

# Jul-Aug

# 2011

## Wetland Warbler



Clamorous Reed-Warbler



Number 122

### Inside this issue:

Help Me – I'm a Fairy Wren 2

Snippets 3

Down at Bindi 4

Seashells no Longer of the Sea 6

## PROGRESS ON DSE PROJECT

As you are aware FESWI has received a grant of \$52,000 from DSE to manage, in conjunction with Coastcare, a project designed to enhance the integrity and value of the RAMSAR listed Edithvale-Seaford Wetland through the reduction of the impact of domestic pests and weeds, including on-ground control of aquatic weeds; and the revegetation of selected areas presently rife with weeds and blackberries.

A sub-committee was formed earlier this year to co-ordinate the project and has been meeting regularly with the invaluable help of Phillip Wierzbowski (*Facilitator with CoastAction/Coast Care, Port Phillip Office, DSE*) who has attended a number of our meetings, keeping us on track, giving us lots of information and suggestions, following up on contacts, and giving guidance on various nuts and bolts issues.

On the revegetation project, under the very able stewardship of Rex Chugg, the first and major stage of the revegetating of Edithvale (adjoining southern part of the wetlands) has been completed. A total of 1,600 plants have been put in with help of the *ETP Alliance*, the *National Green Job Corps* and our own members (mostly the *Seaford Working Bee* and Barry). Regular weed control has



Sub-committee—from left: Robin, Rex, Phillip (*Coast Action/Coast Care*), Matthew and Philippa.

been ongoing with the employment of contractors, and it is hoped that all plant areas can be mulched when heavy vehicles can re-enter the area. Well done Rex and all helpers. A further 1,000 under-storey plants will go in starting in September.

At Seaford, FESWI has secured the services of Crispin Eames of *Ace Alliance*, who has undertaken the first stage of controlling the infestations of Spiny Rush (see picture at end of article).

Follow up action will take place later in the year.

The sub-committee is researching information that can go into a brochure

(Continued on page 2)

### FRIENDS OF EDITHVALE - SEAFORD WETLANDS INC.

Assoc No. A0017388K

ABN - 95 886 101 621

P O BOX 2031, EDITHVALE VIC 3196

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

**President** Philippa Bailey  
9786 1591

**Vice President** Robin Clarey  
9786 2213

**Secretary** Margaret Hunter  
9588 0867

**Treasurer** Gwen Meadows  
9584 4607

#### **Committee**

Rex Chugg  
Matthew Mitchell  
George Madden  
Kate Spillane  
Tanya Bearup

**Seaford W'Bees** 9766 6056  
Rex Chugg

**Bird Hide Roster** 9772 4318  
Kate Spillane

**Bird Hide Co-ord**  
Vacant

**Guided Tours**  
Margaret Hunter 9588 0867

**Newsletter**  
Robin Clarey 9786 2213

**Newsletter Collator**  
Cheryl Meier 97724484

**Membership Database**  
Philippa Bailey 9786 1591

**Grants Officer**  
Linda Meadows 97734556

**Public Officer**  
Dorothy Meadows 9772 3952

## DSE PROJECT CONT.

informing wetland locals about responsible pet ownership, garden weeds that can 'travel', and general information about being a good neighbour to the wetlands.

A *Weed Identification* talk is being planned for November (*to which all members are invited – more information coming up*); this will be on a weekend and will incorporate both a 'book' and a field component (*and lunch!*). It will be open to teachers and students and other interested parties, and will provide all attendees with a certificate upon completion.

Other possible projects in the pipeline –have weed ID signs placed around the wetlands; and a weed information component to be included in a planned 'FESWI Open Day' at Edithvale later this year.

It's all happening at FESWI!



Spiny Rush

You can get it in colour and everything!

Receive your copy of **Warbler** via email

If you would like to receive your copy electronically, please let me know (by email).

