

May_Jul 2020

Wetland Warbler

Number 168



Clamorous Reed-Warbler

Wetland Warbler

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We hope you are all surviving coronavirus lockdown. As soon as we can, we will reopen the Bird Hide. There may have to be limitations on numbers admitted at one time, to allow for social distancing inside.

Welcome to all readers. Some are full members who have belonged for many years, some are new to FESWI. We also have honorary members and interested people and organisations. Our newsletter is distributed by mail and email.

The wonderful coloured photos show much better by email. If you would like to change your reception of this newsletter to email you can do this by sending your email address to the Membership Officer via email at ivpp@optusnet.com.au

This will save us paying expensive postage. Schools and other organisations are welcome to distribute the information to interested folk by email. Feel free to ring or email me with queries or concerns.

Stay well everyone and we look forward to catching up at the hide sooon!

Rosalie Cooper
T: 0409388066
rosalie.rmc74@gmail.com

I am happy to report that we now have several interested younger people on our committee. We are looking to do some strategic planning and review our governance and committee work with assistance from several members expert in these areas.

Hopefully, our next Annual General Meeting can be held in November as an open face to face event. Formal committee elections will occur then. Watch this space.

Thank you, Robin Clarey, for your continuing production work on this newsletter.

FRIENDS OF EDITHVALE - SEAFORD WETLANDS INC.

Assoc No. A0017388A

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Allan Broomhall

Wetland Study Group

Jim Wilson 0408 975 410



IT'S THAT (PESKY) TIME AGAIN

SUBSCRIPTION RENWALS

See pages 6 & 7

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE HIDE?

Allan Broomhall

It's been strange times that have hit our community with the Covid-19 disease, and this is the reason the bird hide has been closed due to not being able to have social distancing in place because of the enclosed area

Since easing of restrictions, I have been visiting to keep an eye on things; I put up new signs on the gate and repaired the others as vandals ripped them all off the gate. I am sad to inform that we still have people dumping rubbish in the car park, I have taken images and reported this to Melbourne Water and they sent a Response Team to clean it up, although this has happened again just recently. Many thanks to Melbourne Water for taking action on this continuing issue.

On a much brighter note, the whole area of the wetlands has changed with water levels being at near maximum. There are many birds - around 2000 plus; and there are approximately 11 Swan nests with one pair of Swans deciding to make one right near the bird hide, they have laid 2 eggs, 3-4 weeks ago so it will be very soon when we have more cygnets.



There are already 5 Cygnets 3-4 weeks old from this season's breeding.

it's very exciting. I had also noticed a strange Swan that appears to be Leusistic.*



Black Swan Leusistic

Also I witnessed 4 weeks ago 4 Magpie Geese landing at the wetlands with the Swamp Harrier attacking one of them, I am pretty sure it was a territorial attack that scared them off. I did not get any images and have not seen them since.

We will be notifying everybody when the bird hide will reopen via Facebook, Warbler and the Website. Hide up-dates are also on Facebook.

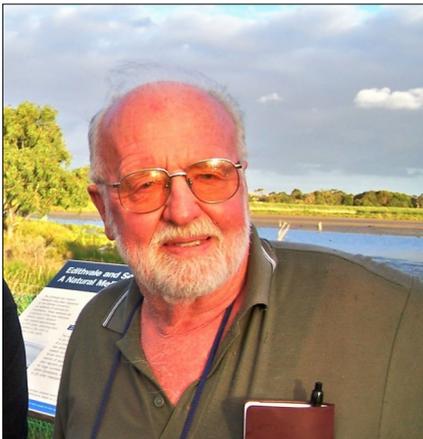
Photos: Allan Broomhall

* Leucism (/ˈljuːkɪzəm/; or /ˈluːsɪzəm/) is a condition in which there is partial loss of pigmentation in an animal resulting in white, pale, or patchy coloration of the skin, hair, feathers, scales or cuticle, but not the eyes. Unlike albinism, it is caused by a reduction in multiple types of pigment, not just melanin.



VALE LES WILLIAMS

Margaret Hunter



Les Williams OAM JP passed away recently at the age of 85 busy years from a stroke, He will be sadly missed by all FESWI members, and associated groups. No funeral is planned at present .

We send our condolences to Nola

Williams and their families who have lived locally in Lochiel Avenue for many years. A visit to Les and Nola’s home was always a privileged experience with information exchanged, and a history of the development and saving of the Edithvale-Seafood Wetlands and a good feed to add to this.

Les was a ‘mine’ of information on all things wetlands related, being a member of the *Society for Growing Australian Plants*, the *Karkarook Park Reference Group*, former Chairperson of the *Sandbelt Park Advisory Committee*, a *Kingston Council Village Committee* member and involved in the *Carrum Lowlands Forum*. Along with this Les was a prolific writer of articles to the newspaper, council, and panel hearings - these were always interesting and informative. He was a member of the *Melbourne Water Community Liaison Committee* representing FESWI; and was recognized as the *Kingston Citizen of the Year* in 2010. He was awarded a FESWI life membership in 2019.

