

# Mar-Apr 2018

Friends of Edithvale – Seaford Wetlands Inc.



Clamorous Reed-Warbler

Number 157



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## Wetland Warbler

# RAILWAY CROSSING AT EDITHVALE

The Environmental Effects Study (EES) on the trench option at the Edithvale Road railway crossing has been completed and is available to the public.

The purpose of the EES was to describe potential effects of the Edithvale and Bonbeach level crossing removal projects on the environment and recommend ways to avoid, mitigate or manage these impacts.

The key findings were:

- The EES found that trenches are feasible at both Edithvale and Bonbeach, and that the level crossing works would not impact the Edithvale– Seaford Wetlands

- This is because groundwater changes resulting from the project are highly unlikely to occur closer than one kilometre from the Edithvale Wetlands.

- Any other potential impacts were considered to be minor and could be managed effectively through environmental processes.

FESWI is a little more cautious and is seeking expert hydrological opinion to verify that the proposed approach is valid or has weaknesses. The report is silent on any independent review of the groundwater modelling and the mitigation measures proposed.

FESWI has a submission on the Edithvale and Bonbeach EES and the related draft planning scheme amendments in early May, and we had a presence at a Directions Hearing later in May. FESWI will consider making an objection at a Panel Hearing in early June.

Our expectation is that there will be careful monitoring for years, of the trench should it go ahead, and there be contingency plans in place for unexpected issues and problems that may occur in the future.

## FRIENDS OF EDITHVALE - SEAFORD WETLANDS INC.

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## INDIGENOUS NURSERIES



**Frankston Indigenous Nursery** opens on the 1st Saturday of each month 9am-1pm It is also open on Wednesday's 9am-3pm. 7 McMannis Way (Off McCulloch Avenue) Seaford 3198 (next to SES) Melway Ref: 99 E8

**Carrum Indigenous Nursery** opens Fridays and Saturdays -11 am to 4 pm - for sales; and welcomes volunteers on Tuesdays and Fridays between 11 am and 4 pm. Learmonth Reserve, Thompson Rd & Learmonth Rd, Patterson Lakes VIC 3197

# HIDE IS CLOSED

Water has dried up at Edithvale South. Some may feel that this is a bad thing but the Edithvale Wetlands are ephemeral wetlands and typically have two seasons – wet and dry. It is important that the wetlands do dry up because it gives the Sea Club Rush (*Bulboschoenus caldwellii*), a chance to grow, which then provides much of the food for the following breeding season. No water, of course, means no birds so the hide is closed until further notice.



FEWSI continues to open the Education Centre twice a month on Sundays.



## DUCKING FOR COVER

### BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA—GREAT RESULT

The Freckled Duck is one of our rarest waterbirds, so a historically high count of 1,500 of the birds at Lake Bael Bael in northern Victoria at the end of February, would normally be cause for celebration.

However, at the time these unprecedented high numbers were reported by *BirdLife Australia* members and other observers, Lake Bael Bael and adjacent wetlands in the Kerang Lakes were not protected from the shooters that were preparing to gather in the area for the opening of the Victorian duck season.

*BirdLife Australia* made urgent and emphatic representations to Victoria’s Game Management Authority (GMA), the statutory body that oversees duck hunting in the state, successfully arguing that the wetland must be closed to shooting to protect the Freckled Ducks—listed as Endangered under Victorian law—along with the 30,000–40,000 other waterbirds also seeking refuge in the lake’s waters.

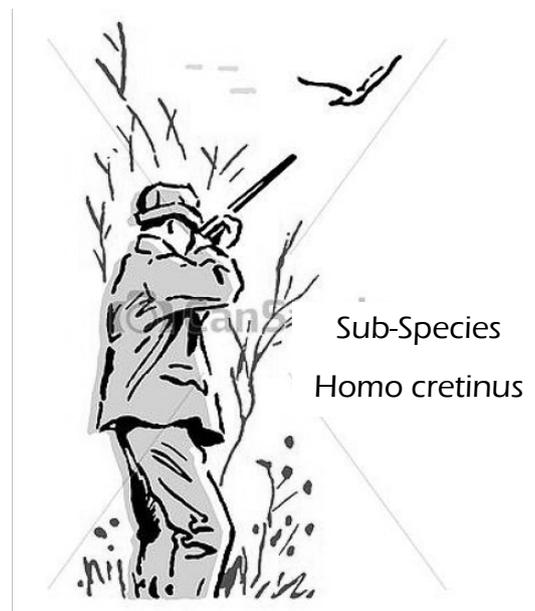
A handful of other wetlands harbouring smaller but still significant numbers of threatened and protected birds such as Freckled and Blue-billed Ducks, Australasian Shovelers and Brolgas, were also closed to shooters.

Other wetlands with significant numbers of threatened species such as the Australasian Bittern and Curlew Sandpiper received only partial protection, which will at least minimise disturbance to some degree. In the end, 12 Victorian wetlands have been closed or partly closed to shooting.

The time to end this annual farce is now. The only solution to stop the slaughter of protected waterbirds is to end duck shooting season once and for all.

Source: *BirdLife Australia*.

Editor’s Note: This is a great result (a near record number of wetlands this year - the best result in 32 years) for *BirdLife Australia* volunteers and conservation campaigners, and FESWI congratulates you whole heartedly. Duck hunting is an affront to all who care about the well-being of our fellow sentient beings and must end.