Send to [robin.clarey@hotmail.com](mailto:robin.clarey@hotmail.com)



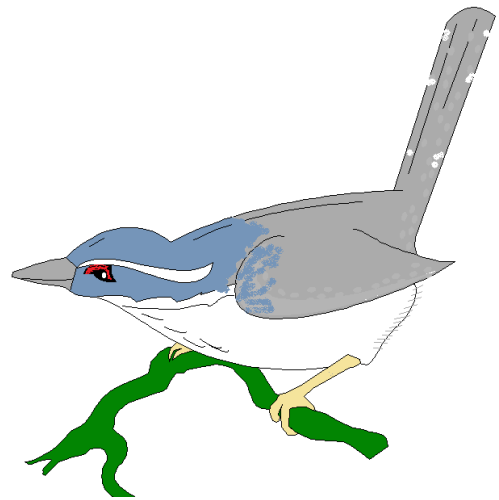
## FROM ONE OF OUR READERS

Hi

As an occasional but regular visitor to your wetlands (I live in Qld) and a keen birdwatcher I would like to congratulate all the people who are putting in such an effort to preserving the wetlands. I have just returned home recently but must time my next trip to check out the new bird hide when the waders are there. I was wondering if perhaps I could submit a small poem for your next newsletter.

Therese Pavone

### A Fairy Wren's Plea



Help me ..... I'm a fairy wren,  
My body is so small .....I'm only the size of a cotton ball  
Most people who walk through the wetlands  
Don't even notice me at all.  
I depend on the mess and long grass that some see as  
weeds,  
But such an environment is essential to me.  
I need somewhere safe where I can hide away.  
When you are this small you make easy prey.  
So if you see a mess of weeds tall.  
Please remember me even though I'm so small.  
If you would like to see me. If you wish me to survive.  
Please remember my habitat requirements ....  
Then I will thrive.

Thanks Therese – It's great when our readers submit copy for the Warbler. If anyone else has interesting stuff to tell us— please do!

# SNIPPETS SNIPPETS SNIPPETS

## Bird Hide

With the current high water levels persisting, bird hide repairs cannot be carried out as there is restricted access. Philippa has contacted Kate Kearns (Melbourne Water) who has indicated that an extension of time has been sought to complete the work scheduled to start shortly.



## Treasurer

Dipping into an old issue of Warbler—May 1999 to be exact— and before my time as editor, I noticed that in that issue it was reported that Gwen (*our current treasurer*) actually took the job on then, in that year—1999.

How cool is that!!

For over 12 years Gwen's been doing a job that most of us haven't got a clue about, and would avoid like the Ebola Virus.

Good on ya Gwen! Great job!

.....

## Quiet Achievers

Below are photos of the Seaford Working Bee members who turn up month after month to plant out trees and shrubs at Seaford, and, more lately, at Edithvale south. (*Lorraine and Kim (not pictured) are also members*)

Rex co-ordinates the group. If you would like to join them see Page 6 for information.

## The Education Centre

FESWI has had a sum of \$4,500 put into its care to purchase some equipment/educational aids for people with special needs visiting the new Education Centre.

The money was given by *SkillShare*— an organisation that helped disadvantaged people learn the necessary skills to find work. SkillShare was closed down (lack of government funding) and in the process disbursed its assets— hence the \$4,500 for the Centre which was a great gesture, and for which we say thanks.

The Education Centre is looking good and work is progressing well. Amy Weir (Melb Water) is working on education materials, using among other things, FESWI's resource material *The Oasis Next Door*.



## DOWN AT BINDI

Kaye Proudley

Down here at Bindi we have struggled to even get outside we've had so much rain...not that any one day has seen an overly large amount in the gauge, I think at most there was 47ml last Thursday...but the ground, like in most places in Victoria, is so full that more coming just creates puddles, lakes where before were none, floods, and mud, mud, mud every-where you look and go!

