

Nov-Dec Merry Christmas 2019

Wetland Warbler

Number 165



Clamorous Reed-Warbler

Wetland Warbler

REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This is our 31st year of operation as the *Friends of the Edithvale-Seafood Wetlands Incorporated* and has proved to be another busy and challenging year. But nevertheless successful due to the commitment of our many active members and our committee.

Over the past 12 months, we have worked with other like-minded organisations to conserve our wetland reserves and to protect the flora and fauna; carried out numerous tree plantings; applied for and were successful in a number of community grants; represented the interests of FEWSI on a number of committees; maintained the opening of the hide and the Education Centre on weekends; and maintained a Facebook page and a website.

All of this is clear evidence that this group continues to operate successfully and this can be clearly attributed to our amazing volunteers and committee members.

The core committee has comprised **Robin Clarey** as Vice President, Bird Hide Coordinator and Newsletter

Editor, **Margaret Hunter** as Secretary and Visitor Liaison, **Rosalie Cooper** as Treasurer, **Rex Chugg** as Tree Planting Coordinator, **Inez van Polanen Petel** as Membership Database Manager, and **Trevor Shewan** as Committee Member.



Alison Kuitert has continued to support the committee particularly in regards to the bird hide, and our Facebook page together with **Allan Broomhall**, who has really stepped up this year to help with matters concerning the hide and with Facebook. **Matthew Mitchell** is our Website Manager. **Cheryl Meier** continues to assist with the newsletter distribution. **Sue Telfer**, who did so much for FESWI last year in regards to our submission to the Public Hearing into the Environmental Effects Statement (EES) concerning the railway trench option at Edithvale Road railway crossing, has taken up the cudgels in defense of the birds in the matter of the Mordialloc Freeway; and **Dorothy Meadows** has completed our book of the history of FESWI called *Glimpses*.

Some Hits - New Initiatives

1. Our new initiatives this year

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FRIENDS OF EDITHVALE - SEAFORD WETLANDS INC.

Assoc No. A0017388A

ABN - 95 886 101 621

P O BOX 2031,
EDITHVALE VIC 3196

www.edithvale-seafood-wetlands.org

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

President

Vice President Robin Clarey
9786 2213

Secretary Margaret Hunter
9587 0786

Treasurer Rosalie Cooper
9772 8468

Committee

Rex Chugg

Inez van Polanen

Trevor Shewan

Jim Wilson

Colin Franklin

Pam Rothfield

Matthew Mitchell

Genevieve Bond

Gus Griffin

Seafood 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

AGM REPORT CONTINUED

have been firstly the formation of the Wetland Study Group with **Jim Wilson** as co-convenor. This group was formed with the view to discovering at what else, apart from the birds and the frogs, lived in our wetlands, with the initial emphasis on the water. And to give our members another avenue for getting actively involved in the organization.

- The second initiative has been the revamping of an old cassette about our wetlands that went with slides (put together by Ross Nelson) into a more modern format – DVD with up to date photos and videos to complement the narrative. **Allan Broomhall** has undertaken this task for us.
- We have also revised and reprinted our flagship pamphlet via the good offices of **Inez van Polanen**.
- And more recently our Strategic Planning Meeting organized by **Inez van Polanen** and **Rosalie Cooper**.

Some Misses

- FESWI has had only one presence at a community event this year – *Summer by the Sea* in early January, (FESWI ran activities on two separate days in conjunction with the Education Centre) being the only one. We hope to rectify this next year, kicking off this year with a presence at Seaford's *Love Where You Live* event on the afternoon of Saturday 16th November.
- The electricity has been cut off at Duck In and will not be reconnected (too expensive). This compromises our occupancy to some extent, but still usable.
- We are still in the process in getting a licence from Melbourne Water to oper-

ate the bird hide. Hopefully this will be resolved in the next few weeks.

Membership stands at 186. This includes 32 honorary members, 6 life memberships and 28 associations/schools.

