As part of the DSE Coastcare Project, FESWI ran a very successful Plant/Weed Identification Training Day on Sunday 3rd June. Whilst there were over 20 bookings, 19 people actually turned up to hear an excellent talk by Dr Graeme Lorimer.

The morning was spent on theory – who knew plants were so complicated! After lunch, the group went out into the field, and the swamp with its thick, deep, gumboot hungry mud, to do some practical work. It was fun – like being back at school again.

Thanks Graeme, and thanks to Melbourne Water, which made the Discovery Centre available – an excellent venue for this function.

All in all, a very informative (and fun) day.
WINDING UP THE GRANT FROM DSE COAST ACTION/COAST CARE

The DSE Coast Care grant is in the process of being wound up. We have achieved so much with this grant, among which are: weed management (Spiny Rush) at Seaford; revegetation and weed management at Chelsea Heights involving various groups from the community; production of two brochures (yet to be letter-boxed to residents living close to wetlands) about pets, and garden weeds and their propensity for escaping into natural reserves; plant/weed identification training day; professional, permanent weed-management displays that FESWI can exhibit at future events; contribution support to Seaford North Primary School to eradicate weeds in its bushland reserve abutting the wetlands; (a planned) trip to Point Cook Wetlands.

Many thanks to Phillip Wierzbowski (Facilitator with CoastAction/CoastCare, Port Phillip Office, DSE) who has been a tremendous help keeping us on track, and giving guidance and information.

A more detailed report will follow.

Plants growing well at revegetation site at Chelsea Heights

Receive your copy of Warbler via email

If you would like to receive your copy electronically, please let me know (by email). robin.clarey@hotmail.com

Visit FESWI website! (www.edithvale-seaford-wetlands.org)

Membership Renewal

Renewal Form on Page 9

Do it now so you don’t Forget!
SNIPPETS  SNIPPETS  SNIPPETS

Discovery Centre Opening to Public

The 15th July will have been FESWI’s first opening of the Discovery Centre to our members and the public. Michelle Riley (Melbourne Water) will have opened the building and have a staff member on hand to show some members, who have indicated willingness to do Discovery Centre Duty, how to use some of the educational facilities and sign the log books etc. Others, on the old bird hide lists will be contacted and a duty roster drawn up.

If there are others who would like to be involved please ring Robin (9786 2213).

From then it will be open on a fortnightly basis – 29th July; 12th August; 26th August; 9th September; 23rd September.

New Viewing Platform Hold-Up

The old viewing platform on Edithvale Road near the hide had been removed with the intention to replace it within a few weeks with an extended, roofed, backless platform. However, since it was removed, the fencing put up prior to the rebuilding, and the portable toilet have been taken away and no work has commenced.

This is because cultural heritage approval must be obtained before the platform can be rebuilt. This involves permission from the two local Aboriginal groups who are traditional owners. *Melbourne Water* is following up approval.

New Brochure

Because of the closure of the bird hide, we are currently re-vamping the FESWI brochure in order that all our information in it is accurate. Work on this, and our new weed brochures will commence shortly.

Working Bees

In May, Rex, Dawn, Susan, Jacqui and granddaughter planted along the new bike path at Seaford. 100 plants in all.

In June, Rex, Dawn and Lionel put in 80 plants along the south part of the bike path at Seaford which had been mulched by Frankston Council. All plantings are progressing well and most beds are now mulched. Well done team!

On Monday 25th June a team of 10 workers from the Eastern Treatment Plant Alliance met with Rex at Chelsea Heights to plant out 50 grasses and 50 trees and to do maintenance work.

In July, Rex, Dawn, Margaret and Robin worked at Chelsea Heights to do some maintenance and to spread mulch in an effort to combat the weeds.

Next Working Bee is on Sunday 4th August. Rex would love to see you there!
**SUB-COMMITTEE—NEW BIRD HIDE**

This Sub-Committee had its first meeting on 12th June convened by Jacqui Sheppard, (FESWI member )(Chairperson); and attended by Phillipa Bailey (FESWI President); Tania Ireton (Bayside Birdlife); Robin Clarey (FESWI Committee member); Andrew Silcocks (Birdlife Rep); Alison Kuiter (FESWI member); Barbara Jupp (FESWI member); Christine Cama (FESWI member); Trevor Shewan (Kingston Council).

At this initial meeting, many issues were canvassed ranging from:

Is the old building really unsalvageable? Has MW confirmed that we CAN build a new hide on their land in same location? What would be the problems/restrictions on the design and building of a new hide? How to raise the money needed? How to gain community support and involvement? Design ideas – what makes a good hide?

Lots of questions but not many answers at this stage. It was resolved that before the next meeting we would seek confirmation from MW that the hide can in fact be rebuilt; we would seek a copy of the 2nd (and damning) report on the hide’s condition; we would do some initial exploring of money raising avenues via grants and how to word them.

Next meeting 12 July.

You can help - see below

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**What you loved about the hide?**

We are seeking support statements about your experiences as either a volunteer or a visitor to the hide.

What did you love about it?

