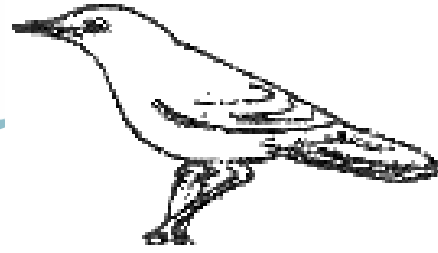


Nov-Dec 2023

Wetland Warbler



Clamorous Reed-Warbler

Number 187



Inside this issue:

AGM Report	1-2
Snippets	3
FEWSI Events	4
Thinking about it ...	5

Wetland Warbler

AGM REPORT 2023



Acknowledgments

The passing of two long-term members in the past year, whose contributions over the years has been phenomenal.

Dorothy Meadows - 29th April 2023

Gwen Meadows - 18th June 2023

Celebration

One of the functions of an AGM is the celebration of FESWI's work over the past year (Nov 2022 – Nov 2023). The group has been very busy in the following ways -

Categories

Hosted visits to hide and Wetlands.
Working Bees at Edithvale & Seaford.
Interviews/Talks
Advertising
Representing FESWI/supporting other environmental groups/activities
FESWI-Run Events

Details

Hosted visits to hide and Wetlands.(10)
Senior citizens; BirdLife Group Visit;
BirdLife Melbourne; Scout Visit; DEECA

Visit, 4 Schools (Bentleigh Secondary College, Cornish College, Holmesglen Institute; Carrum Primary School); Art Group and a bird watching visit to Cornish College.

Working Bees at Edithvale & Seaford. (7)

Hide Clean Up 13th January; Bega 21st February; ITW Pryda 16th June; Seaford Planting Bees (4).

Interviews/Talks (4)

RMIT Design Studio group of 20 students (22nd November 2022); Birder Podcast (11th November 2022); Radio Interview: Monday 23rd January; Metro Trains and Storytowns. A Current Affair interview re Rosedale Golf Course 10th July

Advertising (3)

Mornington Peninsular News- Regular Listing Community Events page; other stories to Times newspapers (2)

FRIENDS OF EDITHVALE - SEAFORD WETLANDS INC.

Assoc No. A0017388A

ABN - 95 886 101 621

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Nola Pitman

Jaye Williams

(Julie Stephens)

Seaford W/Bees

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Julie Stephens 0448 585 590

Bird Hide Roster

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Nola Pitman

Guided Tours

Marg Hunter 9587 0786

Newsletter

Robin Clarey 9786 2213

Warbler Collator

Cheryl Meier 9772 4484

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Inez van Polanen Petel

9774 2664

Website

Rosalie Cooper 0409 388 066

John Cooper

Facebook

Alison Kuitert

Allan Broomhall

Instagram

Jaye Williams

AGM REPORT 2023 Cont.

FESWI-Run Events (3)

World Wetlands Day (12th February); Sausage Sizzle (29th April); Community for Creatures Event (5th November)

Representing FESWI/supporting other Environmental Groups/Activities (7)

The Waterfront Festival, Frankston: 18th and 19th January; Shorebird Citizen Science Project: 19th February; Seaford Wetlands Rejuvenation Pop Up Engagement: 26th February; Snipe Surveys – 3/year

Weekend Hide Openings

Over the past year the hide has been opened on the afternoons of 85 weekend days, resulting in 340 volunteer hours.

FYI - Between the years late 2016 to 2022 there have been a total of 8469 visitors to the hide.

Across all FESWI activities there was a total of 1382 hours of volunteer time.