When we had to go to Traralgon last week for a medical appt. we had trouble picking up our lift from Yarram due to flooded roads. There are four different ways we could get to Yarram and three of them were flooded. Thank goodness for goat tracks and back roads - we made it around the very loooong way round! Flooded roads mostly go down as quickly as they come up but the paddocks still have plenty of water lying in them. I've attached a couple of photos to give you the idea - but of course they are nowhere near as bad as the floods of Nth Vic or Qld earlier this year.

Think I've had enough of this wet stuff from up high!



For the past few nights we've had inside scabbling noises - and when I found my butter pats in the pantry with footprints and toothmarks on them, I knew we had intruders. Because of one previous tragedy here when we used a killing trap and killed a native mouse, I won't use them any more so I baited my Elliot Traps (wildlife friendly and non-lethal, the same as scientists and Phd students use in the field) with peanut butter and oats and voila! - one caught antechinus. See photo above.



Then more scabblings and a corner-of-the-eye-view a night or two later, so I set more traps but didn't catch anything.

Last night (or more accurately? This morning!!) I went to bed and heard scabblings there so got one of the kitchen traps up to the bedroom and climbed into bed. Fully one minute later, yep - trap set off. I thought 'you can stay there till morn little pest, and tried to sleep but no....scrabble, tinkle, tinkle, bang, scrabble, tinkle...I could see there'd be no sleep till I dealt with it so arose, donned gown, grabbed trap and camera and went outside into the cold. Another little antechinus, photographed (attached) and live-released. At least he shouldn't be cold. He ran straight for the bag of dog and cat fur (that people collect for me to put out for the birds building nest linings) and for all I care that's where he can stay! The first one ran in there too so they're probably breeding by now.

So that's my life - feed the critters and tuck them up in their nice warm beds!



Bindi Floods

On Staceys Bridge with washout on near side.



## E.T.P. (38°04'S 145°10'E) Bird Count on 24.07.2011 (09.00-14.20).

By Mike Carter, Dawn Neylan & Andrew Wood.

**Weather:** A grey, miserable day. No wind but constant drizzle; cold ~10°C max.

**Coverage:** 90%; too wet and muddy to go to the Doughnut and some other areas.

Bird names and order in accordance with the Australian Checklist, C & B (2008).



