

Sept-Oct

2011



Number 124



Clamorous Reed-Warbler

Wetland Warbler

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PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM WITH SEAFORD NORTH PS

Partnership Program with Seaford North Primary School

Following a number of meetings with some members of Seaford North Primary School Council, initially with Rex, then with Robin and Philippa, and finally with the committee, FESWI is to auspice a grant application by the school to re-establish a former nature trail at the school.

The trail had been developed some years ago with the assistance of Sybil Bond (co-author of *The Oasis Next Door*), and weaved its way through two hectares of school bushland adjoining the north-west part of the Seaford Wetlands.

Unfortunately, in the intervening years the bushland has become a little degraded – a lot of remnant vegetation still remains but there are many infestations of woody, and other, weeds. And, with various staff and principal changes, the area, as an environmental educational tool, has been under-utilised.

Luckily for the school, two members of the School Council – parents, Louise Zedda-Sampson (president) and John McKenzie - are a driving force behind the move re-establish this area as a valuable teaching resource.

They met with the committee on Monday 19th September to hammer out some details. The plan is to apply for the grant, to set up an inter-agency management committee (including school, FESWI, Frankston Council, and maybe Melb Water, Trust for Nature, Little Athletics) to devise a management plan which would be supervised by the school.



This is an exciting initiative on the part of the School Council and FEWSI is very pleased to be involved. (Below—John and Philippa)



FRIENDS OF EDITHVALE - SEAFORD WETLANDS INC.

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BIRD HIDE DELAY

Philippa Bailey

We have all been very happy with the amount of rain over winter. Unfortunately it has put the damper on plans to repair the bird hide at Edithvale before 31st August. Melbourne Water has allocated the funds for the project and appointed a contractor, but the work could not be started due to water levels in the hide remaining too high.

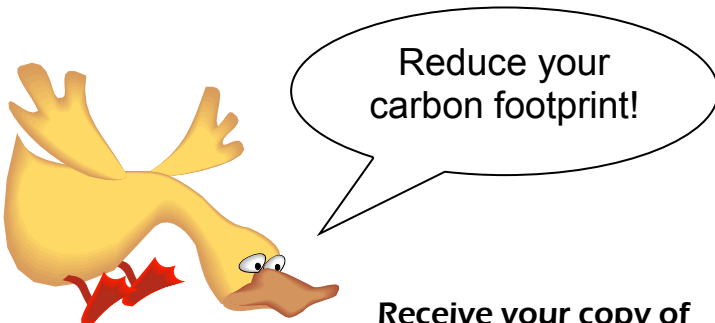
Melbourne Water now has to request special permission from the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Dept. under the Ramsar listing for the work to be completed in coming weeks, once the area is dry enough. The submission has to show that the building work will not significantly disrupt any migratory or breeding birds.

It is ironic given that FESWI fought so hard to attain the Ramsar listing, that the stringent guidelines are now impacting on the re-opening of the bird hide. With the hide closed, there is no regular monitoring of the area for injured and orphaned birds or predators.

FESWI is preparing information to support Melbourne Water, in its request to get the repairs started as soon as possible.

To protect the wetland birds of all species, we need the hide open again and regular monitoring taking place.

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Receive your copy of Warbler via email

If you would like to receive your copy electronically, please let me know (by email).



Send to robin.clarey@hotmail.com

KINGSTON GREEN WEDGE

Kingston Council is in the process of developing a Kingston Green Wedge Plan and has recently released a Draft Kingston Green Wedge Plan for community comment.

The Council has appointed a consultant team led by Planisphere Pty Ltd to prepare a Green Wedge Plan that will guide its decision-making over the medium to long term.

Planisphere Pty Ltd spent the earlier stages of this year seeking feedback through various means, including phone and online surveys, reviewing written submissions and conducting community workshops on the views of diverse segments of the community about the future of Kingston's Green Wedge.

The Council has issued an invitation to interested people to provide feedback on the Draft Kingston Green Wedge Plan. It is available online at the Council's website (www.kingston.vic.gov.au/greenwedge) or at Council offices and libraries.

Feedback can be provided through the following means:-

- Completing a Feedback Form and returning it to Council in a Reply Paid envelope;
- Completing the Feedback Form online at the same web address above;
- Emailing to greenwedge@kingston.vic.gov.au;
- Or writing directly to Council with your thoughts on the draft plan.

