

**Merry-Christmas to All**  
Nov-Dec  
2016

Friends of Edithvale – Seaford Wetlands Inc.



Number 149

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# Wetland Warbler

Clamorous

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 13<sup>H</sup> 2016

#### FESWI COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEERS

It has been a significant year for FESWI with the restoration of the bird hide at Edithvale, and once again the committee members, volunteers and associates must be heartily thanked for the time and effort that they have contributed to the group.

The core committee has consisted of **Margaret Hunter** as secretary, **Robin Clarey** as Vice-president and newsletter editor, **Sue Telfer** as Treasurer, **Kate Spillane** as Volunteer Coordinator, **Matt Mitchell** as website manager, **Rex Chugg** as tree planting coordinator and **Philippa Bailey** as president

**Inez Van Polenen-Patel** joined the committee in July and has taken on the database management. **Charles Saffroy** has provided input to the committee regarding wetland plants, **Alison Kuitert** has been a driving force in the bird hide restoration project and **Chris Spencer** continued to manage the database until August. **Maria Matavala** has assisted the committee and **Cheryl Meier** has continued to help with the newsletter distribution.

#### MELBOURNE WATER LIAISON

**Paul Rees** has been the Melbourne Water liaison for FESWI for the past few years, but recently moved into a new role at Melbourne Water. Paul has been an excellent advocate and support for FESWI. He has negotiated internally the restoration of the bird hide and has always assisted the group promptly with arising issues. Many thanks to Paul for including FESWI



in all wetlands business and for helping us to manage the bird hide project. Over the past year FESWI committee members have been involved in a review of the Ramsar management plan and an initial visit to the Eastern Treatment plant, with a view to expansion of community access.

#### FESWI EVENTS:

##### World Wetlands Day February 2016

The commemoration of World Wetlands Day has become a regular event on the FESWI calendar. A walk was conducted inside the Edithvale south reserve and participants were directed to the ESW Education Centre after the walk.

##### Seaford Wetlands Awareness Day March 2016 – incorporating Clean up Australia Day

The Wetlands Awareness Day held at Seaford North Primary school brought community groups, local politicians and councillors together with Seaford residents to enhance knowledge and appreciation of the wetlands. The wetlands clean-up occurred next to the school and brought in another cohort of environmentally - aware community members.

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

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9773 0224 (AH)  
**Vice President** Robin Clarey  
9786 2213  
**Secretary** Margaret Hunter  
9588 0867  
**Treasurer** Sue Telfer  
97724194  
**Committee**

Rex Chugg  
Inez van Polanen  
Charles Saffroy  
Trevor Shewan

#### Seaford W/Bees

Rex Chugg  
9766 6056

#### Education Centre Roster

Kate Spillane  
9773 0224 (AH)

#### Bird Hide Roster

Robin Clarey  
9786 2213

**Guided Tours** Marg Hunter  
9588 0867

**Newsletter** Robin Clarey  
9786 2213

**Warbler Collator** Cheryl Meier  
97724484

#### Website

Matthew Mitchell

#### Membership Database

Inez van Polanen Petel  
9774 2664

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED

## Bird hide opening August 2016

The highlight of this year has been the restoration and re-opening of the bird hide to the community, after 5 years of closure. The official opening was attended by politicians Mark Dreyfus, Sonya Kilkenny, Tim Richardson and Councillor Rosemary West.

Sean Dooley gave a passionate speech about his love for the wetlands and the bird hide, and cut the ribbon for participants to enter the building. Thanks again to Brian and Tim Lowe who completed the restoration for FESWI at "community" rates. The community opening drew in over 100 people with a number of new volunteers signing up to take on hide duties.

The FESWI committee thanks the following FESWI members who have sponsored the bird hide restoration: Celia Browne, Rosemary Cian, Robin Clarey, Philippa Bailey, Helen Corcoran, Julieanne Garland, Brenda Cullen, Roger Francey, B & G Hoskins, Margaret Hunter, Sheila & Leon Knoop, Val LaMay, Dorothy Meadows, Linda Meadows, Ian Parsons, Kath Prior, Claire Pullen, Jacqui Sheppard, Kate Spillane, Faye Spinelli, Maureen Hayes.

## Mayors Picnic September 2016

FESWI participated in the Mayor's Picnic for the City of Frankston and the stall was well visited and information distributed widely.

## Wetlands Walk September 2016

A wet and soggy walk occurred with wet feet all round made bearable by bird and kangaroo sightings!

## Volunteer training September 2016

A training session for new volunteers was held at the ESW Education Centre. The training included bird identification and hide procedures.