He was known locally as “The Old Man of the Swamp” with a trademark broad-brimmed hat and led walking tours to see the kangaroos at the

Edithvale South Wetlands over many years with Sybil Bond, and others. As President of FESWI, he made a further contribution to the history of wetlands acknowledged in the latest history of the group recently released *Glimpses of Friends of Edithvale-Seafood Wetlands Inc.*

Les’s contribution and knowledge of the wetlands from the days of the former *Dandenong Valley Authority* was significant as these were times when wetlands were not as highly significant as today, with the highlight being the gaining of the Ramsar Status in 2001. His support, when I became secretary, in 2008, was ongoing and passionate, as he said, “I have been President and Secretary for five years, so it is nice to have some help.” Many members will have stories of Les, which it is hoped can be told at a function to remember Les later in 2020.

I will miss my friend “The Old Man of the Swamp” as will many FESWI and community members.



Les (second from left) leading a Kangaroo Walk.

MURALS AT CHELSEA



In Bicentennial Park, on the back of the *Chelsea Women’s Sports Centre* is a fantastic mural covering the entire wall.

By artist Geoffrey Carran it depicts two of our migratory Sandpipers which come to our wetlands each summer from the northern hemisphere.



Phragmites australis

Clare Bracey

Common name: Common reed

Plant type: Perennial grass

Description: *Phragmites australis* is a robust plant that can grow up to 4m tall. The leaves are smooth and flat or loosely rolled inwards, and are 80cm long and 4cm wide. The flowers are white to purple, arranged in a loose, feather-like branching cluster. It has an extensive rhizome system (underground stems) to store starches and proteins to enable the plant to survive in unfavourable conditions.

Flowering season: November to May

Habitat: Common in permanently or seasonally inundated areas with high water levels, including lakes, creeks, swamps and river banks.

Phragmites australis is native to most parts of Australia, and also other parts of the world. Whilst this species is common in most wetlands, it has many important roles. *Phragmites australis* helps control erosion by protecting banks from erosive flows. This species is also excellent habitat for wildlife, as it provides cover for small birds and waterbirds, as well as providing a fish refuge and an aquatic food source. *Phragmites australis* also filters and removes pollutants from the water and traps sediments.

Indigenous Australians used the leaves for twisting into rope and baskets, the stems as spear shafts and rafts, and the roots as food.

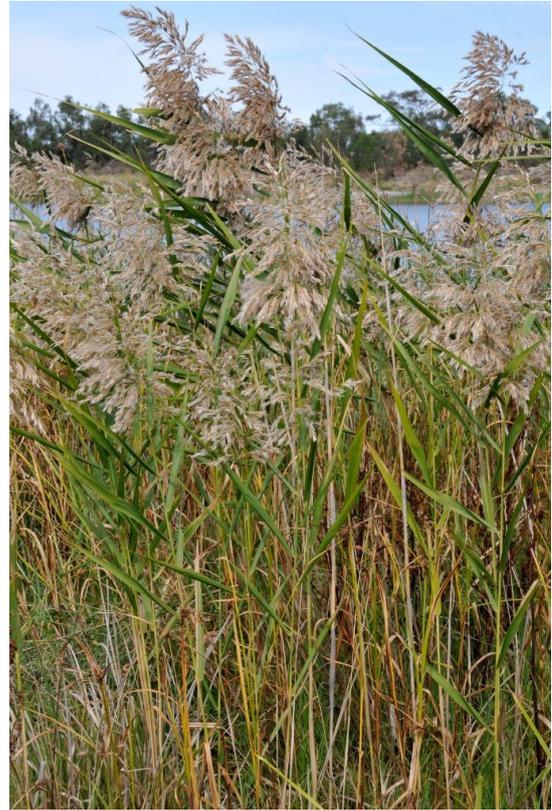


Photo source:

<https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/53fba474-8d64-4488-a8d3-28b1ed218314>

NATIONAL TREE DAY

Kingston Council is encouraging the community to get out their green thumbs for National Tree Day on Sunday 29 July.

Mayor Steve Staikos said there were a host of local events taking place right across Kingston and volunteers were welcome.

“Tree Day is a great opportunity to do something positive for your community and the environment while enjoying time in the great outdoors and connecting with people in your neighbourhood,” Cr Staikos said.

Cr Staikos said that tree planting sites have been organised by Council and community groups in a range of sites across the municipality. See COK website



Frankston Council With COVID-19 restrictions in place, the usual Schools Tree Day and National Tree Day (31 July and 2 August respectively) will not proceed as normal.

However, there's an opportunity to register to receive a free plant from Frankston's Indigenous Nursery to plant in your backyard. Follow this link below to register and arrange collection of your plant.