Please note that all written comments need to be submitted to Council by **Friday, 11 November 2011**.

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WEBSITE



Unwrap a great look! Visit FESWI website! (www.edithvale-seaford-wetlands.org) It is fully up to date and is worth a look. The committee is also considering a Facebook site.

SNIPPETS SNIPPETS SNIPPETS

Duck In

Melbourne Water has decided that FESWI can re-enter and continue to use Duck In – we had been moved out for some time when it was discovered that it had been built using asbestos. The cost of repairs was considered too expensive given the nature of the building, the low level of danger and its limited use. There was a working bee there on 3rd September to put everything back where it belonged so that it could again be used for meetings.

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Kaye is a Granny!

Ellery Sage Lusk was born 27.7.2011 - 9 weeks early, weighing 1.9kgs (roughly 4 and a half pounds in "our speak") and 43cm long. Initially, he had the oxygen tubes in but they came out after 24 hours, and he was out of the humidicrib after about 9 or 10 days. He has come back to his birth weight but has had to stay in hospital for roughly another 4 to 6 weeks till he reaches the normal term, or the milestones he would have reached in the womb.

Currently he is doing exceptionally well. Congratulations Kaye and Roy!



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Bunurong Memorial Park Donation

Bunurong Memorial Park has generously donated 1,000 trees to FESWI. Thanks Bunurong—they will greatly enhance our buffer zones. Rex is overseeing the planting of them at Seaford.

Green Corps has helped to put in many of these plants already, and plans are in progress to involve clients at Beachlynn (*Statewide Autistic Services*) to help with this project.

Discovery Centre

Members of the FESWI committee had a site visit to the Discovery Centre on 1st August, accompanied by MW officers. FESWI representatives included Philippa, Margaret, Barry, Les and Rex.

Les will be providing a video commentary on the history of the Carrum Carrum Swamp. There was also discussion about the re-publishing of the *Oasis Next Door*, and of suitable educational equipment to be provided by the *Next Step/Skillshare* grant. Under consideration are three Sprocket *Launchpads* – described as the 'ultimate Ipad kiosk'.



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Donation

FESWI has received a donation of \$500 from Councillor Trevor Shewan of Kinston City Council. This is a very generous donation and FESWI thanks Trevor. The money will be put to excellent use.

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Movement on the Down's Estate

Frankston Council has commenced the Master Planning process for the land on Old Wells Road to the north east of Seaford Wetlands, known as the Down's Estate.

The Master Plan aims to provide recommendations for appropriate future uses and activities that complement the conservation values of the immediate and surrounding areas.

Council has engaged Aspect Studios to assist them with the Master Planning process. As part of the planning process Aspect Studios has conducted a Community Consultation session.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVELLERS

It may not be widely known but some thousands of international travellers are currently flying into Australia and visiting our local wetlands. No, not camera-toting tourists but small migratory birds that come in from the northern hemisphere – Japan, Siberia, Mongolia and Alaska.

These intrepid little travellers include:

LATHAMS SNIPE

They fly in from the northern Japanese islands each year, arriving around August and staying until Feb/ March. 13 ins (33cm) long. Unfortunately their numbers are steadily declining.



SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPERS

These are the most numerous of our migratory visitors, forming flocks of up to several thousand birds flying in tight, well-synchronised formations. They arrive in October and leave in March. They breed in northern Siberia during the northern summer.



EASTERN CURLEW

About 50 cm long with a bill of 15 to 18 cms long, these are the largest of their family. Their appearance is rare; they come in from Siberia and Mongolia.



RED-NECKED STINT

This is the tiniest of the migrant waders – 6 ins (15cm) long, weighing little more than a box of matches. They fly a round trip of 24,000 kms between Siberia and Alaska and Seaford/Edithvale..



AMAZING!

You see them tooling around the wetlands at Edithvale mixing in with the local birds, doing all the usual birdy things, with no hint of having accomplished so much.

Why aren't they puffing out their chest feathers to say, "Look at me! Look at what I've done!" (*I think I would!*).

All one can do is look at them and marvel!

MORE OF OUR QUIET ACHIEVERS

Another of our quiet achievers, who has done the job for many years, is Cheryl Meier who prepares our newsletter for postage.

