

# Sept-Oct 2021

Wetland Warbler



Number 174



## Wetland Warbler

Clamorous Reed-Warbler

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To all members:

We welcome the spring and expect the opening of the Hide very soon. We will be checking people in with our QR code and their vaccination records. Numbers on each floor and time to spend will be limited and depend on demand. Masks will be required and can be supplied on entry.



With lockdown easing we plan to hold our committee meetings and Annual General Meeting as face-to-face events. Planning continues for this and other events at the wetlands. It has been difficult to predict how things might be possible.

Our membership officer has established a new rolling notification so you will receive a personal message when your payment is due.

This will simplify record keeping for us and all our members.

I am pleased to be able to thank those who have continued their membership, also the many folk who have donated to us this year.

Yours, Rosalie Cooper

mobile 0409 388 066; email [rosalie.rmc742gmail.com](mailto:rosalie.rmc742gmail.com)

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Australian Shoveler  
Photo: Steve McDonald



A Free Ride  
Photo: Robin Clarey

# WILDLIFE ADVENTURES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Clare Bracey

In July I moved over to Western Australia, narrowly escaping Victoria's lockdown. I began an exciting new adventure doing a five-month internship with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC). AWC is the largest private owner and manager of land for conservation in Australia, protecting endangered wildlife across more than 6.5 million hectares across Australia. After studying wildlife conservation at University, I always dreamed of working with an organisation that is focussed on protecting Australia's unique wildlife.

I have been working across sanctuaries in South-West Western Australia, with a visit to an island in Shark Bay. My work so far has included surveying populations of threatened mammals that have been released at the sanctuaries. I've had the privilege of seeing adorable critters like Woylies (Brush-tailed Bettong), Greater Bilbies, Shark Bay Bandicoots and Boodies (Burrowing Bettongs). These threatened animals have been introduced into large areas which have been cleared of introduced predators like cats and foxes.

AWC's science team continues to monitor and study these populations to help ensure these species do not go extinct.

This is my first time visiting Western Australia and everywhere I visit feels so different and exciting. The landscape here is spectacular, with the white sandy coastlines and then the bright red dirt when you head inland. I've also been extremely lucky to experience the wildflower season, which I've been told it is one of the best in decades! The flowers are so much more extensive than I ever imagined, and the colours are stunning.

There were a few other animals that I was particularly excited to see whilst in Western Australia. Some of these include the Thorny Devil, Malleefowl and Numbat. I am yet to see a Numbat, but as the weather continues to warm up I'm sure I will see one soon. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time so far in Western Australia, and will definitely be coming back with family and friends to show them everything I have experienced.

Clare is a FESWI committee member on leave.



Top left: Thorny Devil at Mount Gibson Sanctuary

Top right: Fields of wildflowers at Mount Gibson Sanctuary

Bottom left: The stunning view from my house during wildflowers season

# THE BIRD HIDE

Bad luck seems to have been stalking the bird hide all this year! Continual inundation of the lower floor, worsening skylight leaks, lockdowns and now storms and trees down around the hide. What next?

Many thanks to Jacqui and Sandy for tidying up the path leading into the hide, and thank you, too, to Peter who climbed up on the roof to inspect and take photos of the skylight to ascertain where it was leaking. The skylight must be at least 40 years old, and it appears that the

best way of dealing with the problem is to replace it. Thanks, too, to those who have helped keep an eye on it over the months— Alison, Allan, Inez, John and Rosalie.

Once we get some direction from Melbourne Water on the issues of - the lack of electricity which means the exit signs cannot be illuminated, and questions concerning vaccination status. Also, inundation of the lower floor is still in the mix.

Hopefully it will be opening soon.



Peter on roof checking out the skylight.



Some of storm damage. Photo: Allan Broomhall

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## ON ROLLING MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Inez van Polanen Petel

At the beginning of September, the first computer generated renewal reminders to our members who have email have been sent out. Thank you for all your responses and your ongoing support to protect and improve the wetlands.

As you have read in the May-June newsletter, FESWI has changed its membership from a fixed membership to a rolling one.

In preparation for that change, we have made some adjustments and some of you will have found that your due date has been moved forward. This is to compensate you for when you initially joined during that financial year (fixed membership), and in fact, paid too much.

From now on, you don't need to worry about your next subscription date because a renewal notice will be sent automatically at the

beginning of the month your membership is due.

There are three types of reminder notices:

- payment is due (one month before payment)
- payment is overdue (up till 3 months)
- membership will be deemed to have lapsed when no payment has been received after 3 months

The membership officer is responsible for making sure that it will happen on time.

BTY - Can you still remember when you joined The Friends? It may pay off to know now we have changed over to a rolling membership. If you had joined somewhere later in the financial year you paid a little bit too much and we will extend your membership accordingly.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me via [ivpp@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ivpp@optusnet.com.au)

# LOOKING FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENT IDEAS?

## What better than a 2022 Calendar!

Steve Oates has put together a 2022 Calendar featuring shots of the Seaford-Edithvale Wetlands and will donate \$5 from each Calendar sold to FESWI.



- The Calendar size is 320mm x 600mm and the cost for each calendar is \$30
- At the moment he is only selling these to people on the Mornington Peninsula and South Eastern Suburbs because of the difficulties Australia Post is facing. He will be personally delivering each one of them so you will only be charged \$3 for delivery.

Ctrl/click on <https://oatsiephotography.myshopify.com> and click on image or words—2022 Seaford-Edithvale Wetlands Calendar.

If you are from outside of this area and would still like to purchase one, send him a DM and he will see if something can be worked out.

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### PHOTOS BY MEMBERS



Left: Reed Warbler

Photo:  
Peter Murphy



Right: Spoonbill

Photo:  
Matt Green  
Seaford Ranger

**ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS I.E. YOU ARE AMAZING PEOPLE!  
SEE OVER FOR HOW YOU ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THE WELFARE OF THE  
EARTH.**

# Environmental Volunteering

October 2021 Update

## Volunteering Naturally 2021

Victoria has a strong history of environmental volunteering, with volunteers contributing enormously to improving our environment, our local communities and our economy.

We have now completed our third annual stocktake of environmental volunteers using information from a variety of sources; speaking directly to groups, volunteer program managers, Non-Government Organisations, Local Governments, and Catchment Management Authorities. The data collection was undertaken between June and August 2021.

Despite the impacts of COVID-19, environmental volunteers have continued to actively contribute to protecting, maintaining and enhancing our environment.



To read the full report, please click visit: [Volunteering-Naturally-2021-Final.pdf \(environment.vic.gov.au\)](https://environment.vic.gov.au/Volunteering-Naturally-2021-Final.pdf)

## BOB BROWN FOUNDATION

On the International Day of Action on Big Biomass (20<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021), Bob Brown Foundation climbers hung a big banner in the threatened forests of Western Creek, northern Tasmania.

Australia's magnificent native forests are woodchipped for export to fuel foreign forest furnaces, generating fake-green electricity. This destructive practice should stop and must not be allowed to take hold in Australia.

Take our online action and call on your energy provider to rule out using native forest biomass for sham green energy, now and into the future.

Friends of Alberton West Forest/Bob Brown Foundation Action for Earth

[International Day of Action on Big Biomass 2021 - Bob Brown Foundation](#)



## Corporate Members

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

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