

# Mar-April 2021

Wetland Warbler



Number 171

## Inside this issue:

Sad Losses	2
Visits to the Wetlands	4
<i>Goodenia humilis</i>	5
Rakali	6



Clamorous Reed-Warbler

## Wetland Warbler

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



cautious about driving through these and wear suitable footwear for wetland conditions. It is also possible to park over near the Bowling Club.

Your management committee is meeting face to face again each month in a room at the Longbeach RSL. We are most grateful to them for this facility. Any member who is interested can attend our meetings. Contact the Secretary for time and date. Usually, the third Wednesday evening at 7.30pm.

The old Duck In storage and meeting building is to be closed and returned to Melbourne Water. We are currently dealing with all the contents and Robin Clarey and Jim Wilson have done a sterling job organising this. The trailer will be fitted with mobile equipment to restart the Wetland Water Study Group which has been temporarily discontinued.

Please feel free to email or phone me if you wish to discuss anything about FESWI. The website is also a good way to contact us.

Rosalie Cooper  
President.

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

Assoc No. A0017388A  
ABN - 95 886 101 621

P O BOX 2031,  
EDITHVALE VIC 3196

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

<https://www.facebook.com/edithvaleseafordwetlands/>

**President** Rosalie Cooper  
0409 388 066

**Vice President** Robin Clarey  
9786 2213

**Secretary** Margaret Hunter  
9587 0786

**Treasurer** Scott King  
0404 045 898

#### Committee

Rex Chugg  
Trevor Shewan  
Jim Wilson (Handy Man)  
Matthew Mitchell  
Clare Bracey (Newsletter)  
Paula McCartney (Newsletter)

#### Seaford W'Bees

Rex Chugg 9766 6056

#### Bird Hide Roster

Robin Clarey 9786 2213

#### Guided Tours

Marg Hunter 9587 0786

#### Newsletter

Robin Clarey 9786 2213

#### Warbler Collator

Cheryl Meier 9772 4484

#### Membership Database

Inez van Polanen Petel  
9774 2664

#### Website

Matthew Mitchell  
Inez van Polanen Petel

#### Facebook

Alison Kuitert  
Allan Broomhall

#### Wetland Study Group

Jim Wilson 0408 975 410

#### GREAT WIN FOR ENVIRONMENT VICTORIA AND COMMUNITY ACTION

On 30 March, Victorian Planning Minister Richard Wynne announced that AGL's gas import terminal would have "unacceptable" environmental impacts, and that rejecting it was "the right outcome for the local community, the environment, and Victoria as a whole." Good news!

## SAD LOSSES

It is with great sadness that we report the recent deaths of two of our members (distantly related) each after a long illness.

Roy Proudley was a member right from the start (1989) and participated enormously in our earlier FESWI days, planting, weeding, attending to all sorts of jobs, and doing artwork for brochures and displays. Then the family moved out of the area. many years ago.

Marcia Davis was also a long-term member (joining in 2003) who helped out on planting days.

Although neither has been active in recent years their valuable contributions are an important part of FESWI's legacy and strength.

We extend our sympathies to the families.

Marcia taking a break at *National Tree Day*, July 2002



## IT'S ALL HAPPENING AT DUCK IN

As mentioned in the President's Report, FESWI is moving out of Duck In, a Melbourne Water building on Edithvale Common, that it has had the use of for over 25 years.

Over that time, FESWI has accumulated a lot of equipment and display material (and a lot of rubbish). We have given quite a lot of equipment away to other environmental organisations, held a number of working bees to clean out the rubbish, and are presently looking for storage space for items we wish to keep.

In doing this, what became evident was the 1,000's of hours put in by 100's of members over the years to enhance and protect and educate about the wetlands.

The committee sincerely thanks the seven volunteers - Margaret Brown, Denise, Helen Corcoran, Paula McCarthy, Marg Hunter, Jim Wilson and Robin Clarey who turned up on 14<sup>th</sup> April to clean out the rubbish and prepare it for final removal.