Did you have any special experiences there?

Why is it important to see it rebuilt.

Anything else you would like to say.

Please send to Alison Kuiter via email (alisonkuiter@optusnet.com.au) or post to Alison at FESWI, P.O. Box 2031, Edithvale 3196.

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**DOWN’S ESTATE CONSULTATION**

Aspect Studios, on behalf of Frankston City Council have been working on the development of a Master Plan for the Down’s Estate. Following on from the Consultation session held in October last year and subsequent surveying of Seaford residents, they have designed 4 options.

An information session for interested community groups will be held on Monday 30th July, where the four options and their opportunities and constraints will be presented. There will be an opportunity to clarify issues and ask questions. Written feedback will be welcomed until 10th August 2012. This feedback will then aid in the determination of the final design.

FESWI will be represented at this session.
**DATES TO MARK IN**

**Open Day:** FESWI will be running an Open Day on **Sunday 16th September** at Seaford North Primary School (in conjunction with the school) between 10:00am and 3:00pm.

We hope to have lots of activities and things to look at, including our two exciting new plant/weed displays (one for adults and one for kids).

We will be seeking help from our members on the day – if you know now that you can spare some time (1 – 2 hours) please ring Robin (9786 2213) or email (robin.clarey@hotmail.com). We will probably be ringing around closer to the date.

**FESWI Annual General Meeting:** The date for the AGM has been set for **Sunday 14th October** at Duck Inn, starting at 2.00 pm. The constitution will need to be updated in line with Consumer Affairs changes coming in on 1st July 2012. Speaker is still to be determined.

**Point Cook Wetlands Trip:** Planned for **Saturday 17th November**. More details as date approaches.

**URBANISATION VS GROWLING GRASS FROG**

Melbourne’s expanding urban growth boundary is forecast to hit remnant populations of one of the state’s most endangered frogs – the growling grass frog. Results of a Melbourne University survey show an almost 30% decline in the frog’s population around Melbourne over the past decade.

“There are four main areas around the city where the frog occurs and they all unfortunately coincide with where the government proposes to build new suburbs,” said Dr Heard, research fellow at Melbourne University’s school of botany.

“…we must protect high-quality wetlands and make sure they are not degraded, we need to maintain significant parkland along our creeks and we need to invest in constructing new wetlands to offset the impacts of urbanisation.”

Source: *The Age* Page 9 June 28, 2012

**A WETLANDS WALK WITH A DIFFERENCE**

On Tuesday 5 June 2012, close to World Environment Day, a group of environmental science students from Lyndale Secondary College in Dandenong came to visit the wetlands as part of their studies. As an alternative to the sodden wetlands at Edithvale, Margaret took them on a journey of discovery to the wetlands at Braeside to experience the Australian environment.

On this visit, using their school mini-bus, they also visited the Park Office and the Community Garden, as part of their visit. The group experienced, what for many of them was an unusual experience of quiet, gravel paths, with many gum trees, affected by salinity, that had fallen over. These stags are the home of many animals and live to an old age. There was evidence of rabbits and other feral animals in this section of the park. The wetlands are yet again full of water after the drought, with continued rains to keep them filled up. While there was some bird life, the school will plan a return visit in February 2013 with the aim of seeing more birds; the group enjoyed the experience and commented on the opportunities to become involved in Friends groups in the future.
**NATURE TRAIL**

John McKenzie

Students re-establishing the nature trail at Seaford North Primary School

All the grade 5/6 students worked with ten young architects and landscape planners in a special activity in the final weeks of term two. Students in groups were guided by the architects to redesign the nature trail for the near five acres of remnant bush in the school’s grounds.

Everyone had a wonderful time. The students enjoyed the practical and creative activity with an interesting group of young professionals. The architects enjoyed getting out of their offices and having the chance to work with children. An impressive range of simple but creative pieces of furniture was designed with this excellent service provided by CoDesign Studio in Carlton. The plan now is to build the pieces in term 3 with assistance from the woodwork students at Patterson River Secondary College and with luck it will be finished and ready for use on the Friends of Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands Inc. public activities day on Sunday 16th September.


**44 FIRST AVENUE**

Proposed development on this site has raised its ugly head again.

How many times do you have to fight the same battles??! This has been an on-going issue for years.

The application to rezone the land was first lodged in April 2004 and resulted in Planning Scheme Amendment C44.

It involved rezoning 1.7ha of the Urban Floodway Zone abutting the Edithvale Wetlands for a 28 lot residential subdivision. If you remember this is the block next to Edithvale Wetlands and should be part of its buffer zone as well as providing a wildlife corridor.

Barry did a marvelous job in lodging objections to it based on the following grounds:
- Adverse impact in the wildlife in the Wetlands
- Increase in flood risk
- Danger of exposing acid sulphate soils
- Reduced opportunity to establish a wildlife corridor.

As a result of our objection the applicants were subsequently asked to address the acid sulphate soil problem. After a lot of to-ing and fro-ing and amended applications, at the Kingston Council meeting on Monday 28th June, the councilors voted to overrule the officer recommendation and resolved (5 to 3) to abandon the planning scheme amendment providing for the rezoning of the land at 44 First Ave Chelsea Heights.

