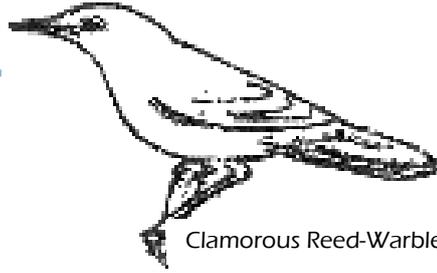


Nov-Dec
Merry Christmas
to All
2021

Wetland Warbler

Wetland Warbler



Clamorous Reed-Warbler



Number 175

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**FESWI's 2021 AGM will be in February, 2022.
See last page for early details**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to our final issue for 2021. It has been a demanding year! I wish to thank some members who have given us great service this year and kept things ticking over during lockdown. Robin Clarey and Margaret Hunter have continued their sterling service and been, together with Jim Wilson, very active in closure of the Duck In premises and finding other storage for equipment and records. Jim Wilson has also been advising about the hide maintenance. City of Kingston officers have also been extremely helpful and supportive. Inez Van Polanen Patel has been developing and maintaining our membership records. We have been using Zoom to meet as a committee but have now been together as a group at the November meeting.

I must apologise for the recent confusion with receipt of cheques for annual payment. We have had problems with lockdown/postage into our Edithvale PO Box and receipt/banking of membership cheques. Since September the Box has been rather inaccessible due to local road closures around the railway works, we arranged for forwarding to another Box address, but this failed to be implemented by Aust Post. We only discovered many posted cheques hiding in Edithvale Box, a week ago.

Those of you who had sent us a cheque but still received a reminder notice we

are dealing with this as quickly as we can, your cheques will be banked soon. Do not cancel your cheque as the banks charge for that. Our membership officer is reorganising her letters so your deposits will be recognised. If you have received a reminder after paying just ignore that.

If you are able, payments and donations can be made directly to our bank account: CBA BSB- 063118 Account No – 1005 9942. Include your family name in the description.

If you are a new member, fill out the on-line form at www.edithvale-seaford-wetlands.org found on the "Join Us" page.

Some good news, the Hide is no longer flooded and currently being cleaned up. Robin Clarey and her volunteers have done a sterling job. She will be including a message about the Hide reopening date in this newsletter.

Rosalie Cooper
rosalie.rmc74@gmail.com
Phone: 0409 388 066



FRIENDS OF EDITHVALE - SEAFORD WETLANDS INC.

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THE BIRD HIDE

Opening

The bird hide is finally opening to the public again in January 2022 (8th & 9th). It has been closed much of this year courtesy of Covid and regular flooding of the lower floor. The waters in Edithvale South seem to be slowly receding and the island in the middle is gradually revealing itself again.

Work

Although the hide has been closed, there has been nevertheless work going on there in the form of working bees and repairs; and the revamping of displays and information. We have obtained a quote to replace the leaking skylight and that job should be completed in the near future. The November storm left trees and branches down across the entrance path. Many thanks to John and Peter for clearing that mess up (12th November).

General disuse over the year has left the hide in a bit of a mess and many thanks to Janet, Helen, Julie-Anne, John, Peter and Allan for the cleaning up of it and in the car park (12th December). And many thanks to Jim who has continued with maintenance work.



Peter and John deal with the storm damage.



Janet tackles the weeds.



John is not exactly waving here!



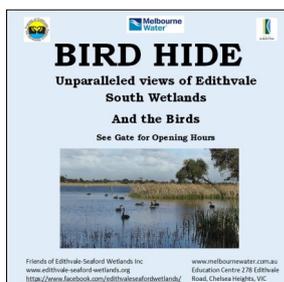
Helen & Julie-Anne clean up a car-park garden bed.



Peter works on the windows

Sign

During the past year FESWI was successful in receiving grants from Melbourne Water and the City of Kingston for two signs advertising the presence of the hide (which is not readily obvious on Edithvale Road). They will be placed at each of the entrances to the car park.



Our hide acts not only as a (great) hide but also as an information centre and a mini museum and needs a little more visible presence.

Volunteers

Like many other voluntary organisations during the Covid years, FESWI has suffered a drop in active member numbers, and this together with the holiday season (people going away), means that there may not be enough hands-on volunteers to open the hide on both weekend days.

In the new year we will have a number of opportunities to advertise ourselves and hopefully recruit more active members - Summer by the Sea (early January), World Wetlands Day (early February), Aspendale Community Day (5th March), Bunnings Sausage Sizzle (9th April).

If you would like to volunteer at the hide on weekend afternoons, please get in touch. See front panel for contact information.

LATHAM'S SNIPE—*GALLINAGO HARDWICKII* - PROJECT 2021

Sue Telfer

The Latham's Snipe Project was initiated with collaborators, The Wild Bird Society of Japan, to improve our understanding of migration and habitat use by Latham's Snipe whose population has diminished markedly in its breeding grounds back in Japan over recent years.

Once Covid restrictions were eased in November our keen bird count volunteers, Denise, Roger and Sue were finally allowed access to the restricted areas at both Seaford and Edithvale sites where snipe return regularly to escape Japan's winter. Very few had been spotted in the area this spring/summer. It seems that our wetlands, with the persistently high water levels, is not such a popular destination this season. Only one solitary bird was sighted on the day.



