

Jan-Feb 2022

Wetland Warbler



Number 176

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Clamorous Reed-Warbler

Wetland Warbler

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr Rosalie Cooper



We recently held a delayed AGM for 2020-2021. There were 17 members who attended in person and lots of apologies. Such a delight after the long lockdown.

The business had been delayed for over six months so we could be face to face.

This report only covers July 2020 to June 2021.

Summary of some important events for that financial year.

New Treasurer, Scott King and member, Paula McCarthy, joined the committee.

Our "Glimpses" book was published, all organised by Robin Clarey. It is available on the website and as printed copies.

Membership records were improved. Also new brochures, designed by Inez van Polanen.

Assistance in lockdown.

Many thanks to Jim Wilson, who assisted with Hide maintenance.

Heavy rain led to water and mud on the Hide ground floor level. Many thanks to Alison Kuitert, Allan Broomhall, Peter

Murphy, and John Cooper who assisted with this clean up during and after the flooding; and to Helen Corcoran, Janet Atkins and Julie-Anne Garland who helped prepare the hide for re-opening.

Thanks for all their work to Margaret Hunter and Robin Clarey.

Submissions on environmental issues.

Two to the Victorian Parliament were prepared. Copies available from the Secretary.

Opposition to Park Runs in the buffer zone at Seaford, supported by Melbourne Water prevented their access.

A Google Drive cloud storage.

This was set up, to improve communication and data storage.

We were assisted by FESWI member, Tina Berghella.

Committee members have been using this to record and store minutes, photographs, membership data, submissions and important documents.

We now have a committee email, feswiwetlands@gmail.com

We also have an external hard drive as a backup. We are working to improve our ability in this area.

In Duck In, our old storage and meeting room, we completely lost all

FRIENDS OF EDITHVALE - SEAFORD WETLANDS INC.

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

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9587 0786

Treasurer Scott King
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Jim Wilson (Handy Man)
Paula McCarthy (Newsletter)

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Bird Hide Roster
Robin Clarey 9786 2213

Guided Tours
Marg Hunter 9587 0786

Newsletter
Robin Clarey 9786 2213

Warbler Collator
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9774 2664

Website
Matthew Mitchell

Inez van Polanen Petel

Facebook
Alison Kuitert

Allan Broomhall

Wetland Study Group
Jim Wilson 0408 975 410

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

electricity supply during local development. The roof was leaking badly. After discussion with Melbourne Water, who owned the building, but could not offer any assistance, a decision was made to move out. We had maintained it for years.

A massive job was completed by Robin and Jim.

Many unused items were sold, given away, thrown out.

Storage of the remainder was arranged at Downes Farm premises.

Our archives are with the Secretary, Margaret Hunter.

Rosalie Cooper

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 26 February 2022 (for 2020-2021)

Margaret Hunter

The Friends of Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands Inc (FESWI) was finally able to celebrate our achievements for the year 2020-2021 formally with a face to face meeting at the Carrum Hall on 26 February 2022. This was the first opportunity for our committee and members to meet formally all be it with some restrictions – packaged food – and have an entertaining guest speaker, Janet Wheeler, from Living with Wildlife.

The following committee was elected for 2021-22:-

President: Rosalie Cooper

Vice President: Robin Clarey

Secretary: Margaret Hunter

Treasurer: Scott King

Committee Members: Rex Chugg, Paula McCarthy, Jim Wilson

Thank you to Faye Spillane for doing the committee elections once again and John Cooper for his assistance on the day.

We plan to hold the next AGM in 5 months due to the delay in holding this meeting due to covid regulations. So, watch this space.

The 17 members and friends who attended asked our guest speaker, Janet, lots of questions about caring for wildlife in heat, identifying wildlife in their backyards, about what to do when you find an injured animal, using Janet's wide knowledge of the area which she is passionate about.

FESWI gets a number of requests online for what can be done for injured wildlife, when swamp hens, and ducks, and even kangaroos (yes kangaroos as well).

There was also discussion of how to help animals when feeling the impact of heat with the recent hot conditions. Janet was thanked for her talk, and left her card for further information for members present to use for further enquiries.

