

# Jun-Aug 2014

Friends of Edithvale – Seaford Wetlands Inc.



Number 137

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Clamorous Reed-Warbler

## Wetland Warbler

### EDITHVALE BIRD HIDE UPDATE

Alison Kuitert

The repair of the Birdhide has been a long process, lots of meetings and emails between the busy sub committee.... But there has been some positive progress.

Ages ago we met with Kingston's Building Surveyor, Heshan, who gave us lots of information and helpful suggestions. He seems sympathetic to our needs and aspirations – so we will be engaging him as our Building Surveyor. His job will be to assess our building permit application and either grant it or deny it, giving suggestions as to changes. He will also be responsible to make sure that the builder is doing what Structural Engineer specified in the permit application.

Next was finding a Structural Engineer to tell us what we can and can't do. That was easy as we had already spoken to Lowe Brothers Construction to see if they would either take on the repair as a Rotary Project (Brian Lowe is a member of our local Rotary club) or do the repairs as a paid job. It is beyond Rotary, so we are engaging Lowe Construction as our builder. They have their own Structural Engineer, whom we met this week at the Hide to see if the repairs were a viable option. Shane, the Structural Engineer agrees that the legs can be replaced.

The Shane will now prepare a list of what is needed, new metal feet for all the posts, the Builder will draw up the plans for the repair work and this will be submitted to Kingston Council for them to grant a building permit.

The plan is to pin the timbers about 40 cm from the ground, cut off the old legs, jack the hide up and add new feet that will raise the height of the hide so that taller people can stand up in the down stairs section. The new legs will be bolted on and obviously new material used to fill in the gap between the old timber poles and the ground.

Melbourne Water has allocated some funds to pay for the Structural Engineer, the Drafting of the plans and submission to Council. We will have to raise the funds to do the actual repairs and this could be around the \$50,000 mark.... So fingers crossed that all our ducks line up and we will be doing repairs in April 2015.



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

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9786 1591

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9588 0867

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9584 4607

#### Committee

Rex Chugg

Matthew Mitchell

Kate Spillane

Sue Telfer

Clare McPhee

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

**D/C Roster** Kate Spillane  
9773 0224

**Bird Hide Co-ordinator**  
Not Applicable

**Guided Tours** Marg Hunter  
9588 0867

**Newsletter** Robin Clarey  
9786 2213

**Warbler Collator**  
Cheryl Meier 97724484

**Website**  
Matthew Mitchell

**Membership Database**  
Chris Spencer 9786 1591

## FESWI'S DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August, volunteers from FESWI recently hosted two distinguished visitors, Chris Mooney-Singh and David Morley at the Discovery Centre.

**Chris**, an Australian of Irish descent, adopted Sikhism in 1989 following early interest in meditation and a fascination with the Eastern arts. In his 30s he came in contact with Sikh philosophy conveyed through its poetry and classical music. Now after 23 years of living in India, Singapore and Malaysia, he is living back in Melbourne's bayside suburb, Bon-beach, while doing a post-doctoral fellowship in Creative Writing at Monash.

With Savinder Kaur, he is the co-founder of Poetry Slam in Singapore and Malaysia, an organisation that curates the National Singapore Poetry Slam, the Singapore National Youth Poetry Slam League and Playright Fest. He has also performed poetry regularly before mass audiences of all ages and conducting cross-genre writing and performance classes for thousands of students.



Chris and Les

Chris has a keen eye for nature which resonates so beautifully in his poetry. We have included his poem, *Yellow Bittern*, here (Page 3). For more great poetry go to <http://www.chrismooneysingh.com>



**David** is Professor of Writing in Comparative Literary Studies at Warwick University UK, and adjunct Professor at Monash University, Melbourne. He is Head of the Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies at the Warwick University, and an award-winning writer of ten books of poetry.

His poetry is unique in that he weaves it and the environment into a form that he terms as natural magic. Natural magic like language and natural history surround us – mathematics and art are not poles apart but they are the same pole reached by different routes. (Taken from his website).

David has contributed over 80 poems to a "slow art" poetry trail in woodland at Bolton Abbey, North Yorkshire. The "slow poems" are written into natural materials to form a woodland trail and will remain there until they naturally fade and disappear.