Latham's Snipe

Photo: Alan Broomhall

These migratory shorebirds prefer exposed muddy water's edge with wet tussock grassland which

provides the rich smorgasbord of plant life and crustaceans they require to fatten up ready for their return flight to breeding grounds in Japan and south-east Siberia (February/ March).

The next survey date is January 16. It will be interesting to see what impact the bushfires and this year's widespread high rainfall has had on bird distribution when results of the September

and November survey are collated.

Please contact Sue Telfer on 0408 406 554 if you are interested in participating in the project.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF THE BEST FRIEND AWARD

FESWI heartily congratulates Nina Earl on winning the Victorian Environment Friends Network Best Friend Award 2021.

The Best Friend Award highlights the dedication of volunteers who work on public land, parks and reserves for the long-term benefit of the environment

Nina has volunteered for the environment for more than 22 years. She has been a member of Friends of Bradshaw Bushland Reserve in Mordialloc since 1999, serving as both president and Vice-president. And Nina is also active with Friends of Mordialloc Creek Catchment (Mordialloc Creek Reserve), Friends of Yammerbook Nature Reserve, and Friends of Epsom Grasslands Conservation Reserve. Nina is also a member of FESWI.

Nina's advocacy is determined, respectful and effective. She has positively influenced outcomes

on various decisions regarding the preservation of the natural environment.

Well done Nina – so much deserved.



Nina Earl at Bradshaw Bushland Reserve in 2021.

Source for copy and photo: Victorian Landcare Magazine - Spring 2021, Issue 82

THE DECLINE OF VICTORIAN ECOSYSTEMS AND SPECIES

There have been two alarming reports recently on the state of the natural environment.

On Birds

A landmark new research, by authors Stephen Garnett and Barry Baker has found that up to 216 Australian birds are now threatened – compared with 195 a decade ago – and climate change is now the main driver pushing threatened birds closer to extinction.

The 216 Australian bird list now at risk of extinction comprise:

- 23 critically endangered
- 74 endangered
- 87 vulnerable
- 32 near-threatened.

This is up from 134 birds in 1990 and 195 a decade ago.

Birds are easily harmed by changes in their ecosystems, including introduced species, habitat loss, disturbance to breeding sites and bushfires.

But when conservation action is well resourced and implemented, we can avoid these outcomes.

[More than 200 Australian birds are now threatened with extinction – and climate change is the biggest danger \(theconversation.com\)](https://www.theconversation.com/more-than-200-australian-birds-are-now-threatened-with-extinction-and-climate-change-is-the-biggest-danger)

On Ecosystems Decline in Victoria

The Environment and Planning Committee of the Victorian Legislative Council tabled the Victorian Parliamentary Report on Inquiry into Ecosystems Decline in Victoria recently.

And it's been one of the biggest inquiries in the Victorian Parliament's history – with nearly 1000 submissions and over 130 witnesses.

One of the key findings is the ongoing removal and degradation of native vegetation is a key

driver of ecosystem decline and is threatening Victorian biodiversity.

A number of Victorian environmental groups have responded to the report and have proposed that the government provide funding of at least \$500 million to:

- A dedicated long term threatened species program
- Dramatic increase in public funding for land and sea conservation & threatened species laws & programs
- New \$30-\$50 million for a Land Conservation Revolving fund run by Trust for Nature
- Strengthen the Wildlife Act to properly protect all native species

<https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/epc-lc/article/4455> .



On Human Population???

The two reports above suggest more affirmative conservation action and more spending to remedy this environmental degradation, but what is never mentioned is the central, underlying role of the ever-increasing human population. This issue also needs to be urgently addressed.

[Ecosystems - Impact of population growth and natural hazards on biodiversity - National 4 Biology Revision - BBC Bitesize](#)

THE BIRD FILE



I'm coming I'm coming!

Gimme!

Yum!

But it's just a little dry!

Photo sequence by Peter Murphy

RED-RUMPED PARROT



Photo: Steve McDonald

WELCOME SWALLOWS



Photo and information: Peter Murphy

SONGS OF DISAPPEARANCE

You may be aware (or not) that BirdLife Australia has compiled an album of bird song and sounds of 53 of Australia's most threatened birds to promote awareness of threatened species.



Titled 'Songs of Disappearance', it has already sold more than 2,000 copies and hit No.5 on the ARIA album chart. A downloaded copy will set you back only \$9.99. To purchase it go to <https://songsofdisappearance.com>

You may have noticed swallows flying around over the waters of the wetlands but they are too swift to see the details of what they are doing. They are, in fact, feeding.

Swallows, like other hirundines and Swifts, feed on the wing by catching insects in their large gapes.

By holding their beaks wide open in flight, they are scooping up mosquitos, moths and other flying insects.

For the energy equation to balance they must be scooping up myriads of them!

Corporate Members

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

Annual General Meeting

2:00pm

19th February 2022

Carrum Hall

Invitation and more details will be sent to all members via Mail Chimp closer to the date.

Production of this newsletter funded through



**Friends of
Edithvale – Seaford
Wetlands Inc.**

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