See final page (Page 6) for this information.



MAJESTIC PEREGRINES

Peter Murphy

This season I had the privilege of witnessing. Over a period of time. a pair of Peregrine Falcons' courting ritual, aerial dancing, egg laying and then feeding of chicks. Eventually I witnessed the teaching of the two juveniles in how to fly, hunt, hover, " dogfight " and defend themselves. At times all showed the most human like of traits.

The weeks leading up to mating was the time of food sharing, communicating and "showing off". The male insisted on showing the female his skill and prowess in the air. One time, the male arrived carrying a dead, limp Raven in one claw.

This was done with ease. He proceeded to call out to her, but she was nowhere to be found. He then rose vertically up, high above the future nest site whilst calling out. We know that Kites and Kestrels hover but it's not perfect. This was. Not a ruffled feather or even moving an inch. He held out his wings and faced into the stiff ocean breeze. He just stayed in one spot. Not unlike Superman in the movies.

Powerful, majestic and seemingly to have done the trick. The female soon showed up and they

talked. What happened next superseded the first. Whilst still holding a dead bird - the size of itself - they proceeded to do the "Elevator Dance". Each one rose and lowered vertically in the same spot. As one came down the other went up. Still talking.

They then kissed or touched twice on the way through and talked some more. The male then flew off to the adjoining "Pantry Bay" with the prize and the female flew off to get something else. Amazing & moving. The Collins Street eggs hatched just 3 days before their ocean cousins.

Another time when the juveniles had fledged just a week earlier, each parent would take up the kids one at a time and teach them how to fly. Parent and child would be flying at an extreme pace around the two cliff ridged bays. Parent just behind talking it through it. How to hover, dive, club a meal and even "dogfight "

This was done in the air and when perched on a fence. This had to be beneficial to their offspring's lives in the future.

I actually fell in love with them.



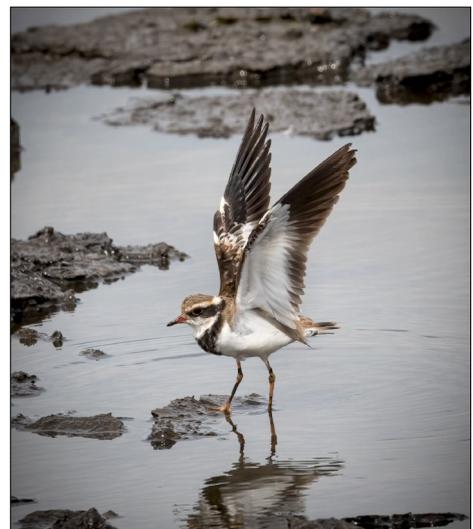
Peregrine Falcon Photo Allan Broomhall

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PHOTOS FROM THE HIDE



Grassbird with a beak full of bugs.
Photo: Alison Kuitert



The Dotterel gave us a wave..
Photo: Roy Burgess

SEAFORD WETLANDS REJUVENATION PROJECT

Robin Clarey

There is concern among local environmentalists over the proposed Parks Rejuvenation Program initiated by the Victorian Government where \$5m is to be spent on the Seaford Wetlands to “deliver a host of new features to improve visitor access.”

There is no doubt the overall program is commendable – maintaining a connection with nature is important for people - although if the current fad of sacrificing back gardens to the erection of two or three extra dwellings were to cease, folk could enjoy nature at their very doorstep! Unfortunately, those in charge of selecting sites have not understood the fundamental difference between a park and a sanctuary-like reserve.

Ballam Park and Chelsea Bicentennial Park are set up primarily for people – picnic tables, barbecues, play equipment, sporting facilities - whereas places like Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands are primarily set up to protect some aspect of the natural world. Regrettably, very little of the \$5m seems to be set aside for environmental works.

‘Parkifying’ the wetlands’ buffer zones will leave them with a chink in their armour and open to further and further incursions in the future.

If you have similar concerns, please go to <https://engage.frankston.vic.gov.au/seaford-wetlands-rejuvenation> and leave a comment.