What a great idea! If you would like to know more go to his website: <http://www.davidmorley.org.uk>



David and Helen

### And Roger

Another visitor to the Discovery Centre recently was Roger Adams who expresses his love of nature via the camera. Roger has life-threatening health issues but still finds the time and motivation to take beautiful photos, two of which he has made available to FESWI. See Page 5.

Thanks Roger.

## Yellow Bittern

You can hardly  
see me near  
the lily pond.  
I love the quiet hunt  
for fish and frog  
through water  
hyacinth places.

I could stand  
in the shadows  
at your feet  
and you would  
never see me  
unless I flew up  
flushed from the bushes.

My striated feathers  
are the trick  
of an illusionist.  
I cannot explain  
this flair  
for invisibility.

Some advice?  
Don't reveal yourself  
to all and sundry.  
Stay once bitten  
and twice shy.

When I launch,  
shaped like a cigar  
into the air,  
my striped body  
shoots fast;  
and then I say  
*kre-krek, see see,*  
this is your chance  
as my needle beak  
passes out of sight  
through an invisible  
hole in the sky.

from *Voices from the  
Bamboo River*  
Chris-Mooney Singh

## SNIPPETS SNIPPETS

**Seaford Working Bees:** Rex is planting at Seaford on the western side of the Seaford site, near the Patterson River Secondary College. The group is planting understorey plants between trees that it planted some years ago. Unexpected help arrived in the form of a local family and a couple during the August working bee – thanks for that. If you would like to plant for the future, please ring Rex on 9766 6056.

**Melbourne Water ESG Compliance Report:** The ESG report has been received from the contracting company, with a good result, and minor modifications for Duck In. It is hoped that Melbourne Water will cover the fee required for this as part of the lease. The cost of this is \$1500 per annum. Recommendations include yellow lines for better sight inside the building, and repairing the concrete outside (a MW responsibility). The committee determined to continue to use the building for meetings and FESWI functions, and for the November Open Day.

**AGL Electricity Account for Duck Inn:** The last account for Duck In was a huge overcharge (\$1,644) when compared to normal bills, following the replacement of the old meter for a smart meter. This was referred to the ombudsman and the local member for Mordialloc, Lorraine Wreford, with a resolution following five weeks later.

**Duck In Break-ins:** one of the young men who were involved in the second break in at Duck In, has volunteered to do some clean-up work at Duck In which the committee may follow up depending on availability of a member to supervise.

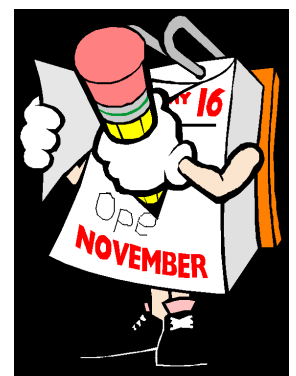
**CLC:** Philippa attended the CLC meeting held on 18 June. The following highlights of the meeting were:- CCTV cameras are to be installed at the Discovery Centre, with views of the wetlands, and the film on-line so that it can be viewed on the website; there was a fox eradication program at Seaford in May; phragmites were slashed at Edithvale, (Seaford was too wet for this to be done); the Wetland Master Plan ends in 2016, there is to be further update planning and FESWI will be involved.

**Grants:** FESWI has received two grants from Kingston Council. \$837 for an Ipad; and \$1,000 for volunteer training and the Open Day in November. Thanks Kingston Council.

### Keep This Date Free

Open Day on Sunday 16th November  
Duck In between 11.00am—3.00pm  
Various Activities and Displays.

More details next issue



# GREEN WEDGE TOUR

Susan Telfer

Whenever I head east from my place in Edithvale I'm most likely to be off to the restaurants of Springvale, looking for some retail therapy at my favorite factory outlets or else heading for the tollway or Princes Highway for a getaway.

All this time I've been largely unaware of what lies off my beaten track. That is where this tour took us, and what a revelation it was! The green open space with its diversity of thriving primary industry and its chain of parklands is extensive.

On 18 June, standing in as the FESWI representative on the Kingston Climate Change and Biodiversity Reference Group, I joined a number of community representatives on an exploration of Kingston's Green Wedge. This includes all the land outside the Urban Growth Boundary in the City of Kingston. It extends from Karkarook Park in the north to Braeside Park in the south, and includes two small areas of land in Aspendale Gardens and Patterson Lakes.

