

May-June 2021



Clamorous Reed-Warbler

Number 172

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Wetland Warbler

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome all and we hope you will be able to visit the Hide sooon!

We have had lockdowns and now a maintenance and re-surfacing of the carpark.

The wetland is very high at present with water entering the lower level of the Hide.

Your committee is meeting most months mostly by Zoom.

Soon the Education Centre may reopen so we can use it for meetings. This is looking hopeful at the moment.

Our AGM date is in this newsletter, we hope many of you can come in person then..



It would be great if we could reactivate our social activities and encourage more member participation and discussion. I am always happy to hear from members with ideas about improving FESWI activities and friendships.

Tree planting in the buffer zone will commence soon.

We also hope to have volunteers who can help with school visits and Hide openings.

All our ongoing events will abide by Covid regulations.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/edithvaleseafordwetlands/>

- President** Rosalie Cooper
0409 388 066
- Vice President** Robin Clarey
9786 2213
- Secretary** Margaret Hunter
9587 0786
- Treasurer** Scott King
0404 045 898
- Committee**
Rex Chugg
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Matthew Mitchell
Clare Bracey (Newsletter)
Paula McCartney (Newsletter)
- Seaford W'Bees**
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Robin Clarey 9786 2213
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Marg Hunter 9587 0786
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- Warbler Collator**
Cheryl Meier 9772 4484
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Inez van Polanen Petel
9774 2664
- Website**
Matthew Mitchell
Inez van Polanen Petel
- Facebook**
Alison Kuitert
Allan Broomhall
- Wetland Study Group**
Jim Wilson 0408 975 410

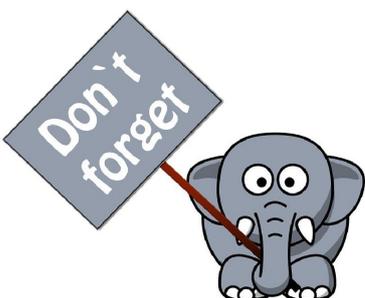
The **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** is planned for **Sunday 26 September 2021** from 1.30 pm to 4.00 pm at the **Education Centre**. Mark this date.



YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS NOW DUE

You can pay via the internet or by post. See Page 5

No payment needed if you have paid within the past 3 months.



VALE JOHN DENTON SCHOLES

Scott Seymour

It is with sadness that we inform of John Scholes passing in early May this year.

John worked at the Dandenong Valley Authority as part of the Environmental Section and played an important part of that organisations actions to protect and enhance protective activities at both Edithvale and Seaford Wetlands.

John chaired the Edithvale Seaford Wetland Environmental Area Advisory Committee set up under the DVA Act. Along with luminaries such as the late Les Williams and Ross Nelson, many important works were initiated to enhance and protect the environments at both sites. These works paved the way forward for later important steps to toward attaining Ramsar Status for both sites.

John also took the initiative of scavenging materials and then organising the construction of the

Bird Hide at Edithvale Wetlands, that is so enjoyed by so many today. John was also involved in assisting in the recent refurbishment of the hide.

The values that we enjoy at the wetlands would not be there if it weren't for the likes of John.

Another light in the pantheon of time has gone out.

John Scholes, Chairman of the DVA Management Committee 1980.

Absorbing the sounds of the wetlands with his daughter, Emily.

Source: Glimpses



DUCK IN—THE FINAL CHAPTER

Wednesday, June 30th was our last day at Duck In. The Saturday before six volunteers turned up to remove the last of our possessions from Duck In to the barn occupied by the Down's Estate Community Project.

Many thanks to John McKenzie whose ute and knowledge of how best to best pack it was invaluable; to Jim Wilson (using FESWI trailer),

Clayton Fenech, Jeff Harger, and Colin Franklin whose willingness and effort was so helpful, and to Angus Barnes (DECP) who was at the barn to help unload and position our equipment. Thank you to too Maureen Griffin and Robin Erwin (DECP) who spent time earlier in the barn making space for us.

So much help and so much appreciated!



From left: Jeff, Clayton, Colin, Jim and John

ROLLING MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Inez van Polanen

To make FESWI membership more flexible and provide members with more value the FESWI committee has decided to change over from a fixed membership to a rolling membership.

FESWI membership used to be by financial year, from 1 July to 30 June of the next year. In contrast, a rolling membership starts on the date you pay your membership fee and continues for the period of a year. For example, a membership

that has been paid on 31 March 2017 will begin on 31 March 2017 and will end on 30 March 2018.