As Kaye has pointed out, "Some of the groups that I belong to have newsletters, that don't have the circulation numbers we have, but need a committee of 6 or more people to collate, fold, address, stamp and post out their newsletter."

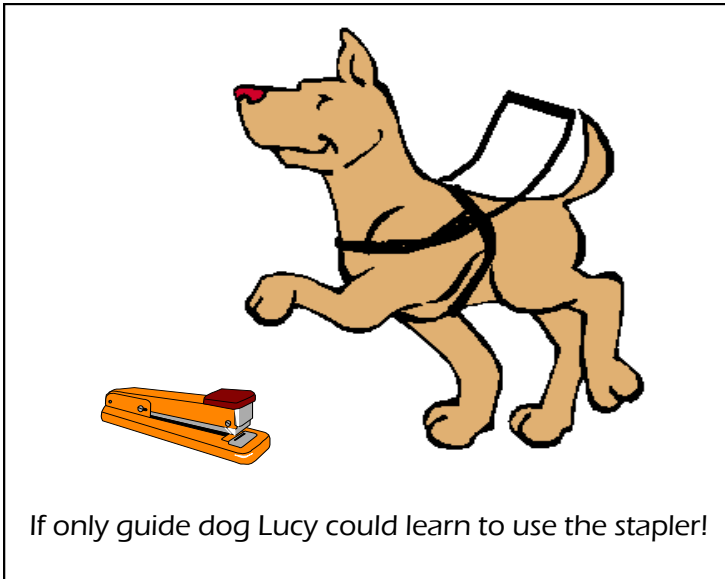
Cheryl does all this on her own *and* with a visual impairment. It's a huge task and much appreciated.

Great work Cheryl and thanks heaps!

Also quiet achievers are Lionel and Lorraine. Apart from attending working bee at Seaford most months, they are our volunteer representatives at the Frankston Indigenous Nursery helping to produce the plants that go into our wetlands.

Both have been working there for many years and again we say – great work Lionel and Lorraine and thanks.

F.I.N. Location: 32b McCulloch Ave. (next to the Frankston SES) 5 minute walk from Kananook Railway Station. Open the first Saturday of each month, from 9:00am to 1:00pm, and every Wednesday, from 9:00am to 3:00pm, or by appointment.



Left: Working Bee at Seaford, 4th September, featuring new member, Paula Street (second from left). Welcome!



Right: Pot collector extraordinaire—Lochie. Working Bee at Seaford, 7th August.

SUSTAINABLE GARDENS

Sustainable Gardens Australia has lots of interesting information and entertaining videos on looking after your garden.

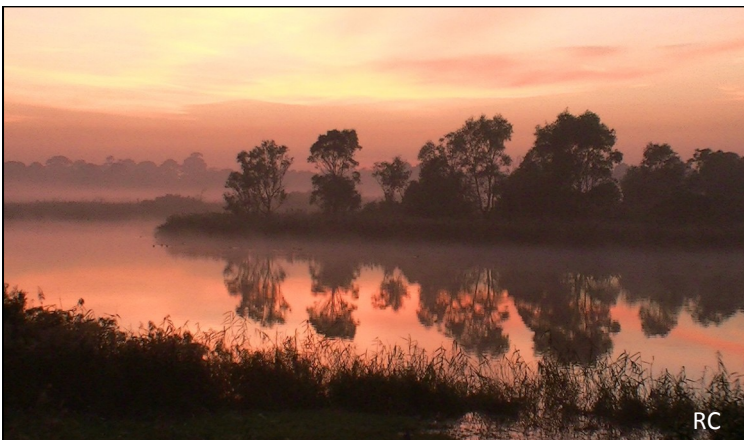
For example: *Lord of the Bins* is a hard-hitting, 2 part expose of the relationships in your compost bin. In part one the presenter, Helen, reveals the uncensored story of decomposition that's smouldering in the backyard compost bin. Capture carbon, improve your soil, feed a worm, reduce household waste and discover why a hot and healthy relationship with your compost is an essential part of being a planet conscious gardener. To watch the video and get inspired to kick start your garden this spring go to <http://www.sgaonline.org.au>