# SNIPPETS SNIPPETS SNIPPETS

## Clean Up Australia

On 4<sup>th</sup> March FESWI hosted a *Clean Up Australia* event at Seaford south with the help of 15 people including a number of our members. Many thanks to Rex, Denise, Lorraine, Bob and Jacqui for your support. About 13 bags of rubbish was collected around the South Pond plus a chair and some assorted iron mongery. The oddest item was a mournful looking teddy bear in good nick but very grubby.



## Hide Renovations

The hide renovations – replacing the fascia boards, guttering, down pipes, laser light roofing around flag pole and some rotting roof beams – were completed in the first week of March and the hide looks so much better for it. Many thanks to Mark Dreyfus OC MP for his help in facilitating our grant application for \$7,250.00 from the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (Stronger Communities



Before



After

## Planting

Planting activities have resumed on the first Sunday of the month between 10:00am – 12 noon. Venue will be Austin Road, Seaford. There is nothing more satisfying than planting out trees, seeing them grow over the years providing shade, habitat, enhanced air quality and aesthetics. Come along and experience it for yourselves!

## Theft and Graffiti

Unfortunately, that particular element of society has been at it again. Firstly, there was the removal of the chain and all the padlocks on the hide gate and the side vehicle-access gate (leaving the possibility of damage and kangaroo escape); then a week or so later came the theft of the second replacement padlock *and* the keysafe on the hide gate.

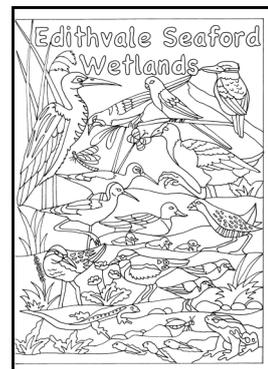
During this, graffiti was discovered all over the roller door at Duck In, and on the supporting structures under the Education Centre.

One can only hope for karma!



## Colouring Books

FESWI has had printed a new wetland colouring book which is not only follows the current style of colouring books – lots of detail, but is very informative as well. It has been beautifully illustrated by FESWI member Alison Kuitert. Many thanks to Frankston Council for its grant of \$500 which made this possible.

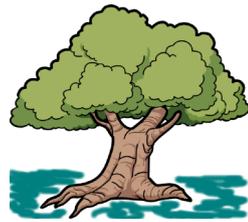


# EDITHVALE URBAN COOLING PROJECT

Lack of sufficient vegetation cover is a defining feature of highly developed urban areas. It is also a major contributor to the Urban Heat Island (UHI). Therefore, increased urban vegetation is highlighted as a mainstream technique to mitigate the UHI effect.



Vegetation has a three-way cooling effect in urban areas. Apart from the obvious cooling by shading and providing cooler surfaces to reduce Mean Radiant Temperature (MRT), vegetation facilitates UHI mitigation via evapotranspiration (trees lose water through their leaves and



in the process of evaporating this water, heat is used up; the process of photosynthesis also helps cool by taking even more solar energy out of the equation. Suitable species selection and planting



design with taller vegetation – shrubs and trees – can also help channel cooling breezes to where they are needed.

Source: Low carbon Living CRC: *Guide to Urban Cooling Strategies*

Melbourne Water is developing an Urban Cooling Project at Edithvale this financial year, to take place on land east of the Education Centre. The plan is to legitimise a regularly used, but informal, pathway through the area by properly constructing it then shading it. Community involvement in the planting phase will be sought.



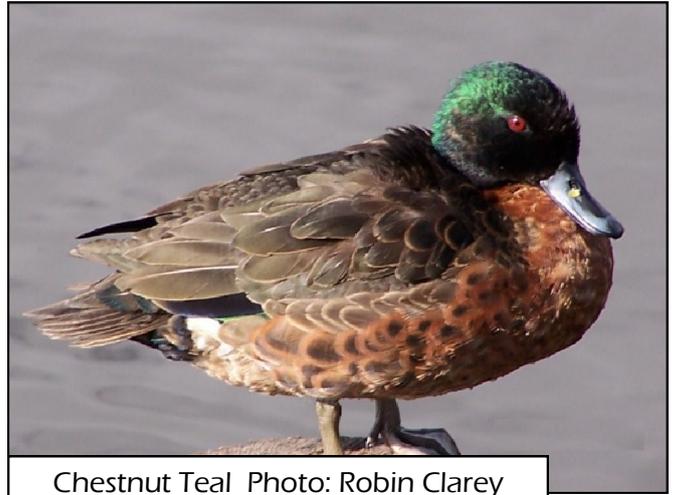
Melbourne Water is working in partnership with students from RMIT on this project. Pictured (below) are Siobhan, Andrew and Dana who made a site visit on 4<sup>th</sup> April, hosted by FESWI.



# WETLAND DUCKS



Pink-eared Duck Photo: Kevin Kirk



Chestnut Teal Photo: Robin Clarey



Blue-billed Duck Photo Steve McDonald



Grey Teal Photo Steve McDonald

Some of our beautiful birds currently being slaughtered by hunters.

VINTAGE LEUNIG

### The Two Depressing Things

A most depressing thing occurs  
But no one minds and no one stirs;  
Which means you've ended up with two  
Depressing things depressing you.



Leunig

The Age April 2018

Longbeach RSL  
Tania Ireton  
Viridans Pty Ltd

Patterson River Golf Club  
Edithvale Family And Children's  
Centre

Peninsula Pedallers,  
Sonya Kilkenny  
Ray White, Chelsea



**Melbourne  
Water**

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