## REGULAR FESWI ACTIVITIES

### Tree planting in Seaford



New President, Kate and retiring President, Philippa

This year has been good for planting with lots of rain to help the new plants settle in. Planting began in May and each month 2-3 trays of mainly understory plants were planted on the corner of Francis street & Austin Rd in Seaford. Just on 1000 new tubes have been planted over the season. Many thanks to regular planters: Robin, Dawn, Greg, Lorraine, Jacquie, & Colin. The Mont Albert scout group made its annual visit and contribution. Plans are proceeding to commence planting at Edithvale common in May 2017, which will help to make our wetlands the pride of Victoria to be enjoyed by generations to come. Thanks to Rex Chugg for leading this work.

## ESW Education Centre and bird hide opening

Kate and Robin have managed a group of volunteers who open the centre on the second and fourth Sunday afternoons each month, and the bird hide every Sunday. Volunteer numbers have grown since the hide opening and FESWI would like to acknowledge the commitment and time offered by the following people:

Janet Atkins, David Billingham, Penny Bowe, Margaret Brown, Celia Browne, Craig Brunnen, Rosemary Cian, Robin Clarey, Helen Corcoran, Bev Courtney,

Peter Doyle, Ross Fernley, Tara Francis, Ali Fulcher, Maureen Hayes, Margaret Hunter, Arlis Kempf, Maria Matamala, Cody McCormack, Bob McDonald, Dorothy Meadows OAM, Linda Meadows, Linda Morris, Lew Silvester (parent), Ruth & Bernard Palfrey, Denise Pilkington, Nola Pitman, Jacqui Sheppard, Cathy Smith, Faye Spinelli, Kate Spillane, Suzi Spoto, Jenny Tran, Inez Van Polanen Petel, Ian Williams, Jim Wilson, Rex Chugg (Bird hide repairs).

## Edithvale wetland visits

Over the year several different groups, from pre-school children to seniors, have visited Edithvale Wetlands and been shown around the Education Centre and bird hide. Margaret has been a stalwart in organising and attending these visits, assisted by Robin and other volunteers.

## Duck In

Melbourne Water assisted FESWI to remove a possum family that had moved in. They also helped resolve the utilities problem which occurred when the Edithvale Common Oval was rejuvenated during the winter.

## Networks

FESWI have continued to attend the ESW Community Liaison Committee, the ETP committee, the Port Phillip conservation committee, and the Frankston Environmental Friends Network. FESWI contributed a display to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of FEFN.

The FESWI committee thanks all our members for their continuing support.

## Philippa Bailey

## President FESWI 2016

## PAST PRESIDENT WILL BE MISSED

Philippa's AGM Report thanks many people for their involvement with FESWI but it also needs to be said that the committee and membership owes a huge debt of gratitude to Philippa, who took on role of acting president in June 2009 and then became president.

In the next seven years FESWI accomplished so much under Philippa's leadership!

Included (but not all) are: regular Open Days; many wetland walks; setting up the website; managing a massive grant (\$52,000) from DSE; a partnership with a local primary school to rehabili-

tate their bushland; negotiating with Melbourne Water to open the Education Centre a couple of days a month; setting up a sub-committee to try to get the hide fixed; fighting several development proposals impacting the wetlands; developing self-guided walk brochures; organising and holding FESWI's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations; dealing with two break-ins at Duck In; liaising with Kingston Council to restart working bees at Edithvale; participating in the Ramsar Review; and, the massive job of finally getting the hide re-opened.

Phew! What a list! Thanks heaps Philippa!



## SOME SAD NEWS

### Vale Joyce Stewart

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Joyce Stewart. Joyce was an active member of FESWI, and secretary for many years. Despite some health issues she was always willing to help out at working bees and open days - even when it meant attempting unfamiliar things.

An example I remember was at an Open Day at Seaford many years ago. I offered (*not having too many clues about it*) to do the face painting. I needed another person to help and Joyce (*having even fewer clues*) heroically agreed.

We set to work and after some time, as we were finishing a young girl's

face, Malcom (then president) came up behind us to take a photo. Joyce and I turned around to smile at the camera just as I was holding up the mirror to the kid. Well! They say the camera never lies, and its grading of our skills was 'epic fail'. The photo had captured the expression on that kid's face as she looked into the mirror and it was priceless! Utter disbelief and OMG! Never again!

However, despite worsening health, Joyce continued to be an active member for as long as she could, and those of us who were around then will always remember her for this.

We extend our sympathy to Joyce's family.