We will start this change of procedure from 1 July as most members are used to paying their membership fee around that time.

A renewal notice to renew for the following year will be sent via email, or if you receive the Warbler by post, via a notice on your address label.

OOPS - MISIDENTIFIED



Regarding the article titled Rakali Water Rat in the March-April issue of Warbler, an astute reader has pointed out that the photo of the dead animal on the road was a small ring-tailed possum rather than a Rakali – the differences being the size of the ears and the colour of the fur. It was the size and white colouring on the tail that fooled me.

Robin Clarey

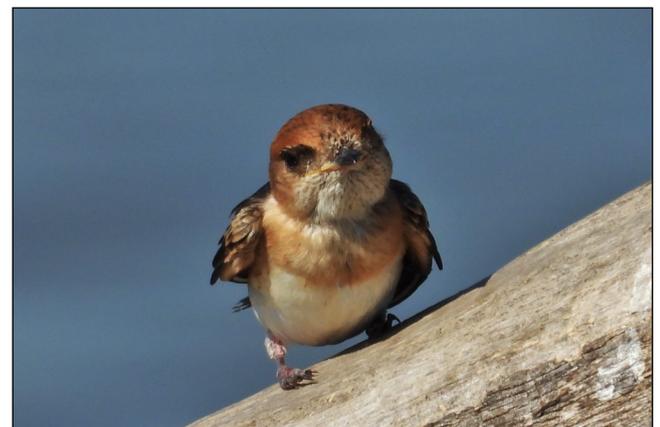
Picture of an actual Rakali is above - Wikipedia

BIRD HIDE CLOSURE

The bird hide – has now been closed for a number of weekends – the first two because of Covid restrictions, and the following weekends because of high water levels at Edithvale South. After that massive storm some weeks ago, water and mud flooded the lower floor, and since then, every time it rains more water comes over the floor boards. The mud will be cleaned off as soon as possible.

What is more troubling is the area of thick, slippery mud around the lower floor door. The land slopes toward this door which is making it a continual problem and not easy of a resolution whilst the water levels are high.

Regular up-dates will be on our facebook page and website.



Welcome Swallow Family at Edithvale

Photos by Steve McDonald

**OPINION
PIECE**

PARKRUN DECISION AT SEAFORD WETLANDS

Robin Clarey

Frankston Council voted to allow a weekly Parkrun event (Saturday mornings) around part of the Seaford Wetlands, potentially involving 100's of runners. Melbourne Water, however, has the final say.

The human-centric forces were out in full strength at the Frankston Council Meeting on 31st May where the decision as to whether or not allow a weekly parkrun around Seaford Wetlands was being considered. They kept banging on about how exercise and engagement with nature is good for human beings, as if, for heaven's sake, Saturday mornings and Seaford Wetlands were the *only* time and place where human beings could possibly do this!

But, as long as human wants and needs are satisfied – that's all that matters! Too bad about the wants and needs of the fauna, already using this space – for which, incidentally, this area was created in the first place.

This human-centric mindset, this speciesism, this human-beings-first at all costs attitude seems to give a mental hall pass for human beings to get their greedy, rapacious fingers into every natural space.

The continued attempts at predation of the Green Wedges; the continuing loss of natural urban environment to the over-development of housing blocks; the recent court battle to save Central Highlands habitat for the Leadbeater's Possum; the attempted development of part of

Toondah Harbour (Old); the dangerously declining numbers of beach-nesting birds eg Fairy Terns; the 300 or so species of Australian animals that are endangered; the number of already extinct Australian species (approx. 60); the overfishing of marine life - globally, around 63% of all known fish stocks are overfished; the degradation of stop-over points on migratory birds' flyways and of their final destinations; the estimated world loss of 2/3 of its wildlife in the past 50 years and so the list goes on ... and on but ... as long as human wants and needs are satisfied!!

Well, let me tell you something ... the lives, wants and needs of human beings are no more important, have no greater validity than the lives, wants and needs of any other creature on this planet.

Seaford Wetlands may seem small potatoes compared with some of the examples in the above-mentioned list. They, too, invariably began in an inconsequential way with small initial incursions. But it is all of a piece. No care for nature – human beings first at all costs!

Parkrun Australia and Frankston Council – pfft. I wouldn't give tuppence for you!



Left—breeding Spoonbills at Austin Road, Seaford Wetlands.

Right Migratory Sandpipers and Stints at Seaford Wetlands.



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Bird Watching Plants Nature Study Education

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Details (Other) _____

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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. www.edithvale-seafood-wetlands.org

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



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