Liaison Committee—on 27<sup>th</sup> May. Melbourne Water meets quarterly with wetland stake holders.

## Kingston Council –

### Edithvale Rd Boardwalk Update

Kingston Council

Update - Kingston Council Infrastructure is proposing a 3-metre-wide boardwalk construction along the flood-prone part of the footpath that borders the wetlands on Edithvale Road. It will partly encroach on the wetlands proper.

Council has assigned a consultant to carry out Geo technical investigations on the wetlands, however, approval for the geotechnical investigations on wetlands is still needed from Melbourne Water.

Council is processing the preliminary structural design based on the MW initial response, and carrying out all necessary assessment.

### Frankston Council—National Tree Day

The Seaford Wetlands eastern buffer will host a National Tree Day site on Sunday 28th July. All welcome.

### BirdLife Reports: Sean Dooley

Currently there are high water levels at both Edithvale and Seaford Wetlands

Some of the less usual species identified at the wetlands are Golden Pacific Plover, Double Banded Plover, Hardhead, Australasian Shoveler. Blue Billed Ducks, Australasian Bittern, Tawny Grass-Bird.



Tawny Grassbird Photographed by Glenn Pure BirdLife Photography

# WORKING BEES



On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May working bees resumed at Seaford – seven FESWI volunteers and one council worker shifted and spread a large pile of mulch in preparation for the **National Tree Day Event** which is being held at the Seaford Wetlands this year - Sunday, 28 July 2024 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Thanks to Rex, Julie, Denise, Colin, Margaret, Robin and Renae.



And again, on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, ten of us turned up to plant over 200 grasses among the trees previously planted years ago. Many thanks to Rex, Julie, Margaret, Anne, Robin, Colin, Denise, Greg, Andrea and Amy, and to Brad (support worker from Frankston Council).

# SEAFORD VIEWING PLATFORM

As part of the Seaford Wetlands Rejuvenation Project, the viewing platform on Austin Road has been demolished to make way for a new three-level, accessible shelter and viewing platform. It will be about one metre higher than the existing platform and constructed in accordance with *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC)* requirements.

The platform upgrade also incorporates an accessible drinking fountain, bike hoops, new carefully selected plantings, realigned path to safely connect to the new shelter and platform ramp, and six interpretative signs with information about the wetlands, its environmental and heritage value and the flora and fauna within the wetlands.



Photo: Rainer Maier

Information: Frankston Council Website

## VISITS TO THE HIDE

### Edithvale Family and Children's Centre

On 29th April FESWI hosted a group of Kinder teachers at the hide. We will be working together on a visiting program for the children. The dates they will be visiting;

- Friday the 26th of July
- Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August
- Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of August
- Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> of August
- Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup> of August
- Thursday the 29<sup>th</sup> of August

If you would like to be involved and help out on one or more of these dates, please contact Robin – [robin.clarey@hotmail.com](mailto:robin.clarey@hotmail.com)



### Holmesglen Institute

On 11th June FESWI hosted 15 conservation students from Holmesglen Institute and their teacher, Tony, at the hide. They are studying for their Certificates for Conservation and Ecosystem Management and were completing a course module there. As with previous visits by other students they were cheerful and friendly and meticulous in their work. Holmesglen students are always welcome.





# FROM LONG BEACH TO THE WATERLINE: MAKING A MOVE ON BOONWURRUNG COUNTRY

Les Sutherland

**Editor's Note:** Les is a member of FESWI and has recently moved away from the area to Corinella – a seaside town In Victoria's Gippsland region. She has made available to the Warbler beautifully written Nature Notes on each of these places which clearly reveals a perceptive and profound appreciation of nature. Warbler will publish it in three parts. **Second part -**

## From Long Beach to the Waterline2

*Nature notes - Corinella*

(26/1/24) A flight of seven pelicans appears briefly to the south. The giant fig casts deep, drifting shadows on the ground littered with dead leaves. The sea is moving, dreaming in shades of sage green and pale brown.

(13/2/24) A late summer day, with a warm wind in the morning and white butterflies feeding on the dandelion flowers.



A lone ibis was roaming there a few mornings ago, poking her long, slender, curved black beak down into the moist grass. I would like to make a pond there. I look at my forearm, speckled and freckled and scarred with white spots. The small tree in its pot has put out large creamy puffs of blossom, and fresh, bright green leaves on the tips of its little branches.

26/3/24)

Today is weather I love, cool and grey. Birds and insects are calling softly. Speckled and thinly pin-

striped dark mushrooms have grown from the manure and leaves.

(2/4/24) How do we belong to a place? The insects are singing after the rainshower, and the grass glows a close to neon green under sunlight. The wind in the tree is my favourite sound. The rain chased me inside from where I was snipping grass. Sparkles are glinting from the rolling tops of gum trees. The real issue is not land ownership, but connection to land and nature.

