

Sept-Oct 2016

Friends of Edithvale – Seaford Wetlands Inc.



Number 147

Inside this issue:

Snippets	2-3
Aboriginal Artefacts	3
The Bird Hide	4
AGM Invitation	5



Clamorous Reed-Warbler

Wetland Warbler

A PRESIDENT'S REFLECTION

Philippa Bailey

I have lost track of the years that I have been President of the Friends of Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands Inc, but I think it equals about 8 years.

I stepped in initially to support Les Williams, the "Old man of the Swamp" when he became unwell. At that point I had "people" skills and management experience from my work role, but I hardly knew a swamp hen from a stilt, and had to feign bad eyesight when I was asked "what is that bird?" Now 8 years on I can recognise most of the wetland birds, but the bad eyesight has become a reality, so I am actually back to where I started!

The purpose of this reflective piece is to focus on some of the highlights I have experienced as FESWI president and to note that it has been a privilege and a pleasure to be in that leadership position.

Highlight 1: Working with the exceptional FESWI committee who have become friends and highly valued contributors in all facets of the Friends' work.

Highlight 2: Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of FESWI and catching up with past presidents and FESWI activists.

Highlight 3: Producing quality brochures and booklets for community education and use.

Highlight 4: Wetlands awareness events both at Seaford and Edithvale, in particular the year we had the photographic and art competition (2011)

Highlight 5: Leading and participating in walks inside the wetlands reserves and introducing new people to the wonders of the wetlands.

Highlight 6: The restoration of the bird hide, and the re-opening to the community.

Of course there have been some lowlights also along the way.

Lowligh 1: The closing of the bird hide in 2010 due to safety issues.

Lowligh 2: The two break-ins at Duck In, resulting in broken windows, the stolen swan and other birds and graffiti.

Lowligh 3: The water and electricity service outage at Duck-In.

Lowligh 4: The possum invasion at Duck In.

The above lowlights did make me question the roles and responsibilities of volunteers at the time.

Overall though, my time as FESWI president has been really positive. There is now a job vacancy and I can highly recommend this position!

FRIENDS OF EDITHVALE - SEAFORD WETLANDS INC.

Assoc No. A0017388A

ABN - 95 886 101 621

P O BOX 2031,
EDITHVALE VIC 3196

www.edithvale-seaford-wetlands.org

President Philippa Bailey
9786 1591

Vice President Robin Clarey
9786 2213

Secretary Margaret Hunter
9588 0867

Treasurer Sue Telfer
97724194

Committee

Rex Chugg

Matthew Mitchell

Kate Spillane

Inez van Polanen

Maria Matamala

Seaford W/Bees Rex Chugg
9766 6056

Duty Rosters
Kate Spillane 9773 0224

Bird Hide Co-ordinator
Vacant

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

SNIPPETS SNIPPETS SNIPPETS

Mayor's Picnic

On September 11 FESWI was represented at the Frankston Mayor's Picnic with our information marquee. We provided wetland photo displays; samples of macro invertebrates; display/quiz activities for children on wetland animals, birds and frogs; and some give-aways. We had many visitors to the stall. It was a good day. Many thanks to Rex, Natasha and Mikaela.



Working Bees

In September, the planting group at Seaford was assisted by the Mont Albert North Scout group which did a great job in helping to plant out approximately 170 under-storey plants in the wetland buffer zone. Kneel Wallaby Grass, Black-Anther Flax-Lily and White Correa were planted.

In October, weeding was the main order of the day. Despite the thick mulch around the plants those pesky weeds still manage to get a foothold and regular action is required to keep them under control.

If you would like to help, ring Rex on 9766 6056.



Visitors



FESWI has hosted a number of visiting groups over the past two months. In September on the 1st and 9th, Margaret, Robin, Mona and Denise met with a number of clients of the Central Bayside Community Health Services at the Education Centre to come to hear about the Wetlands and the work of the Friends and to look around the Centre.

On the 12th October, Robin and Mona opened the hide, which then reverberated to the sound of 20 plus excited pre-schoolers visiting from the Sessional Kinder Group, City of Kingston. Their energy, interest and curiosity was great to see.



Training

Preliminary to opening the hide, FESWI ran a training session for new volunteers. There were about a dozen people who could make it – thanks to those who did. The training focussed on key aspects of wetlands, bird identification and some directions regarding the opening of the hide and the Education Centre. To those who couldn't get to it – you have done a great job learning on the job, as it were. We appreciate that you were willing to come in 'cold' and give it a go. Thanks to all you great volunteers!

SNIPPETS SNIPPETS SNIPPETS

Facebook



In order to get our Facebook page set up Alison and Robin recently met with Kirsty Costa who is very willing to help us set one up and to train a couple of our members to be administrators of it. Ian has already indicated that he would be interested in doing this which is truly appreciated – thanks Ian!

Is there someone else out there who is willing to be a second administrator? There is excellent support and training available via Kirsty. If you are, please give Alison a ring on 9766 4304 or 0439 342 192.

Annual General Meeting



Invitation is on Page 5 but we are extending a special invitation and welcome to our new volunteers. We would love to see you there – come along to find out more about the Friends and what we do. We also have an excellent speaker in Rosemary West who will talk about our precious Green Wedges—why they are important, and the issues regarding them. See you there!