### Vale Bruce Saxon

FESWI also wishes to acknowledge the recent passing of Bruce Saxon who may not be very well known to our members, but he was the man who designed our logo many years ago (early 1980's). He was a graphics design teacher at the same school that Dorothy Meadows taught at and it was she who approached him to do it for FESWI. It is a great logo and we are proud to have it on our stationary, display material and our flag, which, incidentally, Dorothy made for us.

We extend our sympathy to Bruce's family.

Robin Clarey

# ARE WE LOOKING AFTER OUR WETLANDS?

**A**re we looking after our Ramsar wetlands? Report from the Victorian Auditor-General

Australia has 65 wetlands which are recognised internationally as Ramsar wetlands, meaning the wetland is of international importance and the government has agreed to manage it to ensure its ongoing health. 11 of those wetlands are in Victoria.

A report released today from the Victorian Auditor General's Office has reviewed how well Victoria's wetlands are being managed by the variety of government bodies with this responsibility – the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water and various Catchment Management Authorities.

The report focuses on the adequacy of the wetlands management plans and their implementation, and whether monitoring, evaluation and reporting occurs and is used to improve management.

This report found that overall there are significant problems with the management strategies and approaches currently put into place and noted potential decline in the ecological condition of a number of wetlands, although a lack of information makes this unclear.

A core reason behind the failings in management of Ramsar Wetlands is linked to the chaotic division of management strategies between various agencies. Parks Victoria, in conjunction with a range of other bodies, manages 10 of the sites, with Melbourne Water solely responsible for the 11th – the Edithvale- Seaford wetlands. VAGO found that Parks Victoria "poorly oversees the implementation of management plans" with strategies often not implemented, partly due to a lack of clarity of roles and responsibilities between the various bodies. The report found that of the 404 actions listed for the 10 Parks Vic managed Ramsar sites, only 51% had been carried out. 115 were partly carried out or deemed to be the responsibility of another agency. Parks Vic does no monitoring and reporting of imple-

mentation of its management plans.

It also found that lack of funding for management significantly impacts what can be achieved.

**The contrasting case is the management of the Edithvale – Seaford wetlands by Melbourne Water.** VAGO found that Melbourne Water's standalone management of the wetland was successful, due to the structure creating clear responsibilities for implementation and monitoring of its wetland. It had a high rate of implementation of Ramsar Wetlands strategies, with all high priority strategies having been completed.

Overall report makes it clear that the current management of Victoria's 11 strategies is not sufficient nor appropriate given their Ramsar status. VAGO has made a number of recommendations for improvements.

Authored by: Nicola Rivers. View Nicola Rivers's blog.

Topic: Rivers and Wetlands

## WELL DONE MELBOURNE WATER!



Seaford—Main Lagoon



Edithvale South

# HIDE CARPARK DOTTEREL

On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October those on hide duty discovered that a Black-fronted Dotterel had laid an egg (later three eggs) in the hide car park. Because Dotterels and other members of the plover family lay their eggs on the ground they chose open spaces to do so. A light barricade was erected around it so that they would not be run over and then the waiting started. The birds sat on those eggs throughout all kinds of weather, cars driving back and forth, and the curious stares of visitors to the hide until the 29<sup>th</sup> of November when it was last seen. The next day, it was discovered that the bird and the eggs were gone. What has happened?

Val Ford, editor of the BirdLife Mornington Peninsula newsletter, spent 19 years studying/monitoring Hooded Plovers and based on this has made some comments which may apply to our dotterel.

“Assuming that their egg laying (two days apart) and incubation times are similar to other plovers (four weeks and only started after last egg is laid) here are my thoughts.

After finding the nest with one egg on 30 October and the bird was found incubating three eggs on 6 November I calculated that incubation would have started no later than 3 November. Assuming a four-week incubation the eggs would hatch sometime between 29 November and 1 December.



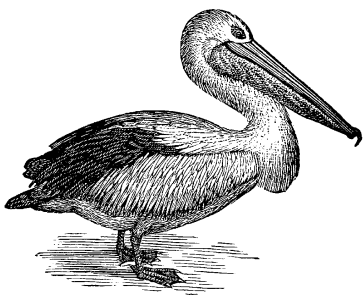
The adults and chicks would have left the nest as soon as the chicks were strong enough after hatching – ie almost straight away. Egg shells would have been removed by the parents as soon as each chick hatched, and deposited away from the nest. (Many birds do this).

Immediately after hatching the chicks have to feed themselves – the parents are on constant vigilance keeping predators at a distance. If the parents detect any danger the chicks will be sent into hiding. They could also be under one of the parents as regular brooding could be required for the first few days. The adults may be seen moving around the edge of the wetland.” Thanks Val.

