

# Aug-Oct

# 2019

## Wetland Warbler

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Clamorous Reed-Warbler

### Wetland Warbler



Number 164

#### Inside this issue:

Weekend Afternoons at the Hide	2
Snippets	3
School Visits	4
The Nursery at Edithvale	5

## SEMINAR- STRATEGIC PLANNING



On 28 September 20 members and other interested people attended FESWI's seminar

on strategic planning – our workshop for determining our vision for the future, identifying our goals and objectives going forward, and how we can achieve these.

Our main concern was our ageing active membership, and how to attract more (and younger) active members, and how to promote our group. A second concern is where does our



main direction lie going forward given that much of what we've done in the past (the main ones being establishment and consolidation of the group; enhancement of the buffer zones; and securing the restoration and protection of the wetlands) has been more or less accomplished.

On the first of the above, our facilitator Barbara Jakob suggested that we need to know more about our local population and gave us some interesting stats about the population of Edithvale, and

about the characteristics of the different generations. This, in turn, can suggest clues as to how to target different groups. Apparently, you have only about one minute to make an impression (either good or bad) so you need to craft your approach and tailor your communication according to whom you are contacting.

Methods of marketing were also

covered. Don't just tell the facts – tell a story about them as well to engage interest. And apparently, potential volunteers look for some personal benefits when they are

considering whether to participate or not, and this needs to be considered. In other words - how can we help each other?

On our second concern (above) there was no time for discussion on this. This will be in the province of the committee after seeking feedback from our members.

Thank you to all you excellent folk who attended. Your input was very much appreciated.

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

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Trevor Shewan

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97724484

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#### Website

Matthew Mitchell

Inez van Polanen Petel

#### Facebook

Alison Kuitert

Allan Broomhall

# A WEEKEND AFTERNOON AT THE HIDE

What an amazing afternoon (31<sup>st</sup> August) at the hide! I saw my first bittern. I could hear the photographers down below commenting on how well hidden it was, but it was too well hidden for me until it took off and flew in sight for quite a while before disappearing from view. That was a first! What I didn't know till Alan showed me his photos was that there was a fox a few metres away from the bittern but apparently unaware of it.

As the afternoon wore on, Lucy and I were counting cygnets (8) when we all noticed that the swans (there are a lot just now!) were all heading to the northern part of the wetlands, as if they had all decided that it was dinner time and they were going to knock off work. They congregated in one area, and that's when Lucy noticed that the fox was in the water and had a hold of a swan, pulling it under the water.

I didn't see the swan being attacked, and by the time I got my binoculars focused, the fox had let go but was still in the water. We couldn't see if there was an injured swan, so we're assuming it's okay. The swans didn't attack the fox, but just milled

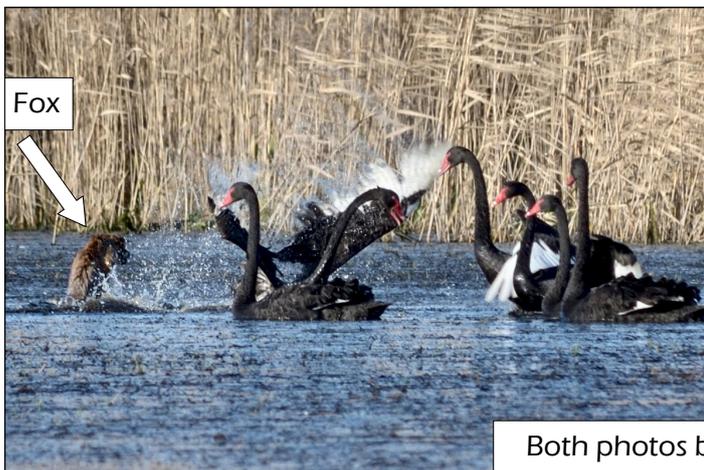
around, making sure they were between it and the cygnets, till the fox slunk back into the reeds. We couldn't hear anything, but there must have been some sort of distress call for all the swans to converge on that spot. I must google that and find out more. They had relaxed a little by the time we were closing up for the afternoon, but it's horrible to think that the fox will be back (even though it's nature and it has to eat, etc, etc!).

And something nice to end the afternoon was that the magpie goose came flying in. It swam around in front of us, and then flew off again. Very eventful!

**Ali Fulcher**

On Sunday we saw a purple swamp hen feeding one of her two fuzzy black babies. We also saw a big bully of a male swan suddenly fly in and grab a little cygnet, give it a shake and let it go. The parents were very quick to defend and later the other swans seemed to form a circle around the cygnets.

**Arlis Kempf**



Both photos by Allan Broomhall



What amazing, astonishing, astounding, staggering, startling, stunning, wonderful, marvellous, mind-boggling event is happening in October?



See Page 3 for answer.

# SNIPPETS SNIPPETS SNIPPETS

## Awards

Congratulations to Rex Chugg, Working Bee Co-ordinator at Seaford Wetlands, recipient of one of the *Best Friend Awards* organised by the *Victorian Environment Friends Network*. Rex has been a volunteer at FESWI for many years and has been involved in many facets of our organisation, most notably in the enhancement of the buffer zones. Good on you, Rex!