Newsletter via Email



If you would like to receive your newsletter by email please let me know at robin.clarey@hotmail.com and I will add you to the list.

Wetland Walk at Seaford

On 13th November FESWI is conducting a walk around Seaford Wetlands. We are meeting at the Austin Road Lookout on (*you guessed it*) Austin Road at 11:00am. Stout shoes or gumboots would be a good idea.



ABORIGINAL ARTEFACTS

It has come to light that 7000-year-old Aboriginal artefacts (determined highly significant by a Cultural Heritage Management Plan conducted at the site in 2012) were found at parcel of land near the southern border of Edithvale south. In 2012, the then owners of this site moved to have it rezoned for residential development.

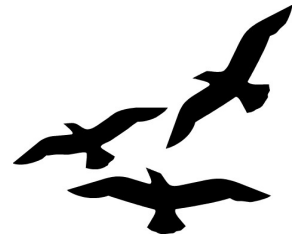
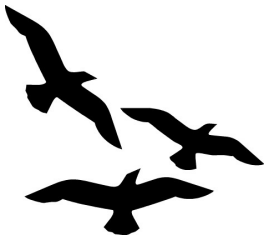
This site was one of the last remaining buffers between the wetlands and its urban surroundings, it was part of the wildlife corridor and it was on a flood plain.

Kingston councillor, Rosemary West, who recently discovered that these findings were not disclosed in the officer’s report before Council made a decision on the development proposal, has called for a halt to the planned development.

Given that FESWI objected to this development and engaged the services of a lawyer from *Environmental Justice Australia* (then the *Environment Defenders Office*) to represent us at the Panel Hearing, we are quite interested in this story.

THE BIRD HIDE

Thank you Volunteers!



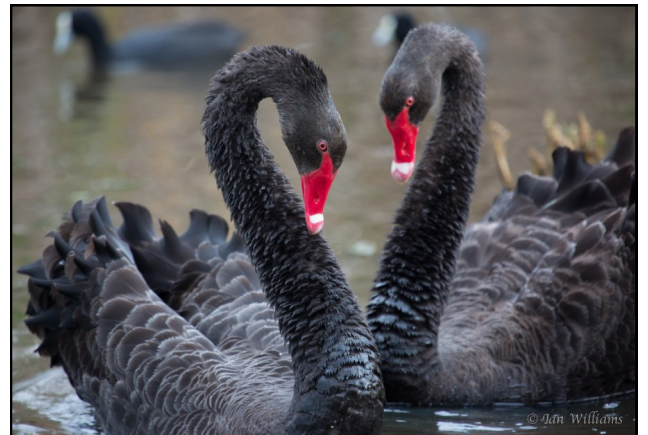
The bird hide re-opened to the public on Sunday 14th August and continues to open each Sunday afternoon (1:00pm – 5:00pm) due to the efforts of a large number of new volunteers and our previous volunteers.

The committee is very appreciative of this: thank you Janet, David, Penny, Margaret B, Celia, Craig, Rosie, Helen, Bev, Peter, Ross, Ali, Maureen, Margaret H, Arlis, Maria, Cody, Bob, Dorothy and Linda, Linda and Lew, Ruth and Bernard, Denise, Nola, Jacqui, Cathy, Faye, Kate, Suzi, Jenny, Inez, Val and Ian. Without you it would be an empty building!

Huge thanks also goes to two other volunteers, Jim and Rex, who have given their time (many hours) and expertise to renovating the interior of the hide and completing external work needed as well.

Major works include:- Lock on Notice Board replaced and display up-dated; fallen treated pine fence pole fixed into position; hand rail for external steps built and open door secured to platform; nest/bat display boxes – replaced and mended respectively; gap under stair blocked off; bird identification strips fixed beneath two of the internal lower floor window; shelving for the three long display boxes fixed to the walls; smaller shelf for egg display. More work is still to be completed.

Good on you, Rex and Jim!



Angry Swans Photo Ian Williams



Sacred Kingfishers Photo Alison Kuitert



Left Jim; right Rex



Chestnut Teal Photo Ian Williams

YOUR INVITATION TO FESWI'S AGM

FRIENDS OF EDITHVALE



SEAFORD WETLANDS INC

The President, Philippa Bailey, and the Committee

Have pleasure in inviting you

to the

27th Annual General Meeting

Sunday 13th November

2.00 p.m.

Edithvale Seaford Wetlands Education Centre

(Edithvale Road, Edithvale—200 meters east of bird hide)

Guest Speaker

Rosemary West

On

The Green Wedges

Find out about our activities this year

Catch up with friends

Take pride in our achievements

Thank volunteers

Hold elections

Have a cup of tea and a chat

COME ALONG

Rosemary West

Environmentalist and fierce defender of the Green Wedge—Co-ordinator of the Green Wedges Coalition. Kingston Councillor for 14 years and Council delegate to many association and groups. Graduate of Melbourne University. Journalist at *The Age* for 15 years; and also at the *Melbourne Herald*, *Standard News* and Brotherhood of St Laurence *Media Office*. Lecturer and tutor in journalism at RMIT and Monash University. Recipient of the Order of Australia Medal for services to journalism and the community

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**

Production of this newsletter funded through

PRINTED BY THE OFFICE OF
MARK DREYFUS, MHR FOR ISAACS



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

If undeliverable please return to:
PO Box 2031
EDITHVALE 3196