(4/4/24) A family of four magpies is exploring my front yard. One of the young ones is very talkative and makes adorable noises. The cat chatters to the magpies from behind the wire door. Yesterday at the San Remo coastal walk I saw a small blue butterfly resting in a bush, and a big mature Pacific Gull standing in one place for a long time, seemingly resting, on the beach at Woolamai. A small sailing vessel rode out to sea from Cape Woolamai. Its tiny triangles of sail had disappeared over the horizon by the time I left the beach.



Pinterest

Continued on Page 6

## FROM LONG BEACH TO THE WATERLINE

(9/4/24) Morning light is throwing a coral pink light on the cloud to the northwest. I just want to look and look at that colour. The wind picks up and gusts powerfully in the tree tops, and the rain is back, light and slanted. The rain ends and the light comes. The clouds become white with grey shadows, and the sky blue.

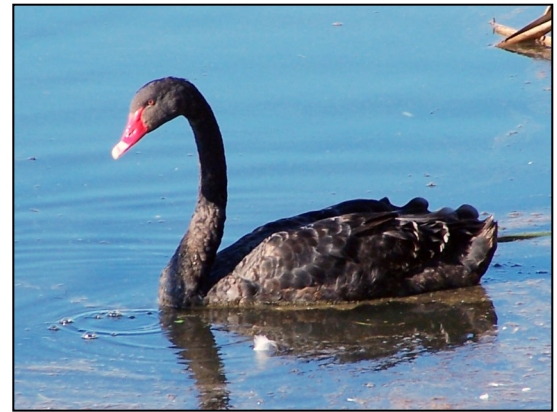
(22/4/24 and earlier notes) On the coach to Dandenong through the Koo Wee Rup district, with far views across vast paddocks to the island and slipping past mysterious symmetrical forests of saplings planted for commercial timber production, I have an hour and a half to write about the birds, animals and environment I found at and around Corinella since moving here in January. Some people call this coastal strip between Jam Jerrup and San Remo the Waterline.

Corinella is sited at the point of a peninsula where there are also the hamlets of Queensferry and Tenby Point on the north side and the village of Coronet Bay to the south. I love looking out to French Island (in 1802 called Île de Françoise and for far longer Bellarmarin, Woone or Jouap), Phillip Island (Millowl) and across Western Port (Warn Marin). The soft clicking of invisible frogs after rain is magical, and the views from various points along the coastal path dreamworthy. From the northern lookout just east of Settlement Point at the tip of the peninsula there is a remarkable view over Warn Marin, the eastern end of Bellarmarin, the Waterline coast and at the skyline the far Dandenongs (Tanjenong), from where for the last six years I used to look down from the hilltop agistment of my horses to this very coastline, bay and islands.



Part 3—next edition

## WHAT IF THE LAKE?



What if the lake  
... *let your family of millions surround you*  
James Dryburgh

As mist does, dusk does    Victoria Lake  
in hazy array    Sound  
mellowed by curtains of vapour

boundaries soft and blurred    Facing outward  
apart from her foraging group  
she's sentry of a kind

If she was human I'd say baroque elegance  
ruffled charcoal gown  
starched white petticoat

I don't know what it is to her but garb she gets  
around in    Being avian, only knowable  
to me by fellow feeling

Her song almost poignant    a skein  
of longing entrusted  
to the night

Quiet be the ground    Azure be the sky  
Her song's soft barb hooks us  
hangs us on utterance

Anne Carson  
2019 NSW Women's Writers Competition, Poetry  
Section, Highly Commended

**Corporate Members**

Following is a list of our corporate members. Please give them your support.

Patterson River Golf Club

Ray White, Chelsea

Longbeach RSL

Peninsula Pedallers,

Peter Murphy

Tania Ireton

Sonya Kilkenny

Corporate Edithvale Family And Children's Centre

Viridans Pty Ltd

Annual Subscription

\$15.00

Account name:

Society Cheque Account

BSB: 063-118

Account number: 1005 9942

Committee Meetings are held 3rd  
Wednesday of each month generally at the  
Education Centre or RSL. Observers welcome.

Committee 2024

President: Cathy Smith      Secretary Margaret Hunter  
Vice President; Robin Clarey      Treasurer Rosalie Cooper

Committee Members

Peter Murphy   Hilary Bray      Rex Chugg  
Nola Pitman      Julie Stephens      Jaye Williams



**Friends of  
Edithvale – Seaford  
Wetlands Inc.**

If undeliverable please return to:

PO Box 2031

EDITHVALE 3196



PRINTED BY THE OFFICE OF

MARK DREYFUS, MHR FOR ISAACS