Our secretary, Margaret Hunter, who also volunteers with *Friends of Braeside Park* received an award on behalf of that organisation. Congratulations.

## Life Membership

Rex was also awarded a FESWI Life Membership on Saturday 28th September. Congratulations Rex.



VEFN Award



FESWI Award

## Working Bees

On the first Sundays of August and September the working bee members turned up to plant under-storey plants in the south buffer zones of Seaford Wetlands. In August nine members planted 120 plants, but in September there were fewer members, it being Fathers' Day. However, a passing member of the public took time off to pitch in and help get the last of the year's plants into the ground.

## Grants

FESWI was once again successful in receiving grants from City of Kingston (\$340), and Port Phillip and Westernport CMA (\$500). Many thanks to COK and PPWCMA. The money is to be used for equipment for Wetland Study Group activities.

## Wetland Study Group

The Wetland Study Group has been operating at half throttle during the winter months – inclement weather and few water bugs, and the group being still in its setting up/consolidation phase have put a brake on activities somewhat. Now that spring is here we will be shifting a few gears up. We are also considering changing the meeting day to a weekend morning, either instead of the present Monday morning or, as well as.

The Wetland Study Group is interested in finding out what is in the water, mud and adjacent vegetation in the wetlands. There is a short video on our website ([www.edithvale-seaford-wetlands.org](http://www.edithvale-seaford-wetlands.org)) under 'Wetlands Information' called *Hidden Wetlands* (double click for full screen). If you are interested in joining this group and find a weekend meeting (once a month) easier to attend please let us know.



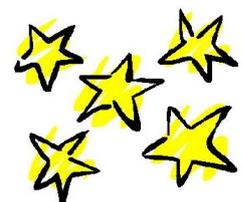
**The Annual General Meeting (of course)**



27th October 2:00pm Education Centre

Invitation coming by email or post.

**Be seen there! Be one of the COOL people!**



## SCHOOL VISITS

**F**ESWI is always pleased to host visits from school students.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> July: Woodleigh students planted 60 plants in the north western part of the buffer zone at Seaford wetlands.

These boys did another amazing job – putting in all the plants as well as shifting and spreading large piles of mulch. Thanks, boys for your great work. Thank you, too, Ranger Matt Green for your on-ground preparation and visit to the boys on the afternoon.

7<sup>th</sup> August: Lighthouse School students dropped into the hide as part of their visit to the wetlands to see more of the birds.

13<sup>th</sup> August: A small group of senior environmental students from Albert Park College visited the hide as part of their studies.

14<sup>th</sup> August: Students from Cornish College also visited the hide as part of their studies.

16<sup>th</sup> August: McKinnen College dropped into the hide as part of their wetland visit.

5<sup>th</sup> September: 14 senior students from Melbourne Girls College planted approximately 200 plants on Edithvale Common.

The girls set to the job with energy and enthusiasm. These students were a pleasure to work with – polite and friendly and lively. Thank you girls.

And thank you, too, Rangers Elliot, Scott and Dave whose background preparation facilitated the planting's smooth running.

For those who may be interested, the plants put in by the students from Melbourne Girls College were as follows:

Rytidosperma geniculatum Kneed Wallaby-grass,

Rytidosperma caespitosum Pale Rush

Common Wallaby-grass Juncus pallidus

Clematis microphylla Small-leaved Clematis



Woodleigh students put their muscles into it.



Cornish College leaves the hide for a wetland walk.



Melbourne Girls College girls get busy with planting.

**If you would like your students to visit the hide, please get in touch with us.**

**Ring Marg Hunter on 9587 0786**

# THE NURSERY AT EDITHVALE



Swan

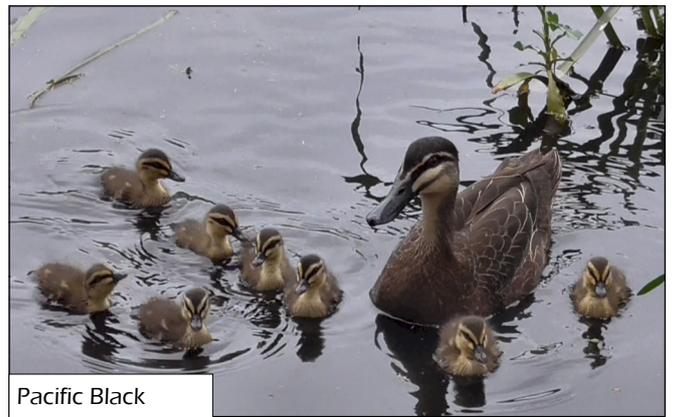
Photo: Allan Broomhall



Chestnut Teal



Chestnut Teal



Pacific Black

.....  
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Ray White, Chelsea

**Have you renewed your membership? See page 5**

**You don't want to lose you!**



**Melbourne  
Water**

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