Our tour took us past a variety of markets gardens, an egg farm, go cart racetrack and the last remaining sand quarry. Phar Lap's former training track, at Braeside Park, was also a feature.

Beginning at Karkarook Park, we made several stops to enjoy the parklands now being developed from the old sand quarries once prevalent in this area but now designated for open space leisure pursuits including walking, cycling and horse riding. Here its former quarries are now recreational lakes, showing what can be done with the rest of the quarries, if and when the relevant State and local governments get on with the job. Further along we took a short walk down the Henry Street trail, a pleasant dirt track through trees. These are both part of the proposed Chain of Parks linked by a shared use pedes-

trian, cycle and possibly horse trail all the way to Braeside Park. This idea has been supported by successive local and state governments and the community, the 2002 development of Karkarook Park being an important catalyst project. (For more about the Chain of Parks, follow the link below)

While the Council is united in support of the Chain of Parks, they have taken two years to actually begin the process of rezoning the land north of Heatherton Road from Special Use Zone (extractive industry) to Green Wedge A Zone, which prohibits concrete crushers and other waste-processing activities. The quarries and landfills are all now within a few years of completion and the rezoning is needed to make sure the land remains available and is not appropriated for concrete crushers or other industrial uses.

I asked about wetlands: Council has plans for a new wetland development that will slow the flow of floodwaters and stop the flow of silt into Mordialloc Creek, but this will probably not affect the Edithvale Wet-

lands on the other side of the creek. As the Edithvale Wetlands have been surrounded by houses they are not in the Green Wedge, while Seaford Wetlands are in the Frankston part of the South East Green Wedge. Braeside Park also has some good wetlands and the Kingston Green Wedge Plan proposes a wetland on the Green Wedge triangle between Aspendale Gardens and Waterways, although this won't be possible if the Council's plan to rezone this land into 2000m<sup>2</sup> house blocks goes ahead. Some councillors would like to keep one of the Delta quarries as a flood retention basin and bird habitat.

We were taken to the Deals Road Reserve where there is a go-kart track, motor bike and pistol clubs in among the last of the landfills. In their favour,

Continued on Page 5



# GREEN WEDGE TOUR Cont.

these facilities are well away from residential areas and are not causing any nuisance to anyone.

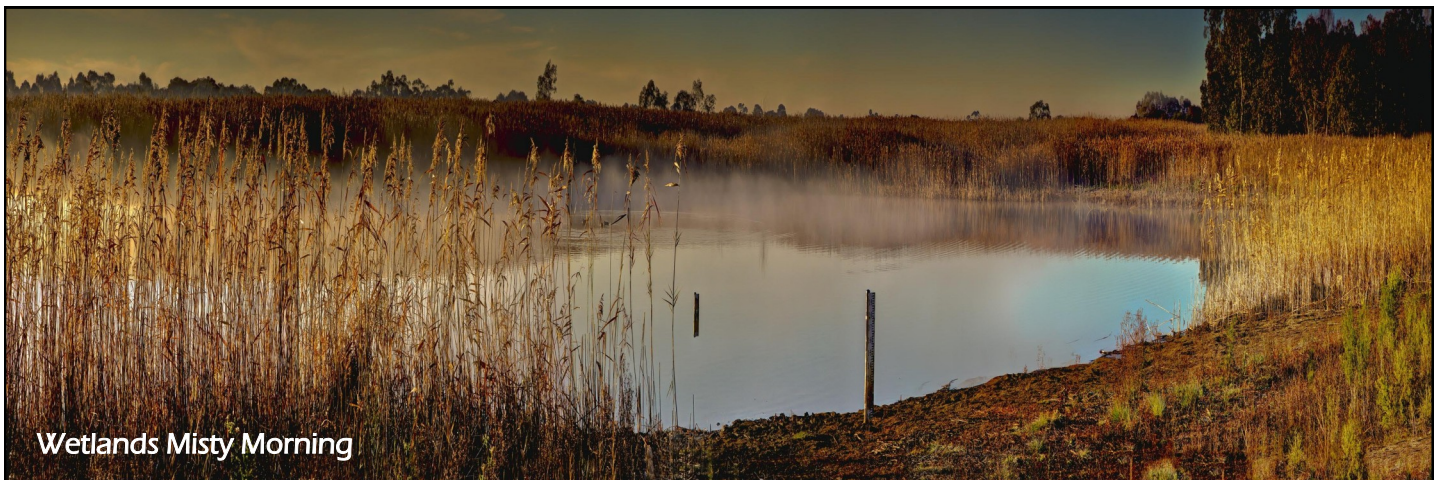
It was sad, as the Chair of the Climate Change and Biodiversity Reference Group, Cr Rosemary West noted, that the flourishing market gardens and at least one of the golf courses we drove past are under threat from a Kingston Council resolutions to rezone the Green Wedge south of Heatherton Road for residential development or to Rural Living Zone with a minimum lot size of 2000m2. This would allow the Green Wedge to be subdivided into low density house lots. The Friends of Braeside Park say they were not consulted regarding Council's resolution to have land on the boundary rezoned for housing development.

