

# Mar-Apr 2016

Friends of Edithvale – Seaford Wetlands Inc.



Clamorous Reed-Warbler



Number 145

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## Wetland Warbler

### BIRD HIDE RESTORATION COMMENCES

Philippa Bailey President FESWI

The FESWI Bird Hide sub-committee and general committee are thrilled that the repair work has started on the bird hide.

Philippa Bailey signed the works contract with Brian Lowe earlier this week and the Lowe Construction team have commenced work on the site and plan to complete the external repairs in one month.

FESWI members met with stakeholders and politicians at the hide today (29th April) to capture this historic occasion in a photo. Mark Dreyfus, MHR Isaacs attended to celebrate the confirmation of a funding grant from the Stronger Communities program, which Mark supported and endorsed. Ross Bleazby

from Melbourne Water was there. FESWI would like to acknowledge the significant financial contribution Melbourne Water has made to the bird hide project funding.

Brian Lowe joined us representing Lowe Construction who are undertaking the work as a community project. Tim Richardson MLA for Mordialloc was there to show his support for the project, and 5 excited FESWI members: Robin, Rex, Margaret, Alison and Philippa were present to mark the occasion.

FESWI will be working on re-furbishing and resourcing the hide once the external work is completed. An official opening will take place in August 2016 (date to be confirmed).



Philippa and Brian Lowe sign the contract  
April 26th



Stake holders at commencement of work  
April 29

#### BIRD HIDE SPONSORSHIP

The FESWI committee would like to give members the opportunity to sponsor the bird hide and be acknowledged for donations of \$100 to the restoration fund. We are talking to some community artists to commission an honour board with wetland bird designs. Each sponsor will have their name printed on a bird on the board, which will be mounted inside the hide.

SEE PAGE 2 TO FIND OUT HOW

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

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9786 1591

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**Secretary** Margaret Hunter  
9588 0867

**Treasurer** Sue Telfer  
97724194

#### Committee

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Matthew Mitchell

Kate Spillane

Maria Matamala

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

**Education Centre 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

## BE A BIRD HIDE SPONSOR!

If you would like to donate \$100 to the restoration fund please deposit into the Bendigo Bank. When donating to this fund directly to the Bendigo Bank or via internet transfer please note the following

Payee **FESWI Bird Hide.**

BSB 633000

Account No. 155997141

Description box *your name*

The FESWI Committee would like to thank the following bird hide restoration sponsors, who have each donated \$100 to the fund.

Dorothy Meadows (\$125), Linda Meadows (\$125), Jacqui Shepard, Philippa Bailey and Maureen Hayes.



## Lochiel Avenue is still a survivor, but for how long?

Les C Williams OAM JP



Its great watching the wild Cockatoos visit us at home each morning swooping down from a neighbours tall trees, it highlights the incredible beauty of a bird in flight. These wonderful birds scorned by some, eagerly visit our native garden for a drink of water and a scrap of toast.

Currently our Eucalyptus leucoxylon rosea are in flower and feeding large flocks of par-

rots that noisily announce their presence. The perfume from crushed leaves and flowers strong in the garden.

While I dearly miss my walks with students in the Wetlands, sitting or weeding in my bushy garden brings me close to the Natural World I love. Our Natural World so precious, being spoiled by greed, and dare I say it, overpopulation!

So this morning as I was hand feeding a favourite Raven friend whose damaged beak makes life difficult, we were joined with several Cockies who joined the Raven on the Lemon scented Ti Tree branch.

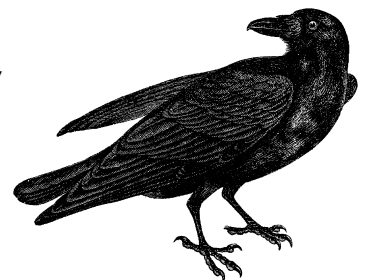
A bit of a shuffle as the Cockies like a bit of space, but after I pointed a finger they quietened down.

Sausage for the Raven, toast for the Cockies, both settling down to eat sharing the branch together. Given sufficient variation in garden shrubbery with nectar, foliage, and seeds its remarkable how these wild creatures can share!

This morning watching the Cockatoos fly toward me at speed, so graceful with beautiful white wings widely stretched, then tilting back braking in the air just before landing close to my chair, reminded me of my dreams long ago in which I could fly.

I could out stretch my arms, fly high into the sky and look down on the World like a bird!

'Great dreams', but for now a recent visit to the Aircraft Museum at Moorabbin reminded me of my few expensive lessons in a Tiger Moth sixty years ago, again fired my interest in flying. However, sense dictates I had better keep my interest in Bird Watching, if not at our wonderful Edithvale Wetlands, at our wonderful Oasis at home.



# SNIPPETS SNIPPETS SNIPPETS

## World Wetlands Day

FESWI conducted a walk around Edithvale South to mark this day (2<sup>nd</sup> February). It was very well attended although the kangaroos didn't fulfil their part very well. Not many to be seen.



Walking group set to enter Edithvale Wetlands.

## Sausage Sizzles

In order to raise money for the Awareness Day FESWI ran two Sausage Sizzles – one at Woolworths Seaford (23<sup>rd</sup> January) and one at Woolworths Chelsea (26<sup>th</sup> February), between them earning a bit over \$700 clear. Thanks to Kate, Chris, Philippa, Chris, Rex, Helen and Rosemary for your support.



Rex, Chris and Kate serve it up at Seaford

## Eastern Treatment Plant Meeting

On 30<sup>th</sup> March FESWI was represented at a meeting at the ETP where representatives from Melbourne Water, Frankston Council, bird counters, Mike Carter and Alison Kuitert and ETP personnel met to build a relationship between ETP staff and the birding community to work towards maintaining an enduring environment for the birds using the site. It was really pleasing to see how willing the ETP was to accommodate the needs of the birds there, as far as it was able without compromising the work of the plant.

