

Apr-May

2013

Friends of Edithvale – Seaford Wetlands Inc.



Number 132



Clamorous Reed-Warbler

Wetland Warbler

ECOSYSTEM RED LIST RANKINGS— AUSTRALIAN WETLANDS IN DANGER

Ecosystem red list rankings - Australian wetlands in danger

Australian wetlands are amongst those identified as 'critically endangered' on a new global 'red list' of threatened ecosystems. The well-known Red List of Threatened Species assesses the conservation status of animals and plants around the world and identifies those most at risk of imminent extinction. Now the group responsible, the IUCN, is looking at extending the concept from species to ecosystems threatened with extinction. And the picture for Australia is not pretty.

With the ultimate aim of assessing all the world's ecosystems by 2025, they have conducted trial-assessments of 20 ecosystems including eight from Australia - four of which are wetland systems in the Murray-Darling Basin.

The results for those wetland systems are alarming. The Coorong at the mouth of the

Murray is considered critically endangered and the swamps and marshes on the Macquarie and the Gwydir in northern NSW are just about in that category too. The Coolibah-blackbox woodlands, also in northern NSW, are considered endangered, while our own Victorian redgum and blackbox woodlands and forests at Barmah and Gunbower are considered threatened.

What we're talking about is the threat of extinction or collapse, which means ceasing to function as a natural system. That's what happened to the Aral Sea, once one of the world's largest lakes, and now classified by the IUCN as a collapsed ecosystem. It's been literally sucked dry by demand for irrigation water to grow cotton and is now a salty, polluted desert. That could happen to the Coorong too.

Source: Environment Victoria

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FRIENDS OF EDITHVALE - SEAFORD WETLANDS INC.

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Philippa Bailey 9786 1591

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Kangaroo Walk

Including a visit to the Discovery Centre.

Sunday 23rd June 1:30 pm

Meet at Bird Hide car park

Come along!

Enjoy a walk and fresh air!



FESWI'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

This year FESWI reaches the grand old age of 25.

What an achievement!

How many good people? How much time? How much effort?

What zeal, perseverance, talent, vigilance!

How many accomplishments?

Well done FESWI members!

The Committee is looking at ways of celebrating this mile-stone event and also hopes to find the time to re-visit the history project, which was envisaged some time ago, as part of this celebration.

More news next edition.



SEAFORD WORKING BEES

Do you have a couple of hours to spare once a month on a Sunday morning? The Seaford Working Bee would love some extra hands.

Give Rex a ring.

See below.

Seaford Working Bee Dates

(First Sunday of the month)

7th July 2013	10:00am – 12 noon
4th Aug 2013	
1st Sept 2013	Ring Rex (9766 6056)



SNIPPETS SNIPPETS SNIPPETS

Chelsea Heights

Rex, Project Officer, for the Chelsea Heights plantings is to engage a man to whipper-snip the weeds around the trees and then the areas will be re-mulched. Some help could be used here when the time comes!

Signage, acknowledging all those groups that helped with the plantings, will also be placed along the track that passes through the area (although it is disappointing to report that the proposed up-grading of the track may not happen).



Rex and Dawn at work

Downs Estate

The Master Plan has been completed on this land on the north east corner of the Seaford Wetlands. The costings are yet to be completed and details should be available by the middle of June. More details next issue.

Seaford Wetland Works

Fulton Hogan Ecodynamics, on behalf of Melbourne Water, is working in Seaford Wetland to reinstate the central levee to improve the track for better maintenance and fire access, upgrade the wetland drainage outlet and construct a new weir that allows water to be directed into the left and right ponds.

These works will take about three months to complete and will allow Melbourne Water greater flexibility to control water levels within the wetland system.



Discovery Centre

The Discovery Centre is now open to the public every Sunday thanks to Carrum MP, Donna Bauer, who has been pushing to have the Centre made more available to the public.

The Centre is open to school visits during the week, but community access was very limited until FESWI began its two Sundays a month openings. Now Melbourne Water has extended that access to every Sunday that FESWI is not doing.



Ramblers Visit Edithvale

25 members of the Mt Eliza Ramblers visited Edithvale on Saturday 11th May for a walk conducted by Margaret. The group covered a lot of ground but were disappointed not to see many birds (Edithvale south being completely dry) and is going to return in the spring.

Discovery Centre Duty

Left: Just look at those smiling faces! Rosemary, Maureen, Robin and Sandy are doing Discovery Centre Duty (and loving it!).