MORE PHOTOS



Left—Latham’s Snipe Edithvale
Photo: Allan Broomhall



Right—Little Falcon watches as another housing estate gets built over farmland that was it’s territory. Abutting Cranbourne Gardens. Photo: Peter Murphy

DUCK HUNTING - ANIMALS AUSTRALIA

We don't understand how this decision has been made, but the Victorian Government will allow duck shooting to go ahead this year, starting in a matter of weeks. This is more than disappointing – *it is devastating.*

To sanction a full 90-day duck shooting season at a time when waterbird numbers are desperately low, and the cruelty is so obvious, is not only unconscionable – it's illogical. But that's what Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews has just done.

We have already written to both the Victorian Agriculture and Environment Ministers to express our concerns about another shooting season going ahead and have asked them to urgently reconsider.

Can you spare a moment to do the same?

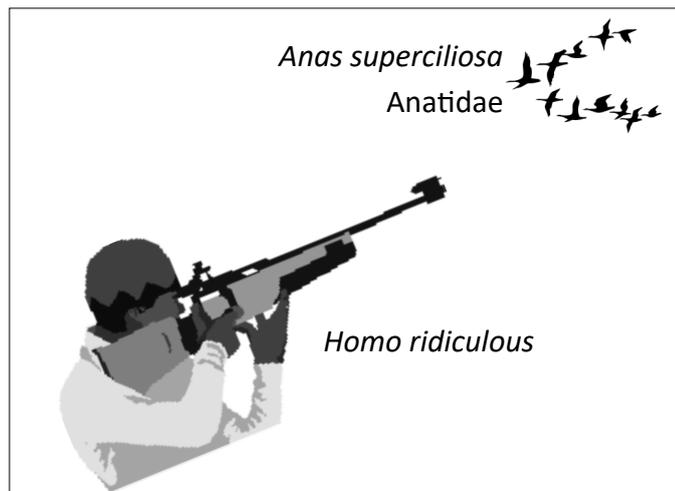
It's hard to know what more could be said or done, to convince Daniel Andrews that duck shooting needs to end. And we do know now that it only continues in this state because of our Premier's unwavering support for it.

Support that seems to be given to shooters unconditionally – appeasing a minority, ignoring the majority (including his own colleagues) – and threatening the long-term survival of our native wildlife.

The reality is that the Premier has long had the

evidence that would justify at least suspending the season. He knows that:

- Shooters recklessly break laws.
- Many can't shoot straight or even identify protected species.



- Waterbird populations are at critical lows and struggling to recover each year.

- One in every four ducks will be shot and left to die – suffering prolonged and painful deaths.

- Duck shooting hurts tourism in regional areas and is not in the economic interests of the state.
- People living around these wetlands are frightened and don't want shooters descending on them every weekend for months on end.

The Premier also knows that most of his colleagues in the Labour party want duck shooting to end, as do most Victorians.

What we are seeing here is a failure of leadership, of *compassionate* leadership.

Email Louise - Animals Australia <info@animalsaustralia.org>

Thu 3/03/2022 4:19 PM

Corporate Members

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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

- Dept Environment Land Water & Planning

<https://www.delwp.vic.gov.au>

-Wildlife Victoria – State wide phone service, Training Courses

www.wildlife.vic.gov.au

- AWARE 0412 433 727 hotline

- Frankston City Council <https://www.frankston.vic.gov.au>

Certificate 111 in Captive Animal studies

Box Hill TAFE & Holmesglen

[https://www.rspcaqld.org.au/blog/wildlifeconservation/pouch-](https://www.rspcaqld.org.au/blog/wildlifeconservation/pouch-checking)

[checking](https://www.rspcaqld.org.au/blog/wildlifeconservation/pouch-checking)

- Frankston City Council

<https://www.frankston.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/environment/pdfs/gardens-for-wildlife-booklet-september-2021.pdf>

- Gardens for Wildlife Victoria <https://gardensforwildlifelifevictoria.com/author/gardensforwildlifelifevictoria/>

- BirdLife Australia <https://birdlife.org.au/>

- Nest boxes for wildlife, Alan & Stacey Franks

Alice McGlashen <https://nestboxtales.com>

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