Then on 17<sup>th</sup> April, two volunteers, Clayton Fenech and Jeff Harger came to move the heavy equipment from upstairs to downstairs.

And finally on 19<sup>th</sup> April, a *Working for Victoria* team did a marvellous job in loading the rubbish into a skip, both of which (the team and the skip) were provided by Kingston Council.

Many thanks to Lee James (and Kingston Council) for his continuing help with our departure..



## PROPOSED PARK RUNS AT SEAFORD WETLANDS

As many of you will have read in an email to all our members there is a proposal being put up for consideration by Frankston Council that parkrun Australia be allowed to conduct a weekly 5 km run around part of Seaford Wetlands. These events are popular and have the potential to attract many 100's of runners.

Whilst the Friends of Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands Inc (FESWI) is supportive of encouraging people to commune with nature, and of promoting fitness, FESWI has serious concerns about the choice of the Seaford Wetlands for the weekly parkrun event, and the apparent disregard for the environmental sensitivity of this Ramsar protected wetlands. Such events are meant to be run in parks, not reserves.

The event is to be run though the buffer zones on the eastern side. The whole point of buffer zones is to protect sensitive environmental areas from human disturbance and to provide additional habitat for related species. FESWI believes that a weekly event of 100's of people running through the buffer zone is an unacceptable disturbance in the very thing created to prevent this.

Interestingly, the late Les Williams (former president and co-founder of FESWI), after securing wider buffer space at the edge of Edithvale Wetlands made comment in a 2001 Warbler about " ... trials regularly emerging as ill-informed or ambitious groups believe the buffer zone is a handy patch of open space for recreational activities. ... Mankind has an appalling record of doing things that result in "too late for sorries."

Thank you to all who write to the Frankston Council expressing concern.

If you would like to copy your email to Parkrun Australia, that would be excellent. You can do it by Ctrl/click on [Submit a request – parkrun Support](#) and fill in the boxes until you get to the Description Box—then paste in your email. It will be sent to the Australian office.



We shall go on to the end .... we shall fight in our living rooms ..... we shall fight on our Ipads.... we shall fight on our computers .....



Centre (ephemeral) ponds, Seaford



South pond, Seaford



Sunrise over the main lagoon, Seaford



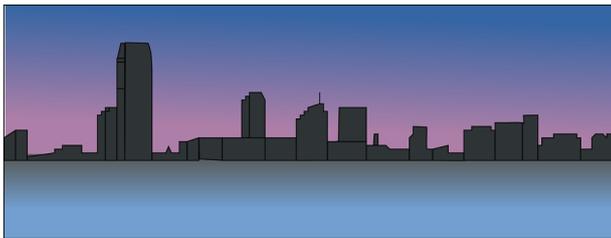
Australian Ibis at Seaford

# VCE STUDENTS VISIT WETLANDS

Marg Hunter

In March 2021, a group of 12 VCE students from Minaret College in Springvale visited the Edithvale Wetlands to learn about urban development and other threats around the wetlands in both Edithvale and Seaford.

We visited the Edithvale Common and discussed the historical and environmental aspects of the role of the Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands in the local area - the development of other uses of the wetlands and the growth of new suburbs since 1990 including Aspendale Gardens and apartments looking onto the adjoining wetlands areas.



Due to the LXRA and freeway works, impacting on traffic, the group then went down Wells Road to Patterson Lakes for a further look at the growth in urban areas, apartments, and factories and complementary developments, and other uses in Wells Road to Carrum.

There were lots of questions and the students enjoyed their visit to the wetlands,



# VISIT BY U3A WALKERS

Robin Clarey

On a lovely morning on the 6<sup>th</sup> May, intrepid members of the Mornington U3A Walking Group walked from Carrum to the Austin Road lookout at the south pond of Seaford Wetlands, where I was waiting to talk to them about the Seaford Wetlands.

Thinking they might have been feeling a bit weary, and not wanting to stand around for too long I kept the talk short, but they were a bright lot and asked lots of questions. What a pleasant way to spend a sunny morning!

FESWI appreciates the opportunity to talk to all sorts of community and school groups and welcomes enquiries.

