

# Jun-Aug 2013

Friends of Edithvale – Seaford Wetlands Inc.



Number 133



Clamorous Reed-Warbler

## Wetland Warbler

### FESWI VISIT TO MELBOURNE

#### WATER

Philippa Bailey President FESWI

Philippa Bailey, President FESWI and Andrew Silcocks, FESWI member and bird expert, met with Melbourne Water Managing Director Shaun Cox and General Manager David Ryan at MW head office in June.

FESWI initiated the meeting to introduce ourselves and inform the managers about the work that we do and the current priorities facing Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands management and protection.

The managers welcomed on the ground information about current projects, and feedback about the work that Melbourne Water is engaged in at both wetland areas.

FESWI discussed the benefits of the Discovery Centre, and the mutual arrangements with the Melbourne Water education team. The improvement

works at Seaford wetlands and the refurbishing of the central track were noted.

FESWI went on to request that Melbourne Water consider revegetation at the 44 First Avenue, Chelsea Heights site as a priority, once the land is officially handed over to Melbourne Water. (See The Warbler May 2013). We noted the groups' interest in assisting with the revegetation.

The importance of the bird hide at Edithvale was discussed at length with discussion about the Ramsar status and the need for bird lovers and community members to have the close access to wetland habitat that the bird hide has always afforded. Plans were made for Melbourne Water to assist FESWI and concerned bird watchers to review the restoration of the bird hide. A process has started to take shape.

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#### FRIENDS OF EDITHVALE - SEAFORD WETLANDS INC.

Assoc No. A0017388K

ABN - 95 886 101 621

P O BOX 2031, EDITHVALE VIC 3196

[www.edithvale-seaford-wetlands.org](http://www.edithvale-seaford-wetlands.org)

**President** Philippa Bailey  
9786 1591

**Vice President** Robin Clarey  
9786 2213

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9588 0867

**Treasurer** Gwen Meadows  
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#### Committee

Rex Chugg

Matthew Mitchell

Kate Spillane

**Seaford W/Bees** Rex Chugg  
9766 6056

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**Bird Hide Co-ordinator**  
Vacant

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9588 0867

**Newsletter** Robin Clarey  
9786 2213

**Warbler Collator**  
Cheryl Meier 97724484

**Membership Database**  
Chris Spencer 9786 1591

**Website**  
Matthew Mitchell

Have you forgotten something??

Did you remember to renew your membership??

If you haven't, you still have time!

Be a good egg!

See Page 7 for the *Renew Membership Form*.



# CHOOSE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Environment Victoria

**T**his federal election, we're facing a big choice for our environment.

Do we accelerate Australia's shift to a renewable, sustainable nation, or do we abandon support for clean energy and weaken environmental protection?

The choice is ours.

There's currently a very big difference between what the major parties contesting the election are planning to do for our environment.

Amongst all the bluster and politicking, it can be hard to keep track of who said what. So with an election date set to be announced any day now, we've done some of the hard work for you.

We've launched Envirotracker: a running snapshot of where the major parties stand on climate and renewable energy, public transport, biodiversity, forests and marine protection, and national environment laws.

Click on Envirotracker.

Here's where you'll find the major parties' stand on these important policy areas right now.

As the campaign progresses, and promises are made and fade, we'll be keeping track of changes they make to these key policy areas.

And every Monday we'll give an update, so be sure to check in to Envirotracker from time to time to see our take on the latest from the campaign trail.

We'll give you the facts and analysis when they matter.

In the meantime, it's important that people know the choice we're facing, so please share this snapshot of what the major parties are promising for our environment.

Kelly O'Shanassy  
and the Team from Environment Victoria Level 2, 60  
Leicester St, Carlton 3053

<http://environmentvictoria.org.au>



## MIRROR BUSH



**F**rankston Council has been busy recently getting rid of that cursed woody weed – Mirror Bush. It is incredibly invasive, and would completely take over plantations, out-competing the native plants if allowed.

Mirror Bush is a straggly shrub 2-4m high, with round, highly glossy and slightly fleshy leaves. If the plant is growing in a very dry situation the leaves may be rolled almost into a tube to reduce water loss from the leaf surface. Plants are either male or female. Flowers are small and white, followed by small fleshy orange berries on female plants. Cultivars with variegated foliage are sold in nurseries, and these should also be regarded as potentially weedy. The dense shade cast by mirror bush suppresses native vegetation. Dispersal can be by birds and other animals.

If you have it in your garden, serious consideration should be given to its eradication.



# SNIPPETS SNIPPETS SNIPPETS

## Kangaroo Walk

A small group attended our Kangaroo Walk on . We walked around the western and the southern boundary, taking a diversionary trip through the rushes, which is always exciting. The kangaroos were very obliging – showing themselves on a number of occasions, and in the process, taking a good look at us as well.



## Scout Working Bee

On the first Sunday of this month the Seaford Working Bee welcomed the help of the 10/13<sup>th</sup> Box Hill Scouts under the leadership of Phil (Scout Leader) and Fiona (parent).

The six boys were spending the weekend in activities to gain their Citizenship Badge and their Landcare Badge. They did a great job – in fact most of the work, giving the usual suspects (Rex, Greg, Dawn, Lorraine and Robin) a bit of a break.

Thanks Guys!



## Website

Have you checked out our website lately? There is lots of interesting information there, many great photos, and a couple of new videos: for a trip down memory lane, those who attended the Point Cook trip may like to watch this 5 minute video found in the Activities page; on the Home page is a new 5 minute video show-casing the beauties of Seaford Wetlands. The newsletters can also be found here – in full colour.

Check it out!