Now they are having another crack at it with a slightly amended proposal.

Money rules!!

FESWI will lodged an objection.

Get Well Soon!

Two of our absolute key members, Barry Ross and Les Williams, are currently experiencing health issues. Both Barry and Les have recently had major operations and are now convalescing.

Barry and Les—we wish you the speediest of speediest recoveries.
GREEN WEDGES UNDER ATTACK—AGAIN!

MEDIA RELEASE Green Wedges Coalition
16 June, 2012

New Government land grab to benefit developers, un-fettered urban sprawl destroying Melbourne’s green wedges.

In the latest assault on Melbourne’s green wedges, Planning Minister Matthew Guy plans to take another 6000 ha from the green wedges to give Melbourne more urban sprawl and to concrete over more fertile farmland and environmentally significant wetlands, grasslands and woodlands. This is subject to a vote in Parliament which will bring huge unearned windfall profits to landholders, developers and their lobbyists, including Liberal party donors and fund-raisers: an estimated $500 million for one 103 ha property (see media coverage: http://www.theage.com.au/opinion/political-news/liberal-donors-win-big-from-rezoning-20120613-20am6.html; Coalition policy is for another UGB review is due in two years, about the time of the next election.

This latest Green Wedge land grab will create continuing uncertainty around the Urban Growth Boundary by proposing 14 areas to be excised from the green wedges for urban growth and recommending a further 16 areas for “possible future review.” This signals that Melbourne will go on sprawling for as long as the Coalition Government stays in office. A further 20 green wedge areas were ruled out for urban development.

This latest green wedge land grab is particularly deplorable as it is not based on any demonstrated need for more development land. The Growth Areas Authority recently estimated that the Growth Corridor Plans (for the 43,600 ha of land rezoned in 2010) would provide 20 to 50 years’ land supply for the continued urban sprawl which most of us don’t want. Every representative survey conducted, from Manningham’s in 2002 to Kingston’s in 2011, finds overwhelming majorities want green wedges protected for environmental conservation, agriculture, parklands, landscape value and recreation.

It appears to breach federal requirements that environmental strategies to protect endangered species including Southern Brown Bandicoot, Growling Grass Frog and Golden Sun Moth must be finalised first and that urban development plans must work around them. None of these environmental strategies have been finalised and the SBB strategy has been postponed for six months. Meanwhile land that spans a proposed bandicoot habitat corridor in Casey has been approved for excision from the green wedge. See VNPA media release.

We are calling on Matthew Guy to listen to communities, abandon plans for illogical incursions and return to policies to protect the green wedges. This may disappoint the developers and property consultants, but will please everyone else.

If any of us knows a Liberal or National MP well enough to make a case to them to vote this down, it would to change their votes to defeat it, so please let’s talk to them.

This statement may be attributed to Rosemary West, Joint Coordinator, Green Wedges Coalition, 0418 554 799

You Can Help!

Below is the website to find a list of Victorian MPs.
From there, click “List Selected MPs” to get email and address information.

Send an email to express your concern.
Seaford Working Bee Dates

Seaford

(First Sunday of the month)
5th August
2nd September
7th October
10:00am – 12 noon
Ring Rex (9766 6056)

Committee Meetings held 3rd Monday 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 Edithvale Ex Services Club
Aspendale Primary School
Aspendale Gardens Primary School
Frank and Isobel Baguley’s Nursery
Bird Life Australia
Bonbeach Primary School
Chelsea Heights Community Centre
Chelsea RSL
Edithvale Primary School
Frankston Primary School
Gales Marine Centre
Instant Garden Nurseries at Gardenworld Keysborough
Good Shepherd Aged Services – Mary Ville Hostel
Audrey Harding
Hasuval Engineering Service Pty Ltd
Tania Ireton
McDonald’s Family Restaurant, Chelsea Heights
Melbourne Water, Waterways & Drainage
Mordialloc College
Mordialloc Primary School
April Nutter
Parkdale Secondary School
Peninsula Pedallers Inc
Presbyterian Ladies College
Ray White, Chelsea
Rotary Club of Aspendale
Seaford North Primary School
Seaford Park Primary School

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 fortnightly (1:00pm — 5:00pm).
May 2012

Name:__________________________________________

Address:________________________________________

__________________________________ Post Code_______

Email:__________________________________________

Annual Subscription

☐ $10.00     Individual
☐ $15.00     Family
☐ $5.00      Concession
☐ $20.00     Corporate
☐ $         Donation

Your Wetland Interests?

Bird Watching ☐     Plants ☐     Nature Study ☐     Education ☐

Can You Help Us?

Tree Planting ☐     Publicity ☐     Hide Duty ☐     Other ☐

Details (Other)

_________________________________________________________

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

PO Box 2031
EDITHVALE 3196
Annual Subscription Time!!

It’s that time again.
The form is on Page 7.
Fill it out now, before you forget and post it off.

Disregard if you’ve joined within the last year