# THE WOODLEIGH WORKERS



On the afternoon of the 4<sup>th</sup> May, seven Year 8 students and two teachers turned up at Seaford Wetlands for the first of their three visits under the Woodleigh School Community Partnership Program

On this occasion their job was to spread mulch around the plants in the south-eastern buffer zone. As you can probably imagine, this job can be truly tiring but these young folk (and the three older ones too!) kept up a great pace.

They did a marvellous job in shifting two large piles of mulch. Like previous Woodleigh students we've had at Seaford, these students were friendly, polite and helpful. Well done to you all and thank you so much for your help.

Many thanks, too, to Matt Green, Ranger, for his help in preparing it all for us.



## *Goodenia humilis*

Clare Bracey



**Common name:** Swamp Goodenia

**Plant type:** Perennial herb

**Description:** Grows up to 20cm high with soft, hairy elongated green leaves. Flowers are bright yellow and grow in clusters on zig zag stems.

**Flowering season:** November to March

**Habitat:** The natural habitat is in or around swamps and damp areas in woodlands and grasslands.

*Goodenia humilis* is native to south-eastern Australia, and is common in Victoria. It is a carpeting ground cover that provides habitat for small animals like frogs and reptiles. The bright yellow flowers are also butterfly attracting. Because swamp goodenia is a hardy groundcover, it is an attractive plant to grow in moist or poorly drained garden areas. Swamp goodenia can tolerate being submerged under water and drying out, making it perfect for the edge of frog attracting ponds.

Photo source:

<http://wsbn.org.au/plants/goodenia-humilis/>

## WATERWAY CSI - INTERESTING RESULTS

Last November a Waterway CSI project (between Melbourne Water and EnviroDNA) was set up which involved the cooperation of a number of environmental groups. On a particular date, at a particular time the various groups collected water samples from various sites around Melbourne and sent them off to EnviroDNA which analysed the DNA found in the water to identify the vertebrate species whose DNA found their way into the sample sites.

FESWI took samples from the south pond at Seaford Wetlands for the project. At least 26 species were recorded from the eDNA analysis of water samples collected (some surprising) - 1 fish, 3 frogs, 6 mammals, 16 birds. Unfortunately, its habitat rating was poor.

Likely red wattlebird *Anthochaera* sp.

Genus of dabbling ducks *Anas* sp

Domestic goose\* or black swan *Anser anser* or *Cygnus atratus*

Dog\* *Canis* sp

Australian wood duck *Chenonetta jubata*

Genus of ravens *Corvus* sp.

Cat\* *Felis catus*

Genus of small, freshwater fish *Galaxias* sp, ^

Common moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa* Chicken x *Gallus gallus*

Australian magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*

Eastern banjo frog *Limnodynastes dumerilii*

Striped marsh frog *Limnodynastes peronii*

Spotted marsh frog *Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*

Eastern grey kangaroo *Macropus giganteus* ^

Noisy miner *Manorina melanocepala*

Crested pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes*

Rabbit\* *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

Blue-billed duck *Oxyura australis* ^

Australasian swamphen *Porphyrio melanotus*

Common ringtail possum *Pseudocheirus peregrinus*

Spotted turtle-dove\* *Streptopelia chinensis*

Common starling\* or mynax\* *Sturnus vulgaris* or *Acridatheres tristis*

Rainbow lorikeet *Trichoglossus moluccanus*

Common brushtail possum *Trichosurus vulpecula*

Genus that includes blackbirds\* *Turdus* sp

\* Introduced species; ^ trace amounts only

# RAKALI OR WATER RAT



Photo Source:: Wikipedia,

Whilst cycling along the Eel Race Creek, which borders the northern boundary of the Seaford Wetlands, I notice a what I think was a water rat (or rakali) swimming in the water near the bank. He/she was motoring along at a great speed with occasional dives under water. It was given the aboriginal name – rakali – to avoid the pejorative word ‘rat’ by Environment Australia.

I’m pretty sure it was a rakali because some weeks ago I found, on the road bordering the eastern boundary of the wetlands, a dead rakali (poor beastie) identifiable by its thick fur and the white tip on its tail. (See photo).