Cr West said councillors have been advised that the Planning Minister, Matthew Guy, is currently unlikely to approve such applications. Hence, she said, the five councillors who want such development have resolved to undertake further strategic studies to try to improve their chances. This should delay any formal request to the Minister until after the November State Election, which leaves the genuine market gardeners in limbo, while the speculators in this and other Green Wedges may have their hopes raised for windfall gains.

For more about the Kingston Green Wedge, email the Defenders of the South East Green Wedge at [defenders.segw@gmail.com](mailto:defenders.segw@gmail.com)



## PHOTOS BY ROGER ADAMS



Wetlands Misty Morning

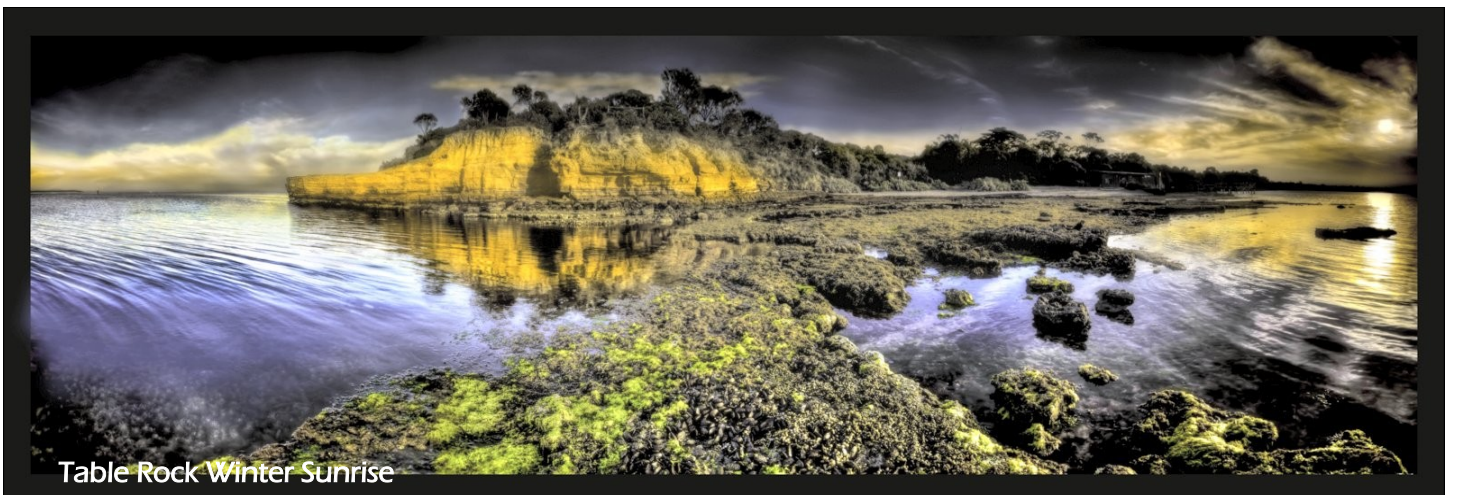


Table Rock Winter Sunrise



# WINGBEATS



## E.T.P. (38°04'S 145°10'E) Bird Count on 27.07.2014 (08.50-16.40)

By Mike Carter, Dawn Neylan, Alison Kuitert, David Stabb and Dario Horvat.

Coverage: 100%.