## Oddities

A swamp wallaby and a pig have been sighted recently at the Seaford Wetlands; and member Roger Francey reported a

possible Boobook Owl nest in the lookout overlooking Edithvale South on Edithvale Road.

## Grants

Melbourne Water has granted FESWI \$550 towards the cost of postage of the newsletter. Thanks Melbourne Water

## Ramsar Review

FESWI was represented at two meetings - 8<sup>th</sup> March at the Education Centre, and one on 16<sup>th</sup> March - all day at Edithvale and Seaford Wetlands in turn. Their purpose was to check that our wetlands still meet the requirements for a Ramsar listing (which they do!).



Taking a break at Seaford Wetlands

## Duck In in the Dark

FESWI members were surprised to find the electricity and water services had been cut off at Duck In, when the building was accessed in early March. We noticed that the Edithvale oval had been dug up and major works had occurred there. Much detective work and phone calls then followed. It turned out that the service lines had been inadvertently cut during the oval works. A helpful City of Kingston manager eventually sorted out the problem and the services were restored nearly 2 months after being cut off!

We are pleased to report that duck In is operational

## Clean Up at Duck In

Members of the committee did one of their periodic clean ups at Duck In on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. A possum, which occasionally attends the committee meetings, is proving to be a problem and will be meeting *Peter the Possum Man* shortly.



Chris clears over-hanging trees.

# SEAFORD WETLAND AWARENESS DAY

On March 6<sup>th</sup> FESWI ran one of its major events for the year at the Seaford North Primary School. There were many information displays and activities on offer – FESWI marquee, indigenous plants, Clean Up Australia, guided wetland walks, colouring and migratory bird activity, fact finding treasure hunt, frog activity, planting activity in the school grounds, kids novelty planting, and the popular Wetland Express. The Connie with bird cards and information spent time with various groups of children.

We also had the presence of other environmental groups – Frankston Environmental Friends Network, Frankston Council, Environment Victoria, Frankston Beach Association and the Downs Estate Group.

Dignitaries who attended were Cr James Dooley, Mayor City of Frankston; Sonya Kilkenny, Carrum MLA; Cr Glenn Aitken, Cr Darrel Taylor, Peta Murphy (Labor

candidate for Dunkley), Chris Crewther (Liberal candidate for Dunkley), Lee Murnane, Principal Seaford North Primary School, Noel Tudball President of Seaford Community and David Cross, Frankston Citizen of the Year, who launched the migratory birds flyway activity.

The event was fairly well attended, particularly in the morning but not as well in the afternoon when it became very hot and windy.

We thank those organisations who supported the event and the dignitaries who took the time to attend. And we particularly thank our members who helped out on the day – Jacqui, Inez, Sandy, Maureen, Helen, Rosemary, Natasha, Mikaela, Sue, Charles, Sabina, Kate, Helen, Bonnie, Marg, Lorraine, Rex, Matt and Chris. Without your involvement such an event could not be staged.



Wetland Express



Indigenous Plants



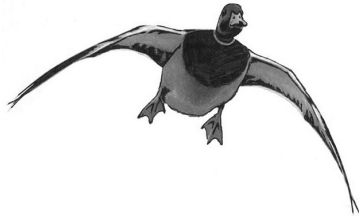
Bird Migration



Having Fun

# ONE FOR THE DUCKS

Duck hunting is in full swing despite the fact that game bird numbers are well down.



*Animals Australia* and the *Coalition Against Duck Shooting* have managed to close two wetlands to duck hunters this shooting season due to the presence of Blue-billed Ducks in significant numbers.

The animal rights organisations took the Victorian Government to the supreme court in the matter of the partial closure of Lake Toolondo; and the full closure of Lake Elizabeth (which was announced just half an hour before an urgent injunction application was set to be heard by the Victorian Supreme Court the Department of Environment).

Animals Australia and CADS held grave concerns for the Blue-billed Ducks due to:

- government data showing shooters have a 29.4% wounding rate;
- protected species being shot and killed every duck shooting season; and
- the Blue-billed Duck being one of the most frequently shot non-game species.

*Animals Australia* is awesome in its advocacy for all animals – if you can support them in their great work go to their site - [www.animalsaustralia.org](http://www.animalsaustralia.org)



Waters return to Seaford

# WORKING BEES



Colin, Rex and Greg at work in Seaford

Working Bees have recommenced at Seaford. Despite the horrible weather on the first Sunday of this month, four intrepid volunteers turned up to plant 70 Correas and Lomandras.

Over the past 20 years or so, the Friends have planted thousands of trees in the buffer zones around the Seaford Wetlands. (See pictures below).

Why not join the Working Bee? Why not participate in this amazing transformation from cow paddocks to extensive bushland?

First Sunday of each month, 10am to 12noon. Ring Rex on 9766 6056.

In the past there have been many thousands of plantings too around Edithvale Wetlands. We are hoping to re-introduce Working Bees there. Just waiting on Kingston Council.



East of Seaford Wetlands  
September 2001



Same area  
April 2016

Aspendale Primary School

Aspendale Gardens Primary School

Frank and Isobel Baguley's Nursery

Bird Life Australia

Bonbeach Primary School

Chelsea Heights Community Centre

Longbeach RSL

Edithvale Primary School

Frankston Primary School

Gales Marine Centre

Instant Garden Nurseries at Garden-  
world 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

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**Melbourne  
Water**

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**Friends of  
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