Many Thanks

A sincere thank you to:

Members of the Committee, including:-

Secretary, Margaret
Acting Treasurer, Rosalie
Seaford Working Bees, Rex and Julie
Hide Roster, Hilary & Nola

Other Active Members:-

Hide Duty volunteers,
Seaford Working Bee members,
Those who help with special FESWI events,

And those working behind the scenes:-

Cheryl -Newsletter Collator
Inez - Membership Database
Rosalie & John - Website
Allan Broomhall & Alison Kuitert - Facebook
Jaye Williams - Instagram

Awards

The AGM acknowledged and thanked three of our members for their contribution to FESWI's operations. They have worked for many years quietly in the background doing so much to

contribute to the smooth workings of FESWI and its continuance as a vibrant, active and accomplishing organisation.

Cheryl Meier – newsletter.

Rex Chugg – Seaford working bees.

Allan Broomhall - research, hide documents.

Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker was Gio Fitzpatrick.



Gio Fitzpatrick is a naturalist, who is particularly interested in how wildlife survives alongside people in urban environments.

Gio was fascinated by the natural environment even as a small child, and while still at school, he began an unofficial program of installing nest boxes which was eventually approved and taken up by the local council and wider community.

The fascinating talk he gave to the meeting involved the continuation of his early interest in nest box building and the plight of the Swift Parrot in Tasmania where there are approximately 750 parrots left. About half of the breeding females were being killed each year by Sugar Gliders invading the nest boxes.

He designed a Glider-proof box, the main features of which comprised a forward lean and an angled overhang. After testing in the wild it was found to work a charm. Despite many setbacks Gio organised the successful building of many boxes, their transportation to Tasmania and their installation.

What a great story! How lucky we are to have in our midst people like Gio!

SNIPPETS SNIPPETS SNIPPETS

Record Breaking Bird is Back. Peter Murphy

Our lovely little Willie Wagtail is back. Well, it actually never left. I would see it occasionally around the hide and across the road. Along with its mate, he is building a cobweb constructed nest in the same position as last year.

This is done by burying their heads into a spider's web, flying back and rubbing their heads along the rim of the nest. As well as depositing another layer they are smoothing it down as well. They also jump into the cup shaped nest and kick backwards whilst slowly turning in a circle.

This forms a bowl and eventually results in the perfect pottery bowl shaped nest.



The nest is metres away from the walk-over bridge inside the hide grounds. Please DON'T linger long and disturb the birds. They can abandon the nest..

If they are endemic to Australia and I think that they are, this makes the male a year older since last year, thus the record breaking continues. We have a World Record Holder!

New Hide Sign

Following concerns about the weight of the current 'Hide Open' sign, FESWI has replaced it with a new sign from *Super Signs Australia Pty Ltd* in Seaford. It is lighter, with simple and clear messaging. Thanks Nola, for organizing this.



Kirstin demonstrates its lightness

Birds Returning

A return of diversity of birds has been noted at our wetlands. At Edithvale there are 12 species of waterbirds and 9 at Seaford including Crakes and Rails, Song Larks, White-winged Triller, Nankeen Night Herons. There have been good numbers of Shovellers and Hardheads, but the numbers of breeding water birds there seems to be down; and there are no real numbers of shorebirds as yet because the water levels remain obstinately high - the one good thing about this is that the wetlands may prove to be an important summer refuge as El Nino kicks in.

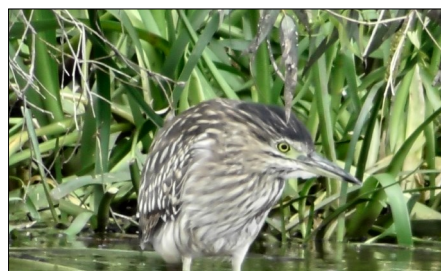
Just on the shorebirds –on a side note there have been a few hundred Sharpies and Red-necked stints at the Banyan Waterhole at the Eastern Treatment Plant as that is drying out nicely.

Report from Sean Dooley at CLC meeting December 2023



Baillon's Crake

Photo: Roy Burgess



Nankeen Night Heron

FESWI EVENTS

1st November Carrum Primary School:

Eight students (Grade 4/5), and a number of adults - Nicky Rogers (Monash University), Alan Johnson (Department of Education, South-Eastern Victoria Region), Jane Barnett (Garden & Kitchen Coordinator, Carrum PS) and teacher Marcus Mulcahy - visited the hide and wetlands.

