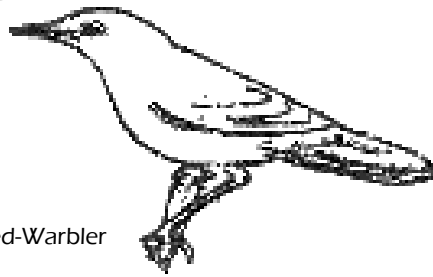


May-Jun 2016

Friends of Edithvale – Seaford Wetlands Inc.



Number 146



Clamorous Reed-Warbler

BIRD HIDE MEETING

On the evening of 14th June nine interested members met at the Edithvale Seaford Education Centre to discuss how the interior of the hide should look, what to include, and its operating hours.

The hide has been substantially raised off the ground so that there is a higher roof on the lower level; on this level, the former display area in the middle will not be reinstated, and part of an interior wall will be removed to provide better wheel chair access. Various displays will be in this area together with some activities for children.

There will be a donation honour board.

Options will be explored for replacing the large upper window with one that can be more easily cleaned, and, for slightly enlarging the downstairs windows for better photo opportunities.

The possibility of getting a grant for a solar panel will be looked into.

FESWI would like to maintain its volunteers at both the Edithvale Seaford Education Centre (2nd and 4th Sunday each month) and at the hide. Opening hours are very dependent on the number of volunteers - it is hoped to open the hide every Sunday to start with (and then extend to include Saturdays in the future).

This requires four people every Sunday at the hide, and then twice a month another four at the Education Centre. It was decided to approach various agencies (eg relevant student groups; bird watching organisations; council volunteer websites, community centres) as well as tapping into the local retired demographic (eg Richfield Village, Lifestyle Villages etc) for extra volunteers. Training sessions will be provided for all volunteers. Ideally we would like to see more of our own existing members involved.



There will be an official opening of the hide on Wednesday 3rd August 11:00am by Sean Dooley (see page 2) with guests from local community groups, councillors, politicians, Melbourne Water and

others. The first public opening day will be the following Sunday (7th August.) and all are welcome.

A working bee date for setting up the interior of the hide has been made for Sunday 24th July between the hours of 10:00am and 1:00pm. If you can help, come any time between these hours. Can you also let us know if you can make it (ring Robin on 9876 2213 or email robin.clarey@hotmail.com). Thanks.

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FRIENDS OF EDITHVALE - SEAFORD WETLANDS INC.

Assoc No. A0017388A

ABN - 95 886 101 621

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www.edithvale-seaford-wetlands.org

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Matthew Mitchell
Kate Spillane
Bonnie Molloy
Maria Matamala

Seaford W/Bees Rex Chugg
9766 6056

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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

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS NOW DUE

You can now pay via the internet. See Page 5



FESWI WANTS YOU



Bird Hide – do you enjoy helping out? Volunteers are needed to open the hide and the Education Centre. It need only be a couple of hours a month *and* you get to imbibe the peace and serenity of the wetlands. You don't have to be a bird expert; a little bit of training will be provided; and at first you will be on duty with a more experienced volunteer.

Does this sound like **you**?

Bird Hide Roster– do you have unused skills? A volunteer is looked for to work with Kate in organising the rosters and the occasional training sessions. Not difficult work and Kate is great to work with and would love to hear from **you**.

Facebook – Are you a bit of a computer buff? FESWI would like to have a presence on Facebook and needs a lovely person to help us out to set it up and maintain it. Is this **you**?

Committee – No one really seems to want to be on it, but come on – **you** can! Meets once a month – makes a few decisions and acts on them. Too easy!

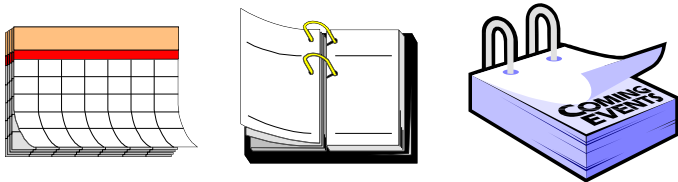
One Off- A working Bee is organised for Sunday 24th July between the hours of 10:00am to 1:00pm to make the bird hide ready for its official opening. If **you** can spare some time between these hours – that would be excellent!

If **you** can help please ring Robin (9786 2213) in the first instance.



UP-COMING DATES

Mark these in your Calendar



Bird Hide Working Bee – Sunday 24th July between the hours 10:am – 1:00pm.

(Bird Hide Official Opening – Wednesday 3rd August, 11:00am.)

Seaford Working Bee – Sunday 7th August 10:00am – 12 noon. South east corner of Seaford Wetlands.

Bird Hide Public Opening (first since closure) – Sunday 7th August 1:00pm – 5:00pm. All welcome!

And later

Wetland Walk Edithvale – Sunday 25th September, 1:00pm (more information next *Warbler*).

Wetland Walk Seaford – Sunday 13th November, 11:00am (more information next *Warbler*).

SEAN DOOLEY TO OPEN BIRD HIDE

Sean Dooley is a Melbourne author who has worked as a television comedy writer. He is a contributor to The Age, ABC radio and 3RRR, writing and talking about birds, environmental issues, sport and more besides. His greatest claim to fame is that in 2002 he broke the Australian birdwatching record for seeing the most species in the one year.

Guests will enjoy some of his bird knowledge and humour at this event, which will be very special for FESWI and bird lovers.