[https://www.frankston.vic.gov.au/Things_To_Do/Events/Whats_On/National_Tree_Day -](https://www.frankston.vic.gov.au/Things_To_Do/Events/Whats_On/National_Tree_Day_-)



ALL WORKING TOGETHER AT SEAFORD

Melbourne Water

Melbourne Water’s three year *Seaford Woodland Project*, located in part of the eastern buffer zone, began in early 2017 and is really looking good. Below is a photo of plants put in the 2017 (left) and today (right).



Frankston Council

Ranger, Matt Green, and the team have laid down plastic material around the Down’s ponds in a trial to kill off grassy weeds, mainly Kikuyu, thus avoiding the use of chemical weed killers. The beds will then be in-filled with indigenous plants—Melaleuca and Juncus.

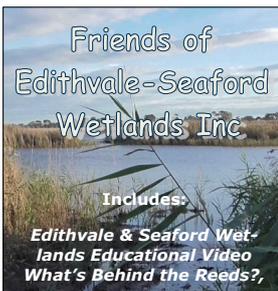


Friends of Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands Inc

Rex Chugg and his team of volunteers have been planting 100’s of understory and other shrubby plants along the southern boundary of the wetland for the past two or three years, where before it was bare except for the odd tree. Now looking great!



TWO PUBLICATIONS

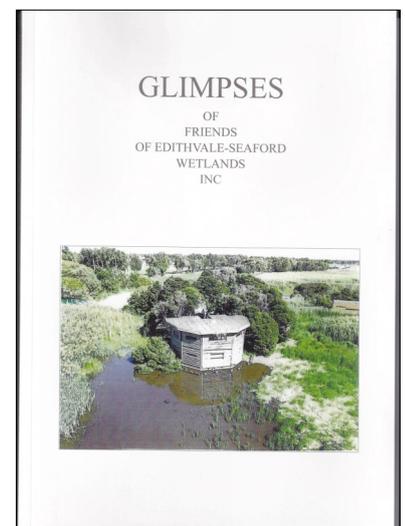


Will be available from Bird Hide and Education Centre when they re-open

FESWI has recently completely completed two publications that have been in the pipeline for some time.

GLIMPSES—written by Dorothy Meadows OAM, an historical collection of snippets of our activities since FESWI was formed in 1989. It is colourful, interesting and informative—a great read and a great job by Dorothy.

FESWI DVD—based upon an old audio cassette by Ross Nelson many years ago, it tells the story of our wetlands. Great work by Allan Broomhall and Alison Kuitert.



WETLANDS STUDY GROUP

The Wetland Study Group will resume in springtime when Covid-19 is less of a problem, the weather is better, and the wetlands more accessible.

You might like to consider joining the group which discovers what's living in the water and the surrounds. You will be out in the open, in nature, getting exercise—all these benefits!!!

The following are some of the macro-invertebrates discovered earlier this year.



Water Mite



Water Flea & Seed Shrimp



Back Swimmer

CAN YOU FIND 19 BIRDS IN HERE?

C	R	A	K	E	S	T	R	E	L	O	R	I			
												K			
P	I	N	S	S								E			
E					O							E			
T						R	T	A	B	L	A	E	T		
R															
E								R	E	E	N	F			
L	A	P	W	I	N	G							I		
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L	L	A	R	K											
											K	N	O	T	E

Subscription Renewals

Over the page is the subscription renewal form. However when paying, please consider using our website (www.edithvale-seaford-wetlands.org). Go to the 'Join Us' page.

The website is the most effective way to get in touch and renew subscriptions. We are encouraging members and contacts to pay subscriptions and donations by direct bank transfer. See details below. If you wish to send a cheque to our PO Box number - that is acceptable. Cash payments are best given to a volunteer at the Hide or on open days at the Education Centre. Cash subscriptions can be paid at the AGM.

Payments are receipted by email generally. If you do not have an email, please let the Secretary know how we can best contact you. It will be very helpful if you can send us your email address. This can be done by emailing our database manager, Inez, at: ivpp@optusnet.com.au

Bank Deposit Details:

Bank: CBA : Account Name: Society Cheque Acct : BSB: 0631 18 Account Number: 10059942 (include your Family name in the description).



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New member Renewing membership

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- \$30.00 Family
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- \$ Donation

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Details (Other) _____

Please send your payment, together with this account, to our Treasurer at: PO Box 2031
 EDITHVALE 3196

Or pay to BSB 06 3118 ,Account Number 1005 9942 - write name & subscription and fill out on-line form if new member or renewing membership. at www.edithvale-seaford-wetlands.org 'See Join Us' page..

Corporate Members

8

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

Peninsula Pedallers,
Sonya Kilkenny
Ray White, Chelsea

Patterson River Golf Club
Edithvale Family And Children's
Centre

Longbeach RSL
Tania Ireton
Viridans Pty Ltd

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