

Jan_Feb 2018

Friends of Edithvale – Seaford Wetlands Inc.



Clamorous Reed-Warbler



Number 156

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FESWI AWARDED KINGSTON COMMUNITY GROUP OF THE YEAR

Friends of Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands Inc was pleased and honoured to accept Kingston Council's *Community Group of the Year* award.

A very special thankyou goes to the City of Kingston, Mayor Steve Staikos and fellow Councillors.

We congratulate all of the 2018 nominees who have made considerable contributions to the City of Kingston community.

It is even more pleasing given that this year marks the 30th year that FESWI has been involved in the education, protection and enhancement of the remnant wetlands of the once mighty Carrum-Carrum swamp.

The Wetlands are one of 11 in Victoria that are protected by the Ramsar Convention as Wetlands of International Importance. They are a significant stop-over and feeding ground for seventeen species of migratory birds from the northern hemisphere, most of which are protected by international treaties.

Many members of FESWI are active volunteers with a diverse range of backgrounds. Without our great volunteers and strong support from our community we would not be able to continue the significant work that has been achieved by those that have worked so tirelessly before us.

We thank all our volunteers past and present.

FRIENDS OF EDITHVALE -
SEAFORD WETLANDS INC.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

From Sarah Gregor—Melbourne Water

Phragmites grooming at Edithvale and Seaford has been happening over the past few weeks. The road side phragmites at Edithvale are being left as buffers.

Water quality testing study is starting at Edithvale and Seaford via a CAPIM study. CAPIM is a consortium of world class researchers from The University of Melbourne, Melbourne Water, DPI (Vic), RMIT, and EPA (Vic). CAPIM creates a multidisciplinary research team to address the complicated issue of understanding the impact of pollution on the aquatic environment.

E-flows studies at Seaford Wetlands are going really well. Environmental flows describe the quantity, timing, and quality of water flows required to sustain freshwater and estuarine ecosystems (Wikipedia)

Cameras are to be installed on the roof of the Edithvale Education Centre as part of the 18-19 capital project. These will send a live feed of pictures to Melbourne Water's website.

Tea-tree grooming at Seaford eastern side is continuing – the second section is being done. Buffers have been left along the road and in the middle.

From Will Steele - Melbourne Water

Mordialloc bypass – Community reference group is being set up

Edithvale Urban Cooling Project– Planting to the east of the Education Centre will go ahead this financial year.

Ramsar VAGO audit – there is a need to have an annual works plan and a management/coordinator group; there will be increased monitoring of the major priorities. The CLC could fulfil the need of the coordinator group.

From Frankston Council

A fence is being proposed along the western side of the path running through the Downs Estate, which will connect to the revegetated area further south. The water new flows in that area have resulted in a great resurgence of bird and frog life which a fence will help to protect.

Management plan for the western part of Downs Estate is envisaged comprising environment and biodiversity consultants. How to manage weeds and habitat for birds.

A contractor will be engaged to do fox tracking in the Seaford Wetlands woodlands area.

From Kingston Council

A Green Army project is underway doing mulching and revegetation work along the corridor between Edithvale Wetlands and Mordialloc creek.

There is work being done at Yammerbrook Reserve, on the garden beds - mulching and revegetation.

There is more work being done looking after the garden beds around Aspendale Gardens and the Centre Swamp Drain.



Why swim when you can ride.



Breakfast never tasted so good

FESWI ACTIVITIES

On 5th & 12th January in conjunction with Jane at the Education Centre, FESWI ran *Summer by the Sea* activities which were well attended.



21st February: FESWI hosted a visit from 18 students from Cornish College at the hide. These students were a pleasure to work with, taking their studies seriously – asking questions and working on their assignments whilst at the hide.

Later in the year they will be returning to do voluntary work.

2nd February: FESWI celebrated World Wetlands day at an evening opening of the bird hide.

10th February: FESWI held a sausage sizzle outside Chelsea Woolworths to raise money. We made a profit of \$568. Many thanks to volunteers Kate, Chris, Rosie, Inez, Paula, Rex, Sue, Margaret, Nola and Charles who manned the barbecue. A great Job well done.



Q: At what time does a duck wake up? A: At the quack of dawn.

Q: What do you call a cat that swallows a duck? A: A duck-filled-fatty-pus

Q: What do you call a duck that steals? A: A robber ducky.

Q: What did the duck say when the waitress came? A: Put it on my bill!

Q: What do ducks have with soup? A: Quackers!