|                          |              |       |                                |         |      |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------|--------------------------------|---------|------|
| Musk Duck                | 1            |       | Red-capped Plover              | 21      |      |
| Black Swan               | 139+15d (1N) |       | Black-fronted Dotterel         | 39      |      |
| (5+4d) (4 broods)        |              |       |                                |         |      |
| Australian Shelduck      | -            | (-)   | Double-banded Plover           | 12      |      |
| Australian Wood Duck     | 60           | (-)   | Red-kneed Dotterel             | 4       |      |
|                          |              |       | Masked Lapwing                 | 28 (2N) | (-)  |
| Pink-eared Duck          | 4            |       |                                |         |      |
| Australasian Shoveler    | 31           |       | Common Sandpiper               | -       |      |
| Grey Teal                | 360          | (10)  | Red-necked Stint               | -       |      |
|                          |              |       | Pacific Gull                   | 1       |      |
| Chestnut Teal            | 670          | (210) | Silver Gull                    | 200     | (-)  |
| Pacific Black Duck       | 230 (70)     |       | Sulphur-crested Cockatoo       | 1       | (1)  |
| Hardhead                 | 800          | (4)   | Rainbow Lorikeet               | 12      | (7)  |
| Blue-billed Duck         | -            |       | Musk Lorikeet                  | -       | (-)  |
| Australasian Grebe       | 270          | (2)   | Red-rumped Parrot              | -       | (-)  |
|                          |              |       | Fan-tailed Cuckoo -            |         |      |
| Hoary-headed Grebe       | -            | (-)   | <i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>       | 20      | (-)  |
| Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon) | 2            |       | <i>Yellow-rumped Thornbill</i> | -       |      |
| Spotted Dove             | 28           | (1)   | <i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i> | 7       | (1)  |
| Crested Pigeon           | -            |       | Noisy Miner                    | 5       | (5)  |
| Australasian Darter      | -            | (-)   | Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater       | 12      | (-)  |
| Little Pied Cormorant    | 20           | (1)   | Little Wattlebird              | 4       |      |
| Great Cormorant          | 2            |       | Red Wattlebird                 | 50      | (-)  |
| Little Black Cormorant   | -            | (-)   |                                |         |      |
|                          |              |       | White-fronted Chat             | 34      |      |
| Pied Cormorant           | -            |       | Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike      | -       |      |
| Australian Pelican       | 6            |       | Grey Butcherbird               | 1       | (1)  |
| Eastern Great Egret      | -            |       | Australian Magpie              | 9       | (-)  |
| White-faced Heron        | 5            | (-)   |                                |         |      |
|                          |              |       | <i>Willie Wagtail</i>          | 42      | (-)  |
| Australian White Ibis    | 9            | (1)   |                                |         |      |
| Straw-necked Ibis        | 1            | (-)   | Little Raven                   | 20      |      |
| Royal Spoonbill          | 6            | (2)   | Magpie-lark                    | 120     | (-)  |
|                          |              |       | Flame Robin6                   |         |      |
| Yellow-billed Spoonbill  | 2            | (-)   | Eurasian Skylark               | 15      |      |
|                          |              |       | Golden-headed Cisticola        | 4       | (-)  |
| Black-shouldered Kite    | 4            |       | <i>Australian Reed-Warbler</i> | 3       |      |
| Whistling Kite           | 6            | (1)   |                                |         |      |
| Brown Goshawk            | 3            | (1)   | Little Grassbird               | 2       | (-)  |
| Swamp Harrier            | 4            | (-)   | Silvereye                      | -       |      |
| <i>Little Eagle</i>      | 1            |       | Welcome Swallow                | 600     | (10) |
| Nankeen Kestrel          | -            |       |                                |         |      |
| Brown Falcon             | 1            |       | Fairy Martin -                 |         |      |
| Australian Hobby         | -            |       | Tree Martin                    | 1       |      |
| Peregrine Falcon         | -            |       | <i>Common Blackbird</i>        | 3       | (-)  |
| Purple Swamphen          | 125          | (2)   | <i>Common Starling</i>         | 250     | (10) |
|                          |              |       | <i>Common Myna</i>             | 23      | (-)  |
| Buff-banded Rail         | -            |       | Red-browed Finch               | 8       |      |
| Dusky Moorhen            | 12           | (12)  | <i>House Sparrow</i>           | 15      |      |
| Eurasian Coot            | 1100         | (3)   | Eurasian Tree Sparrow          | -       |      |
| Black-winged Stilt       | 71           |       | Australasian Pipit             | 4       |      |
|                          |              |       | <i>European Goldfinch</i>      | 24      | (1)  |
|                          |              |       | <i>Common Greenfinch</i>       | 4       |      |

65 Bird species, (37 wetland dependant & raptors + 28 non-wetland).

Other fauna: Hare 1; Rabbit 16; Common Froglet.

## SEASHELLS NO LONGER OF THE SEA

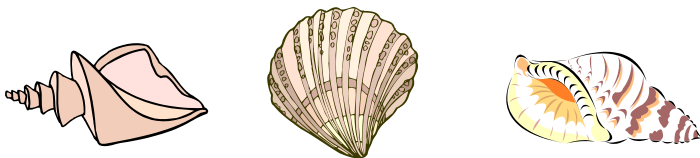
When walking around our wetlands have you ever noticed blanched sea shells lying on the ground or partially buried? Have you ever asked yourself why are there seashells so far away from the seashore? Well – in case you have, we are about to explain all!

Edithvale–Seaford Wetlands are but a small remnant of the once mighty Carrum Carrum Swamp which stretched from Mordialloc to Frankston and out to Dandenong. It was formed in a sunkland bounded by Selwyn's Fault to the south and the fold structure Beaumaris Monocline to the north.