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SEAFORD SCENES



Dusk (Colour pictures in *Warbler* on our website)



Sunrise (Colour pictures in *Warbler* on our website)

BIRD QUIZ

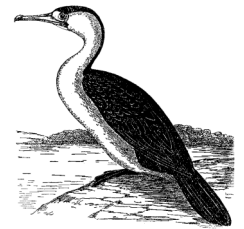
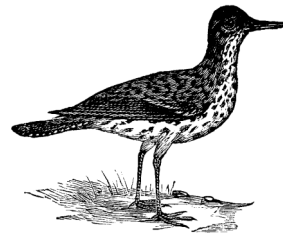
Jacqui Sheppard

Who Owns This Beak? (For kids)

1. Medium length pointed bill
2. Almost triangular small bill flat to the face
3. Small black, pointed bill
4. Large orangey-red bill with a narrow white strip near the tip.
5. Short yellow bill
6. Thick, chunky red bill

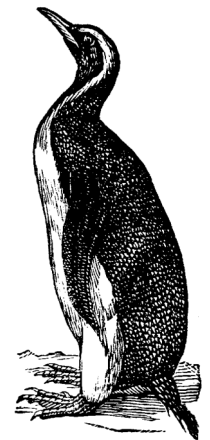
CHOOSE FROM THESE BIRDS

Eastern Rosella, Black Swan, Purple Swamphen, Little Pied Cormorant Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Spotted Dove



What is the Life Span of Theses Birds (For adults)

- Silvereye
 - Magpie
 - New Holland Honeyeater
 - Grey Fantail
 - Little Penguin
- A clue is that the oldest known bird, eg. in Grey Fantail species was 9 years old



ANSWERS: (Life Span)
 Silvereye - 2 Years
 Magpie - 4 years
 New Holland Honeyeater - 2 years
 Grey Fantail - 1 year
 Little Penguin - 5 years

ANSWERS: (Beaks)
 1. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
 2. Eastern Rosella,
 3. Spotted Dove
 4. Black Swan
 5. Little Pied Cormorant
 6. Purple Swamphen

Seasons at Seaford

Summer: Beneath a bowl of summer sky,
A bright white sun and tufted cloud,
A south wind plays across the swamp.

Yellowed grasses, vast expanses,
Their nodding heads rich with ripened seed
Bend and bob and ripple in the breeze.

Green Phragmite, tall and dense,
Some flying plummy flags of lace,
Rustle endless secrets.

From a secluded rush-ringed pool,
A egret lifts, neck s-tucked
And long legs trailing.

Waters shrink, the frogs are mute,
Baby birds are fed and grown,
The swamp relinquishes and dreams
As summer settles in.

Autumn: A pale blue sky and a setting sun,
Haloed by an autumn mist
Watch over the Seaford Wetlands.

A swan, perfectly reflected
In the still water,
Sails with no ripple at its prow.

The River Reds, no breath of air
To stir their leaves,
Stand tall to catch the slanting light.

Frogs, wakened from a dormant summer,
Croak among reeds in clear waters
Golden tinted by the sun.

Late crickets sing but soon must sleep,
As a magpie's mournful cry
Heralds the season's turn,
And the swamp awaits.

RC

Where We Are

Duck In - Melways map 93 C 7/8. About 100 metres after pedestrian lights near bird hide on Edithvale Rd, turn right down the dirt entrance way to football oval, follow dirt track through reserve. Duck In on left.

Bird Hide - Melways map 93 D 8. On south side of Edithvale Rd, close to pedestrian lights.

Austin Road Lookout - Melways map 99 F 3. North side of Austin Road, Seaford

Seaford Working Bee Dates

Seaford

(First Sunday of the month)

6th November

4th December

10:00am – 12 noon
Ring Rex (9766 6056)

Committee Meetings held 3rd Monday
of each month..

Observers welcome.
Ring Philippa on 9786 1591

SPONSORS OF FESWI

Corporate Members

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

Aspendale Edithvale Ex Services Club

Aspendale Primary School

Aspendale Gardens Primary School

Frank and Isobel Baguley's Nursery

Bird Observers Club of 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

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Mordialloc College

Mordialloc Primary School

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Parkdale Secondary School

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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

Veitch & Co Pty Ltd



Melbourne Water

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**Friends of
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