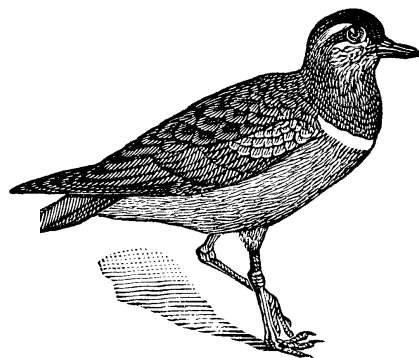
Dotterels were certainly *heard* the following Sunday. So, we’re all hoping for the best.

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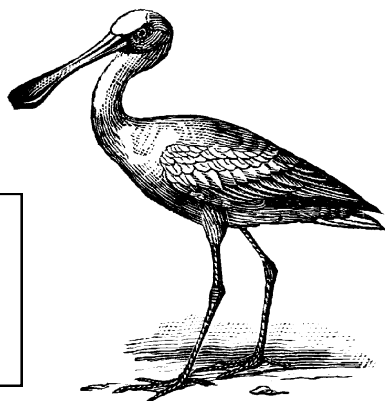
## INTERESTING WETLAND BIRD FACTS



Pelicans have been recorded flying at night at a height of 3,000 meters (3 kms).



A pair of Black-fronted Dotterels nesting between the rails in an Adelaide shunting yard did not leave their nest even when the trains passed over their heads.



Spoonbills can close their beaks on prey within 25 milliseconds of touching it.

Submitted by Kaye Proudley  
Sources: Steve Parish: Discover and Learn about Australia  
Simpson and Day: Field Guide to the Birds of Australia

# SEAFORD WORKING BEES

Rex Chugg



Regular volunteers, Jacqui and Dawn with Rex

This year has been good for planting with lots of rain to help the new plantings settle in. We started planting in May this year and each month 2 – 3 trays of plants were planted – mostly understorey. Areas planted were on the corner of Austin Road and Francis Street in Seaford. We had a number of new people to help although they never seemed to be consistent. Members of the Mont Albert North Scout Group had a planting day with us – this is the third time they have visited our wetlands. They worked really hard and were much appreciated. All up we have planted just on 1,000 tubes this year and it is hoped they will all survive to make the wetlands a better place for future generations.

My thanks go to my willing team of volunteers – Dawn, Greg, Lorraine, Jacqui, Colin, and Robin – you have been a great help to me. Well done.

In reference to Edithvale, it is hoped that a team will be started in 2017. Robert Lamb has offered to oversee this group. The committee will advertise in the newsletter and the local papers to get interested local residents involved. Kingston Council has already prepared an area in Edithvale Common to be planted out from May next year, so all you members - get involved and help make our wetlands the pride of Victoria to be enjoyed by generations to come.

# OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS ...

## Over the past two months FESWI has:-

Had a meeting with officials from the *Level Crossing Removal Authority* (Margaret, Sue and Robin) on 4<sup>th</sup> November.

Hosted a visit from Inga Peulich MLC (member for the South Eastern Metropolitan Region) at the Education Centre and the bird hide on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

Run a Working Bee at Seaford Wetlands (Rex and team) on 6<sup>th</sup> November.

Attended an Essential Safety Measures inspection at Duck In on 7<sup>th</sup> November.

Been represented at the *Community Liaison Committee* (Margaret and Robin) on 7<sup>th</sup> November.

Conducted a walk around Seaford Wetlands (Philippa and Robin) on 13<sup>th</sup> November.

Held the Annual General Meeting at the Education Centre on 13<sup>th</sup> November.

Been represented at the *Frankston Environmental Friends Network* on 9<sup>th</sup> November and 14<sup>th</sup> December.

Spent hours at the bird hide working on the doors, handrail and other matters (Rex and Jim) on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 12<sup>th</sup> November and other dates (Jim).

Given a talk to the *Bentleigh Moorabbin Central Rotary Club* (Margaret and Robin) on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

Had clean-ups around Duck In (Inez and Robin) on 20<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November.

And of course – opened the bird hide every Sunday afternoon and the *Education Centre* twice a month on Sundays (all our great volunteers).



Seaford Walkers

# BIRDS AT EDITHVALE



Welcome Swallow Allan Broomhall



Purple Swamphen Robin Clarey



Swamp Harrier Allan Broomhall



Cygnet Ian Williams



Duck and Ducklings Alison Kuitert



Reed Warbler Alison Kuitert

## Corporate Members

8

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**

**Production of this newsletter funded through**

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MARK DREYFUS, MHR FOR ISAACS



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Edithvale – Seaford  
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