The young students were well-mannered, interested and very keen to be involved. A good morning.



5th November Community for Creatures Event

At the Edithvale Bird Hide. It was a very quiet afternoon. Unfortunately, there were a number of miscommunications between FESWI and ACF which resulted in reduced advertising and no banner.

30th November Bird Watching at Cornish College



30th November Bird Watching at Cornish College

FESWI visited the College and conducted three groups of 20 students for 40 minutes each around the school grounds and lake to sight and identify birds. Each of the groups was different demonstrating different levels of interest, but in each, the students were polite and friendly. Another good morning.

ODDS AND ENDS

- Management Plan (CLC Meeting)

Melbourne Water has set in motion first steps for the development of the new management plan for the wetlands titled Edithvale-Seafood Ramsar Site and Site of Biodiversity Significance Management Plan. Unfortunately, the Down's Property will not be included because it is not owned by Melbourne Water.

- Blue-tongued Lizards. (FEFN Meeting)

Janet Wheeler (Living with Wildlife) has reported that somebody was recently taken to court for collecting and trading in Blue-tongued Lizards



stolen from reserves. She suggested that we should be aware of this and keep an eye open for any obvious suspicious activity.

- Feral Cats (FEFN Meeting)

Draft updated threat abatement plan for predation by feral cats <https://consult.dccew.gov.au/draft-updated-threat-abatement-plan-for-predation-by-feral-cats>

Shoreline Shell Survey and Beach Litter Audit (FEFN Meeting)

11:30 am to 1:00 pm on Sunday the 21st of January 2024 at Seaford Beach, Keast Park on Nepean Hwy in Seaford. Participants register via this link:

www.ecocentre.com/beachkeepers-of-the-bay-shoreline-shell-survey-seaford-beach-jan-2024/

Thinking about it ...

A ripple is really a tidal wave,
 It only depends on your size,
 Look up, look around, look down, look inside.
 Open your mind and be wise,
 An acorn lies fallen on autumn leaves,
 A giant is sleeping inside,
 A mountain is bracing itself for the kiss
 Of a raindrop that falls from the skies,
 Look down at the grains of sand at your feet,
 Open your mind and be wise.

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Do not stand at my grave and weep
 I am not there; I do not sleep.
 I am the thousand winds that blow,
 I am the diamond glints on snow,
 I am the sun on ripened grain,
 I am the gentle autumn rain.

....

Mary Elizabeth Frye



You connected. Me. Us. They.
 To here to there, to all the way ...
 To butterfly, to hairy ape.
 To itchy nits, to slipping snake,
 To leaf, to pond, to rock, to tree,
 To things unseen, and all you see.
 Connecting strands around this earth,
 one to the other, that's their worth.
 Connectedness is earthiness, is livingness,
 Connectedness and human giving-ness.

Libby Hathorn

One

We are One

We are one soul

The whole is the part and the part is the whole

The bird is the beast is the south is the east

Is the man is the tree is the fish in the sea.

Ancient Marina Made By – [Festival Records Pty. Ltd.](#)



Corporate Members

6

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

Patterson River Golf Club

Ray White, Chelsea

Longbeach RSL

Peninsula Pedallers,

Peter Murphy

Tania Ireton

Sonya Kilkenny

Corporate Edithvale Family And Children's Centre

Viridans Pty Ltd

Annual Subscription

\$15.00

Account name: Society Cheque Account

BSB: 063-118

Account number: 1005 9942

Committee Meetings held 3rd Wednesday

of each month at the Education Centre

Observers welcome.

Committee 2024

President: Cathy Smith

Vice President; Robin Clarey

Secretary Margaret Hunter

Treasurer Hilary Bray

Committee Members

Rosalie Cooper

Nola Pitman

Rex Chugg

Jaye Williams

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