

Mar-Apr 2017

Friends of Edithvale – Seaford Wetlands Inc.



Number 151



Clamorous Reed-Warbler

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Wetland Warbler

PROTECTING VICTORIA'S ENVIRONMENT-BIODIVERSITY 2037

Victoria has a new 20-year plan to stop the decline of our native plants and animals.

The Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change announced the new plan at the 15th World Congress on Public Health, acknowledging the intrinsic link between a healthy natural environment and healthy communities.

Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037 aims to encourage more Victorians to value and protect nature and help them to connect with and enjoy their natural environment. It will also help drive action

from local businesses, government and people to help to stop the decline of our biodiversity through investment, improved decision making and planning, and through volunteer action.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the draft plan last year and everyone who played a part in creating the final Biodiversity Plan. We encourage you to share it with your networks.

To find out more about *Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037* visit environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversityplan

Source [DELWP Biodiversity & Native Vegetation](#)

FRIENDS OF EDITHVALE - SEAFORD WETLANDS INC.

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It is a time to
plant.

INDIGENOUS NURSERIES

It is a time to
plant.

Frankston Indigenous Nursery reopened on Saturday 1 April 2017 and will continue to open the 1st Saturday of each month 9am-1pm It is also open on Wednesday's 9am-3pm; or by appointment. The best range of local, drought tolerant plants at affordable prices, from tube-stock and six inch pots through to 30cm young trees.

7 McMannis Way (Off McCulloch Avenue) Seaford 3198 (next to SES) Melway Ref: 99 E8

Carrum Indigenous Nursery opens Fridays and Saturdays -11 am to 4 pm - for sales; and welcomes volunteers on Tuesdays and Fridays between 11 am and 4 pm.

The stock is in forestry tubes, grasses \$ 1.50 and all other plants \$2.50

Learmonth Reserve, Thompson Rd & Learmonth Rd, Patterson Lakes VIC 3197



RAILWAY CROSSING REMOVALS

FESWI has met with members of the Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) on two occasions to learn what its plans are for crossing removals that may affect the wetlands, and to express our concerns and wishes. From the beginning FESWI has emphasised the need for an Environmental Effects Statement (EES), preferably at federal level (EIS).

The plans are to construct grade separations for the Edithvale and Bonbeach level crossings in a trench, and a hybrid solution for Seaford (road lowered by 2.5m. rail over 5m).

AECOM and GHD consultants prepared a report for the Level Crossing Removal Authority which states that – “The permanency of the trench structures is likely to result in impacts to groundwater that are likely to be long term and irreversible in nature.” And that: “Any change to the hydrological regime at the Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands is highly

likely to impact on the use of the site by waterbirds.” and “it is considered that from a flooding perspective, the Seaford site is more complex and difficult to manage in comparison as compared to Edithvale and Bonbeach.” (LXRA -LX31-43-MD-RPT-0003)

It is stated in the Victorian Ministerial Guidelines for Environmental Effects, that one of the referral criteria for an Environmental Effects Statement is:-

“...individual potential environmental effects. Individual types of potential effects on the environment that might be of regional or State significance and therefore warrant referral of a project, are: potential long term change to the ecological character of a wetland listed under the Ramsar Convention.”

Given the trench option at Edithvale and the proximity of the wetlands to the Seaford crossing, FESWI believes that there is absolutely no option but for both crossings to be referred to the federal government for an Environmental Impact Statement.



Road under – Rail over option at Seaford Road

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

FESWI had its Clean Up Australia Day at Edithvale this year. It was not generally advertised because not that much rubbish was to be seen during a preliminary reconnaissance. Edithvalians should be congratulated for being so tidy.

16 people collected about 10 bags of rubbish over an hour. In the rubbish stakes, McDonalds won by a country mile.



SNIPPETS SNIPPETS SNIPPETS

Releases

On 10th March a young White-necked Heron was rescued by *AWARE* and released by Kim into the Edithvale Wetlands. It steadfastly refused to get out of its carrying box and eventually had to be evicted.



And, on 22nd March a wandering tortoise was brought in by Barb, a vet, with *Animal Emergency and Referral Hospital*.

Some Statistics



Facebook

FESWI's Facebook page launched on January 23rd 2017. Between this date and March 13th- 127 people currently 'like' and are following our Facebook page.

We post something every 2 days.

We made 43 posts between Jan 23rd - Mar 13th. Over 3,000 people have seen our posts on their Facebook newsfeeds.

100 people have visited the FESWI website after clicking on a Facebook link.

We've had 920 interactions on our posts. This includes likes, comments and shares.

Bird Hide

The bird hide reopened last August and between then and now there have been over 1,100 visitors; and we have 36 volunteer members who do duty at the hide and Education Centre. FESWI has a further 15 active members who carry out various tasks.



Car Park

The Hide car park has been given a massive face lift courtesy of Greenworld, sub-contracted by Melbourne Water. Well done all – it really looks great! Pictured below is Wayne (Greenworld)



Rubbish at Seaford

The pile of rubbish (pictured below) was recently delivered to Seaford Wetlands complete with derelict trailer. People like this aren't too bright—they generally leave behind identifying evidence as did this one. Council is on it.