## Constitutional Review



Margaret, with the assistance of George Madden, is working on constitutional amendments to the FESWI constitution, which has not been updated since 1996. In 2012 there were changes to the *Model Rules*, which will require amendments to the current constitution. These are to be ratified at the AGM on Sunday 21st October 2013.

# POPULATION OVERLOAD

## *Frankston Housing Strategy Final Draft*

Robin Clarey

The *Frankston Housing Strategy Final Draft* states that “Between 2011 and 2031, the population of Frankston City is expected to grow by between 27,000 and 40,000.”

The Green Wedge around Stotts Lane is under threat by developers who have applied to rezone the site for housing development.

Local communities are threatened with a loss of amenity and neighbourhood character; and with all manner of problems associated with medium to high density housing.

Why this accommodation of continually increasing numbers? The solution to population expansion is not simply to keep absorbing it into areas already under pressure, to the detriment of all.

If the car park is full, I don't drive in anyway and stack my car on top of another – I either go by train or find another car park. I suggest that Frankston (and indeed Melbourne) is pretty much a full car park!

Urgent and serious attention needs to be given to achieving zero population growth, and in the interim, regional solutions need to be found.



# WETLAND IN MY BACKYARD

Philippa Bailey

I have made many visits to my family property near the Otways National Park, over the past 30 years, during winter months. Part of the paddock area always floods in years of standard rainfall, and it has been a family priority to visit the “pond” as it was fondly named.

Over the years I have enjoyed watching yellow robins, blue wrens, kookaburras, soaring eagles and other hunting birds. However I had never thought of the winter pond as an ephemeral wetland, until a few weeks ago, when I came across a white-necked heron taking off in flight as I approached the pond.

I was thrilled! A wetland bird in my own back yard! I cautiously monitored the heron over the weekend and it seemed to be nesting on its own near the edge of the pond. That was the area that it took off from at my stealthy approach. It circled overhead for a while but did not return to the pond until the nosy human had moved well away.

White-necked herons are found near farm dams and winter ponds, feeding in shallow waters and wet grass. They nest in trees. One report that I read of the bird noted that they are often on their own. I had wondered about a mate for

my heron, so I am assuming that at this stage he or she is single!

I hope to see the heron again on my visit to the property later this month.



# My Say

## THE GREEN WEDGE, DEVELOPERS AND THE WHOLE MISH-MASH

(OR MISS MATCH?)

Robin Clarey

Doesn't it just drive you crazy! Once again parts of the Green Wedge are under threat – this time in South Frankston in Stotts Lane.

Developers! They are the bane of all existence. They would develop their own grandmothers' graves if there were a buck in it.

Rupert Hamer was so farsighted when he set aside green open areas (Green Wedges), recognising Melbourne's potential growth, and the need for people to have open spaces amid great swaths of urbanisation; the need to connect and reconnect with nature, and the need to provide at least some living space for the other beings with which we share the planet.

As chair of *Frankston Environmental Friends Network*, David Cross said, "We are opposed because of the significant loss we, as a city, have had of the natural environment over recent years – the Peninsula Link development, rezoning of Peninsula Private Hospital land and loss of land at the Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve."

He also said that there was also concern over the loss of rural land and a habitat corridor.

An application has been submitted to Frankston Council to rezone the site.

Frankston Council – please, please deny this application!

(Some material sourced from Frankston Standard Leader July 15, 2013)



Death by a thousand nibbles

### 25TH ANNIVERSARY

It is planned to hold the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Friends of Edithvale Wetlands Inc, with a gathering of members and invited guests at Duck Inn on Sunday 21 October 2013. Plans include a FESWI display at Duck Inn, the AGM and special resolution to update the constitution, a catered lunch for members and guests, with invitations to past and current members of FESWI. The committee will run this, with some research in to the society archives, and a photographic display.



### WATER AT EDITHVALE

Water has at last returned to Edithvale South. Swampheens are in abundance. Herons, ibis, plovers and grebe are sampling the waters. And swans are building their nests.



# WETLAND SCENES

(In colour on our website)



## Where We Are

Duck In - Melways map 93 C 7/8. About 100 metres after pedestrian lights near bird hide on Edithvale Rd, turn right down the dirt entrance way to football oval, follow dirt track through reserve. Duck In on left.

Discovery Centre (*Melbourne Water*)- Melways map 93 D 8. On south side of Edithvale Rd, north-east corner of Edithvale Wetlands South.

Open Sunday afternoons (1:00pm – 5:00pm).

## Seaford Working Bee Dates

(First Sunday of the month)

1st September 2013

6th October 2013

3rd November 2013

10:00am – 12 noon

Ring Rex (9766 6056)

Committee Meetings held 3rd Tuesday of each month at Duck In.

Observers welcome.

## SPONSORS OF FESWI

### Corporate Members

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

Aspendale Primary School

Aspendale Gardens Primary School

Frank and Isobel Baguley's Nursery

Bird Life Australia

Bonbeach Primary School

Chelsea Heights Community Centre

Longbeach RSL

Edithvale Primary School

Frankston Primary School

Gales Marine Centre

Instant Garden Nurseries at Gardenworld Keysborough

Good Shepherd Aged Services – Mary Ville Hostel

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Seaford North Primary School

Seaford Park Primary School

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**Friends of  
Edithvale-Seafood  
Wetlands Inc.**

May 2013

Assoc No. A0017388 ABN - 95 886 101 621

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\_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

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**Your Wetland Interests?**

Bird Watching       Plants       Nature Study       Education

**Can You Help Us?**

Tree Planting       Publicity       Hide Duty       Other

Details (Other)

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Please send your payment, together with this account, to our Treasurer at:

PO Box 2031  
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## Melbourne Water

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Time to renew your membership (if not already done). See page 7