However, some 7,000 years ago this swamp, along with other low-lying areas around Port Phillip Bay, was under a shallow sea for about 2,000 years. This happened during a warm period after the last major glaciation which reached its peak about 20,000 years ago. So, if you were around say 6,000 years ago you would have been breast stroking (*or back stroking*) around the wetlands instead of walking.

Later, about 5,000 years ago, the sea level fell (following the cessation of the warm period) and fresh water flowed into the estuary from the Dandenong Ranges catchment area, heralding the formation of the swamp.

So next time you see a shell, pick it up, and hold in your hands something which is thousands of years old and which once formed part of a living creature. Fascinating!



Source: FEWSI Pamphlet. Research and text by David Gilbert

### Where We Are

Duck In - Melways map 93 C 7/8. About 100 metres after pedestrian lights near bird hide on Edithvale Rd, turn right down the dirt entrance way to football oval, follow dirt track through reserve. Duck In on left.

Bird Hide - Melways map 93 D 8. On south side of Edithvale Rd, close to pedestrian lights.

Austin Road Lookout - Melways map 99 F 3. North side of Austin Road, Seaford

### Seaford Working Bee Dates

#### Seaford

(First Sunday of the month)

4th September

2nd October

6th November

10:00am – 12 noon

Ring Rex (9766 6056)  
for meeting place.

Committee Meetings held 3rd Tuesday of  
each month..

Observers welcome.

Ring Philippa on 9786 1591

## SPONSORS OF FESWI

### Corporate Members

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

Aspendale Edithvale Ex Services Club

Aspendale Primary School

Aspendale Gardens Primary School

Frank and Isobel Baguley's Nursery

Bird Observers Club of Australia

Bonbeach Primary School

Chelsea Heights Community Centre

Chelsea RSL

Edithvale Primary School

Frankston Primary School

Gales Marine Centre

Instant Garden Nurseries at Gardenworld Keysborough

Good Shepherd Aged Services – Mary Ville Hostel

Audrey Harding

Hasuval Engineering Service Pty Ltd

Tania Ireton

McDonald's Family Restaurant, Chelsea Heights

Melbourne Water, Waterways & Drainage

Mordialloc College

Mordialloc Primary School

April Nutter

Parkdale Secondary School

Peninsula Pedallers Inc

Presbyterian Ladies College

Ray White, Chelsea

Rotary Club of Aspendale

Seaford North Primary School

Seaford Park Primary School

Seaford Primary School

Soroptimist International of Brighton

St Anne's Primary School

St Joseph's School

St Louis de Montfort's

Treeplanters Nursery

Veitch & Co Pty Ltd



May 2011

**Last Call**  
Our data base will be adjusted according to subscription renewals.

# Friends of Edithvale-Seafood Wetlands Inc.

Assoc No. A0017388

ABN - 95 886 101 621

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Annual Subscription

- \$10.00 Individual
- \$15.00 Family
- \$5.00 Concession
- \$20.00 Corporate
- \$ Donation

## Your Wetland Interests?

Bird Watching       Plants       Nature Study       Education

## Can You Help Us?

Tree Planting       Publicity       Hide Duty       Other

Details (Other) \_\_\_\_\_

Please send you payment, together with this account, to our Treasurer at:  
PO Box 2031  
EDITHVALE 3196

**Annual Subscription Time!!!  
LAST CALL**

It's that time again.  
The form is on Page 7.  
Fill it out now, before you forget and post it off.

**Please disregard if you've joined within the last  
year or renewed recently.**



**Melbourne  
Water**

**Production of this newsletter funded through  
Melbourne Water's Community Grants Scheme**

**PRINTED BY THE OFFICE OF  
MARK DREYFUS, MHR FOR ISAACS**



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

If undeliverable please return to:  
PO Box 2031  
EDITHVALE 3196