Wetland Visits

On 21 March, a class of VCE Year 12 Environmental Science students from MacRobertson Girls High School visited the hide to learn more about the management of wetlands in terms of environmental outcomes. Margaret, Tristan and Robin hosted this visit. The following day a small group from Kingston Youth Services made a visit to the hide. Margaret and Robin hosted this visit.

THE GREEN WEDGE

Green Wedges are non-urban areas of metropolitan Melbourne that lie outside the Urban Growth Boundary. There are 12 designated green wedge areas across 17 municipalities which form a ring around the city. Recent good news is that Minister Wynne’s new *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050* states that Melbourne’s Green Wedges are safe, behind the locked-down Urban Growth Boundary which was an election pledge of the Andrews Government. FESWI member, Barry Ross, is also a member of the Green Wedge Coalition, and is a tireless defender of it. He had a recent win in a ‘David versus Goliath’ contest at VCAT against a proposed massive Place of Worship complex in part of the Wedge in Carrum Downs.

Congratulations Barry – an awesome win!

Unfortunately, the proponents for this development (RSSB Australia Pty Ltd) are not accepting the umpire’s decision and are appealing in the Supreme Court.

FESWI also put in an objection to Council to this development because although the Wetlands are not directly affected by this and other proposals, and whilst the *Friends of Edithvale-Seafood Wetlands Inc* has as its major focus the maintenance and protection of the Edithvale and Seafood Wetlands, the *Friends* also has an interest in, and concern for general habitat and species protection around greater Melbourne. The concept of the Green Wedges, which were set up predominately

as open areas providing for agriculture and conservation, is fundamental in providing this protection.

The Wetlands do not exist in isolation but are part of a greater whole as evidenced in the *Living Links* project. *Living Links* is a large-scale environmental and social project involving Councils, Government agencies and community groups working together to create a web of green spaces – connecting wild-life corridors - in Melbourne’s south-east.

However, despite the Minister Wynne’s new plan, the Wedges continue to be predated upon by urban developers and others intent on getting cheap land for developments that are not within the spirit of the green wedges as listed in Clause 35.04.

Cruden Farm, in Langwarrin, is part of the Green Wedge and it is currently under threat of having part of it excised (15.8 ha) for urban development. It is in the Rural Conservation Zone. It has a Significant Landscape Overlay, an Environmental Significance Overlay, a Heritage Overlay and is part of the habitat link from the Pines Flora and Fauna park to the Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Park.

The Green Wedge seems to be forever under threat – we can’t afford to lose any more. One would imagine that it would be very difficult for the Minister to approve the rezoning of Cruden Farm and the re-drawing of the Urban Growth Boundary before the ink is even dry on the new Plan.

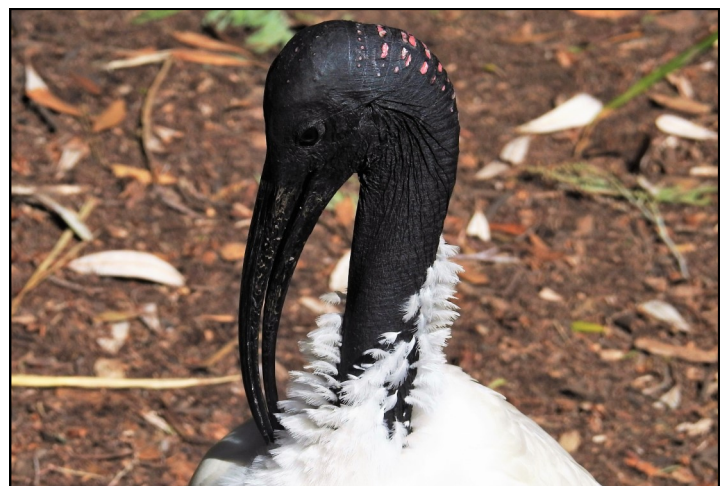
But we’ll wait and see.



PHOTOS BY HIDE VISITORS



Sulphur-crested Cockatoo Steve McDonald



Australian White Ibis Steve McDonald

VOLUNTEERING AT FRANKSTON HOSPITAL

More about our volunteers volunteering elsewhere. Margaret Hunter, FESWI's Secretary, Volunteers at Frankston Hospital

Since August 2015, I have been working in a volunteer role in the Assistance and Care in Emergency program (ACE) at the Frankston Hospital. This is based at the Frankston Hospital Emergency Department where we assist the emergency staff in reception/care areas, and other areas to work with the patients and their relatives. It involves taking relatives through to the patient, using an ipad to find the patient's location, and escorting patients to the wards on occasions. We are given a hospital id badge, parking pass, and assisted by having security phones to use as required.

It was run by the Red Cross originally, and then, ten years ago, taken over by the Frankston Hospital



Photo Herald Sun

volunteer service and provides training for medical/nursing/paramedic/community volunteers in a team environment. We regularly give out hand knitted trauma teddies to children and support staff in a number of other ways. It is both rewarding and challenging.

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MORE PHOTOS BY HIDE VISITORS



Spotless Crake Steve McDonald



White-plumed Honeyeater Steve McDonald



Glossy Ibis Karen Murray



Purple Swamphen Karen Murray

Can be viewed in colour on FESWI's website

Corporate Members

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 Restau-
rant, Chelsea Heights

Melbourne Water, Water-
ways & Drainage

Mordialloc College

Mordialloc Primary School

April Nutter

Parkdale Secondary School



**Melbourne
Water**

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

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