BIRD HIDE DONORS

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

New donors since the last newsletter: Claire Pullin, Robin Clarey, Helen Corcoran and Julieanne Garland, Rosemary Cian, Roger Francey, Ian Parsons, Val La May, Kath Prior, Sheila and Leon Knoop, Faye Spinelli and Val la May (\$200)

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*

SNIPPETS SNIPPETS SNIPPETS

Frankston Environmental Friends Network (FEFN)

The FEFN celebrated its 20 anniversary on the 6th June (almost coinciding with World Environment Day) with a launch of a photo exhibition at the Frankston Library. It was very well attended – a veritable gaggle of environmentalists all of whom do wonderful work in protecting and enhancing the various parks, gardens, reserves, beaches and green wedges around Frankston.

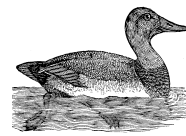


FESWI members Robin, Penny, Philippa, Alison and Barry in front of our display.

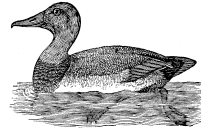
The Possum!

After ascertaining where that pesky possum was getting into Duck In, Philippa and Robin met with Melbourne Water's Ranger Clint Hendrey, Supervisor Grass Management SE Region, on Thursday 16th June to consider options for dealing with it. Clint proved to be very helpful with reference to both the possum and to cleaning up the trees and other areas around Duck In, which now looks really good.

Many thanks *Melbourne Water* – Steven Nixon and Clint- and, *auf wiederseh'n* possum!



Feeding the Ducks



At the request of FESWI, a sign has been placed on the fence at the Austin Road lookout asking people not to feed the ducks. This is a popular activity at that spot but it is not really good for the ducks. Thanks Deane Anderson, MW Area Coordinator Metro for organising this notice.

MW Liveability Team Meeting

Melbourne Water Liveability Program provided \$20,000 towards the bird hide restoration, which enabled FESWI to match this amount with the Stronger Communities Program grant.

FESWI committee members Philippa Bailey and Robin Clarey were pleased to meet Dan Green, Hannah Pexton and Virginia Harris from the Liveability Team, on Monday 27th June at the bird hide to show them the restoration work in progress, and explain the background of the Friends group and current activity schedule.

The Liveability Program is aimed at community engagement and connection and the bird hide project fulfils these program principles through connection to the community and opportunities for volunteering and the creation of networks.



WORKING BEES

The Chelsea Heights Project Rex Chugg

The Chelsea Heights Project which began in October 2010 has come on really well. Around 2000 plants were purchased from Carrum Indigenous Nursery and over the next few years these were planted out. We had many problems with weed infestations which tended to over-power the small plants. With a couple of whipper-snippings and a little spraying the plantlings won out. Hurray!

Now after nearly 6 years we have a wonderful forest of native trees to the delight of the locals, many of whom use the path and the area in general in their daily walks. Opposite are a couple of photos showing before and after. The first is October 2010 (before) and the second is June 2016 (after).



Seaford Working Bee

Seaford Working Bees take place on the first Sunday of the month. Volunteers are currently working in the south east corner of the wetlands buffer zone, where under storey plants are being put in. In the May and June plantings more than 200 were put in and a little weeding done to boot. Extra help is always welcome.

If you would like to do something for the Earth give Rex a ring on 9766 6056.

Edithvale Working Bees

Seaford Working Bee Co-ordinator, Rex Chugg, and Philippa met with Lee James, NRA Supervisor Parks and Recreation in the City of Kingston, recently to set in motion the steps needed for FESWI to restart regular working bees at Edithvale Wetlands which is great news. Rex has been given maps indicating where plants are to be put. These areas have yet to be prepared and mulched and the plants to be ordered and grown. Following this it's full steam ahead!



UNLUCKY CORMORANT LUCKY

Robin Clarey

Whilst walking around the Seaford Wetlands recently I noticed a largish black-and-white bird (turned out to be Pied Cormorant after consulting the bird book) up against the wetland boundary fence. Hmm didn't quite look right.

Once it noticed me noticing it, it showed signs of concern and when I took a couple of tentative steps towards it, it became positively agitated but did not fly away. Yep, definitely something wrong!

Out with the phone to ring AWARE (Australian Wildlife Assistance Rescue & Education). Got a recorded message but it said it would get back to me. It is a volunteer group and it all depends upon the availability of its members.

Several hours later at about 7:30pm had a phone call from AWARE. A lovely lady, Nicky, was on her way out to pick it up! I was so happy! I went out to meet her on the wetland; it was very dark but she was quick and efficient and had that bird bundled up and into a carrying box before it could say Jack Robinson.

The next day I received an SMS to say that a vet associated with the group had removed a hook and some fishing line entanglement from its wing and it is now recuperating at Warrawee Wildlife Shelter.

What great work these people do!

Thanks Nicky and AWARE.





**Friends of
Edithvale-Seafood
Wetlands Inc.**

Assoc No. A0017388 ABN - 95 886 101 621

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Your Wetland Interests?

Bird Watching Plants Nature Study Education

Can You Help Us?

Tree Planting Publicity Hide Duty Other

Details (Other)

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

Or pay to BSB 06 3118 ,Account Number 1005 9942 - write name & subscription and fill out on-line form if new member or renewing membership. www.edithvale-seafood-wetlands.org

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6

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**Melbourne
Water**

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