It is distributed in permanent water systems in Australia, New Guinea and offshore island. It is a well-

adapted semi-aquatic and territorial species which is mostly solitary.

Rakali feeds on a wide range of prey including large insects, crustaceans, mussels and fishes, and even frogs, lizards, small mammals and water birds. It forages by swimming underwater. Once it catches its prey, it usually carries it back to a regular feeding site.

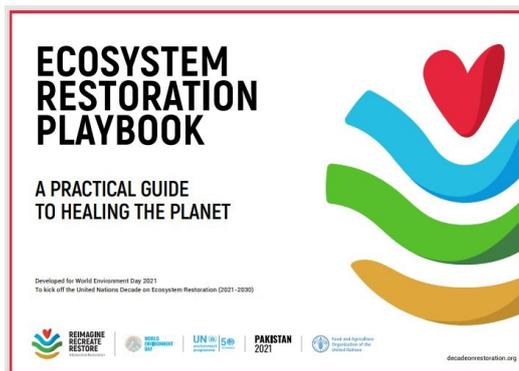


Although native rodents are usually nocturnal, the rakali is most active around sunset and may even forage during the day.

The burrow is usually hidden among vegetation and built along the banks of rivers and lakes. The round entrance has a diameter of about 15 cm.

How nice it is to discover yet another denizen of our amazing wetlands!

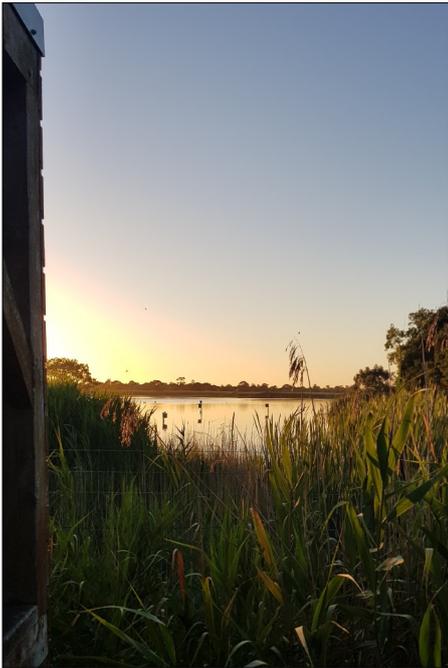
Information Source: Wikipedia,



This 21-page guide describes approaches to restoring eight key types of ecosystem – forests, farmlands, grassland and savannahs, rivers and lakes, oceans and coasts, towns and cities, peatlands, and mountains. It also lays out how all parts of society – from individuals and community groups to businesses and governments – can become part of #GenerationRestoration, a global movement to restore ecosystems everywhere for the good of people and nature.

Download at [Ecosystem Restoration Playbook \(worldenvironmentday.global\)](https://www.worldenvironmentday.org/decade-ecosystem-restoration)

# A PICTURE'S WORTH .....



Sunrise from the viewing platform at Edithvale South, Photo: Susan O'Brien



Tawny Frogmouth, Photo: Steve McDonald



Water Ribbons outside Hide, Photo: Robin Clarey



Hide car park in early days. Photo from Kaye Proudley



Ancient sea shells around the Dog Pond, Edithvale North. Photo: Robin Clarey



Magpie Geese, Edithvale North . Photo: Steve McDonald



Pobblebonk Frog, Seaford Photo: Robin Clarey

## Corporate Members

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



Peninsula Pedallers,  
Sonya Kilkenny  
Ray White, Chelsea

Patterson River Golf Club  
Edithvale Family And Children's  
Centre

Longbeach RSL  
Tania Ireton  
Viridans Pty Ltd

**Production of this newsletter funded through**



**Friends of  
Edithvale – Seaford  
Wetlands Inc.**

If undeliverable please return to:  
PO Box 2031  
EDITHVALE 3196



**PRINTED BY THE OFFICE OF  
MARK DREYFUS, MHR FOR ISAACS**