A MORNING AT EDITHVALE

Jacqui Sheppard

On 18th February, a beautiful Sunday morning's weather welcomed 26 of us from *Mornington Peninsula Birdlife* to the Edithvale Wetlands, meeting at the bird hide in Edithvale Road.

We began by heading across the road to the northern side of the wetlands where the water is deeper and more permanent. Skirting the car park bush was a very quiet start to our spotting, but usually provides a few of the smaller bush birds. The early arrivals enjoyed seeing the Magpie Goose glide into the area behind the bird hide.

We walked along the bicycle track admiring the recent plantings on the adjoining oval, spotting galahs, magpies and Straw-necked Ibis all happily feeding in the open areas. Turning off the track over to the 'dog pond' rewarded us with about 6 Red-kneed Dotterels and 2 Black-fronted Dotterels which have been resident there for some time as the edges are muddy.

A pair of Red-rumped Parrots perched happily on the fence line affording the photographers a great opportunity, as with the Black-shouldered Kite also on the fence further down. The Kite had a successful dive, arising with a mouse to feed upon. (See photo) The ever-present Willy Wagtail made sure we noticed it here.

We then proceeded along the fence line trying to get a good view of the water. First views were of Pacific Black Duck and many Coots, Wood Ducks and Grebes. Several times Latham's Snipe

flushed from the grass areas near the water's edge, but you had to be lucky to be looking in the right place as they so quickly ducked down into the grass again out of sight. Proceeding past the water hole of the golf course many Wood Duck and Black Ducks were happily resting along the ridges.

We marvelled at the brilliant colour, yet so well camouflaged, of a family of Eastern Rosellas feeding in some grass. With the sun shining on it the Golden-headed Cisticola stayed perched atop a reed head for more good photos and good looks.

Around the corner, at the most northern end we had

our most interesting sightings. With the aid of a telescope, one of our eagle-eyed group picked up on a Freckled Duck and female Blue-billed Duck, noting the pointed head peak. The number of reeds can make seeing the ducks here a bit of a challenge but luck was on our side and the Freckled Duck continued past the reeds to give us all a good look at it.

Long-billed Corellas were perched in the distance and Little Corellas squawked as they flew overhead several times.

Back along the bike track to the hide took us about 1 hour 20 minutes so there was plenty of time to enjoy some birding from the recently refurbished bird hide. We were pleased to see that the Magpie Goose was still sitting in front of the hide waiting for us.

A good total of 56 birds for the day



Photo by Diane Peters

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AT SEAFORD

Migratory Birds From Sean Dooley (Birdlife)

It has been a superb season for migratory birds at Seaford this year – particularly at the southern end. 55 Latham Snipe seen in the margins at Seaford in December (2017) and 110 in January.

2,500 other migratory shore birds were counted, including 2,400 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers which comprises 3% of the world’s population. Other birds were 100 Red-necked Stints and 10 Curlew Sandpipers.

These numbers amply demonstrate the value of Seaford Wetlands.



Plants Gong Well

The plantings that *Frankston Council’s* Ranger, Matt Green, and *Frankston’s Indigenous Nursery* officer, Kim, and their respective teams organised on *National Tree Planting Day* in 2017, are growing very well and the area is looking really good.

A very successful day run by these officers is resulting in some great outcomes.



TEABAG SCIENCE

Melbourne Water is participating in a Citizen Science project run by Deakin University to investigate carbon cycling in the soils of wetlands using teabags. The project site is at the northern end of the Edithvale wetlands.

Wetlands are important for carbon capture and storage and are capable of holding up to 50 times as much carbon by area as rainforests. Some wetland areas are better carbon sinks than others but some wetlands are carbon emitters. It is important to identify which wetlands are more effective at carbon capture and storage to ensure that they can be protected. The role of wetlands in carbon storage provides a strong incentive to maintain wetlands in a healthy state and manage them in such a way as to maximize their carbon storage capability.

The method developed internationally, involves analysing the decomposition of teabags buried in the soil as a way of measuring the rate at which carbon is being released into the atmosphere

from soil. Fast decay of the tea inside the teabag indicates more carbon is being released into the atmosphere, while slower decay means that the soil is holding the carbon. The use of teabags provides a cheap and accessible method of assessment that can be applied at hundreds of sites. Research on this scale would not be feasible using expensive monitoring equipment.

The site where teabags have been installed is marked by wooden pegs as shown. The project area is outside the areas that are regularly groomed and it’s quite small and easily avoided.

We would request that if you are visiting the area you avoid walking on the site to prevent soil compaction.



Sources: Jane Petch Education Officer, Education, Customer and Strategy Melbourne Water. Deakin University’s Blue Carbon Lab.

Longbeach RSL
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