Musk Duck	5		Swamp Harrier	7	
Freckled Duck	-		Wedge-tailed Eagle	-	
Black Swan (Neckband data below)	179		<b>Little Eagle</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>(21N)</b>			Nankeen Kestrel	1	
Australian Shelduck	3		Brown Falcon	2	
Australian Wood Duck	5		Australian Hobby	2	(1)
Pink-eared Duck	1130		Peregrine Falcon	-	
Australasian Shoveler	122		Purple Swamphen	7	(6)
Grey Teal	1150	(-)	Eurasian Coot	1,200	
Chestnut Teal	150	(9)	Black-winged Stilt	80	
Pacific Black Duck	67	(2)	Red-capped Plover	2	
Hardhead	126		Double-banded Plover	-	
Blue-billed Duck	252		Black-fronted Dotterel	17	
Australasian Grebe	8	(1)	Red-kneed Dotterel	-	
Hoary-headed Grebe	142		Masked Lapwing	40	
<i>Spotted Dove</i>	39	(7)	Red-necked Stint	-	
Common Bronzewing	2	(2)	Curlew Sandpiper	-	
Crested Pigeon	17	(2)	Pacific Gull	3	
Australasian Darter	-	(-)	Silver Gull	17	(-)
Little Pied Cormorant	24		<b>Rainbow Lorikeet</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>(6)</b>
Great Cormorant	3		<b>Red-rumped Parrot</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(-)</b>
Little Black Cormorant	1		<b>Blue-winged Parrot</b>	<b>4</b>	
Australian Pelican	6		<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	57	(9)
Great Egret	1		<i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>	18	(2)
<b>Intermediate Egret</b>	<b>1</b>		Noisy Miner	-	(-)
<b>White-necked Heron</b>	<b>1</b>		Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	-	(-)
White-faced Heron	6	(2)	Little Wattlebird	4	
Australian White Ibis	6		Red Wattlebird	15	(2)
Straw-necked Ibis	62		White-fronted Chat	46	
Royal Spoonbill	2	(1)	<b>[White-naped Honeyeater1 heard]</b>		
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1		Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	-	
Black-shouldered Kite	6	(2)	Grey Shrike-thrush	1	
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1		Grey-butcherbird	2	(2)
Whistling Kite	4	(1)	Australian Magpie	27	(1)
Brown Goshawk	1		Willie Wagtail	16	(2)
<b>Spotted Harrier</b>	<b>2</b>		Little Raven	37	(2)
			Magpie-lark	83	(1)
			Flame Robin	11	(2)



# WINGBEATS Cont.



Eurasian Skylark	<b>120</b>			<i>Common Starling</i>	320	(16)
Golden-headed Cisticola	24	(1)		Common Myna	27	(2)
Little Grassbird	1	(1)		Red-browed Finch	2	
Silvereye	65	(25)		House Sparrow	40	
Welcome Swallow	480	(-)		<i>Eurasian Tree Sparrow</i>	9	
Fairy Martin	-			Australasian Pipit	-	
<i>Common Blackbird</i>	9	(2)		<i>European Goldfinch</i>	185	(15)
				<i>Common Greenfinch</i>		

**Other fauna:** Rabbit 12; Hare 5; Fox 1; Tree Frog; Common Froglet.

## THE DOWN'S ESTATE

The Down's Estate is a parcel of land occupying 20.8 ha, which adjoins the north east corner of the Seaford Wetlands. It is owned by Frankston Council and is currently situated outside the Ramsar boundary.



There have been information and consultative sessions concerning its future use since it was acquired by Frankston Council.

The Down's Estate Community Working Group was formed on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014 and comprises Community Group representatives collaborating to develop a visionary proposal for the land.

They have been meeting regularly, with the emphasis on the house site and shed, community garden and bushland food. If you would like more information, to join or to express support go to:

<http://www.seafordcc.org/forum/viewtopic.php?f=4&t=36>.

### DID YOU REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

There is still time. Fill in the following form and return to

FESWI P O BOX 2031 EDITHVALE VIC 3196

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

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

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

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Annual Subscription</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$5.00	Concession
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20.00	Corporate
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$	Donation
	Individual			
	Family			

## Corporate Members

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

Aspendale Primary School  
Aspendale Gardens Primary School  
Frank and Isobel Baguley's Nursery  
Bird Life 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  
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**Melbourne  
Water**

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There's still time to renew your membership, if you have forgotten. See page 7