Why not join them and help out? It's easy, relaxing and you will be in good company (just look at the photo!). Kate (Discovery Centre Roster Co-ordinator) would love to hear from you. Ph 9773 0224.

WINS AND LOSSES

Win for Green Wedge

Inconsistencies in Melbourne’s urban growth boundary have been addressed following recommendations from an independent report received by Planning Minister Matthew Guy, settling long-term issues with perceived anomalies in the Dandenong and Frankston municipalities.

The state government has knocked back a Bangholme South planning proposal (part of the Bangholme green wedge) to declare it an anomaly and open it up for potential industrial development.

GREAT!!!! Well done State Government!

Another Win - McDonald’s

McDonald’s has given up its plans to build a McDonald’s in Seaford on Nepean Highway, close to environmentally sensitive areas, in the wake of a massive public backlash including objections from FESWI. VicRoads traffic concerns were also a factor in Council’s decision.

Well done Frankston Council.



Unfortunately a Loss – 44 First Avenue

The Panel Hearing appointed by the Minister for Planning has come down on the side of the developer, and has allowed residential development on the formerly zoned urban floodplain. After battling this development for years, FESWI pretty is disappointed with this outcome. Part of the ‘bait’ in the developer’s proposal was the gifting of part of the land to Melbourne Water. We hope that Melbourne Water will not to be too slow in working to reverse the degradation of this land.

FESWI is willing to help.

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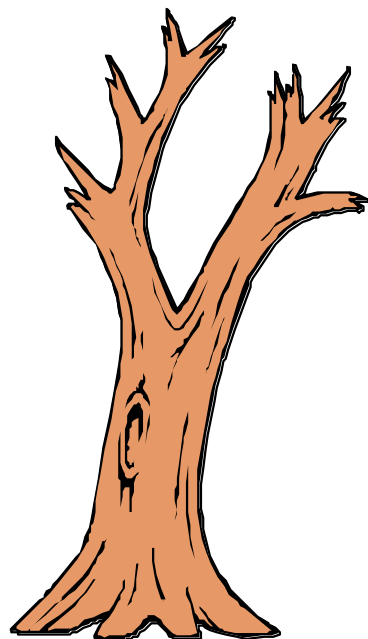
WHO SPEAKS FOR THE TREES?

Brendan Sydes CEO *Environment Defenders Office* (ceo-vic@edo.org.au)

Polluters, developers, miners, and their champions who roam the halls of government are trying to make our environmental laws Australia’s next endangered species. But not if Nicola Rivers and Elizabeth McKinnon continue to have a say in the matter.

At the EDO, Lawyers Nicola and Elizabeth are justifiably two of the biggest champions of the Australian environment. Find out how they are maximising Victoria’s environmental laws and keeping the nation clean and healthy through the EDO’s Law Reform Program.

Our influence on State and Federal government isn’t safe and sound. Money’s tight, at the



moment. EDO has secured only \$50,000 for the program’s next funding cycle which ends 30 September 2013. Raising \$100,000 from caring individuals like you before then is a top priority. But I’d be happy if we received \$25,000 before the end of June. Since – once that deadline passes – this guaranteed money means Nicola’s and Elizabeth’s ability to carry out research or recommend ways isn’t limited severely

I ask that you donate to our Law Reform Program.

Remember that you and I are part of something bigger than ourselves. We both breathe the same air and drink the same water. We hear the same birds and feel the same sunshine and moonlight.

Our environment is our shared home and we must look after it.



Friends of Edithvale-Seafood Wetlands Inc.

May 2013

Assoc No. A0017388 ABN - 95 886 101 621

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Post Code _____

Email: _____

Annual Subscription

- \$10.00 Individual
- \$15.00 Family
- \$5.00 Concession
- \$20.00 Corporate
- \$ Donation

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

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

Aspendale Primary School

Aspendale Gardens Primary School

Frank and Isobel Baguley's Nursery

Bird Life 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

Audrey Harding

Hasuval Engineering Service Pty Ltd

Tania Ireton

McDonald's Family Restaurant, Chelsea Heights

Melbourne Water, Waterways & Drainage

Mordialloc College

Mordialloc Primary School

April Nutter

Parkdale Secondary School

Peninsula Pedallers Inc

Presbyterian Ladies College

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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Time to renew your membership. See page 5