School and Community Visits

Over the course of the year FESWI has hosted (or visited) 13 schools and community groups at the wetlands. We would like to expand this aspect of our activities in the future.

Other Activities

Clean Up Australia Day

On this day in March, 12 volunteers turned up to help FESWI's version of *Clean Up Australia*. A massive thank you to Jim, Renae, Jacqui, Silvana & Isi, Cathy, Arlis, Denise, Helen, Jeff and Craig who worked solidly for the two hours and made such a difference to the hide and Duck In surrounds.

Representation on Other Committees

FESWI is represented at *Client Liaison Committee* (Robin and Margaret); *Frankston Environmental Friends Network* (Robin); *Port Phillip Conservation Council* (Matthew Mitchell); *Level Crossing Removal Project* (Margaret); *Healthy Waterways Strategy* (Margaret); and *Public Spaces and Environment Advisory Committee CoK* (Margaret); We also work collaboratively with both Kingston and Frankston Councils.

As a one-off - at a half-day workshop of stakeholders to gather input to help develop the Down's Estate *Ecological Management Plan*, three members attended - Rex, Margaret and Robin.

Membership Training

FESWI members have attended a couple of training workshops in the past few months.



AGM REPORT CONTINUED

The first was a two-day *Digital Story Telling Workshop* in which participants learnt techniques in story canvassing, interviewing, video filming and editing in order to promote their organisations' work. Sue, Marina and Robin attended.

The second was a workshop on *Social Media* training. Rosalie and Margaret attended. The less experienced users of Facebook, including Rosalie, were shown how to approach the job of administrator for a local group and discussed some of the positive and negative ways of using it.

Seaford Working Bees

Rex Chugg

Another year has passed. We started a little later than usual. The weather was kind to us, we were lucky that rain came after each planting. The group planted about 450 tubes – all understorey. Thank you to my team of volunteers: Jacqui, Lorraine, Greg, Robin, Fiona, Dan, and Denise and the odd passer-by who stopped to help plant.

I also went to visit to visit areas that have been planted over the past five years – it is so rewarding to see the results. The Chelsea Heights Project that was started in 2009 is all looking good. Nine beds are well established – just like a forest over six meters tall.

Education Centre

FESWI continues to work with Melbourne Water to open the Education Centre every second and fourth Sunday of the month from 1pm- 5pm.

Bird Hide

The bird hide re-opened on the first Saturday in July after a three month closure. The first three weekends after that saw 80-90 visitors.



Migratory bird populations last December-January were pretty massive: 2,000 Sharp-tails at Seaford, then over 3,000 at Edithvale. 115 Snipe at Seaford

Grants

In the past year FESWI has been successful with its grant applications from *Frankston Council, City of Kingston, Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority* and *Melbourne Water*. Altogether about \$2,150.

Award

Earlier this year, out of the blue FESWI received an *Exceptional Contribution Award* from the *River Health Incentives Program (MW)* together with a \$100 Gift Card. Thank you Melbourne Water..

And more recently, Rex Chugg was awarded a FESWI Life Membership on Saturday 28th September. Congratulations Rex.

In Conclusion

The Committee whole-heartedly thanks all our members for their continued support , especially our active volunteers who do such an amazing job.



Red-browed Finch Photo: Steve McDonald



Black-fronted Dotterel Photo: Steve McDonald

SNIPPETS SNIPPETS SNIPPETS

Love Where You Live

On the afternoon of Saturday 16th November, FESWI participated in a *Love Where You Live* event in Seaford (a community initiative by Frankston Council).

This opportunity was used to showcase our wetlands - both Seaford and Edithvale: In our marquee and around it, we set up many displays including migratory birds, frogs, water bugs and insect life cycles; made available pamphlets and other materials for visitors and children; and had a number of interactive activities for children.

Thank you Jim, Tina, Margaret, and Rex.



Parliamentary Inquiry

Globally, there has been a loss of wetlands since European settlement in Australia, and Victoria is no exception. As well as threats relating to hydrology, invasive plants or animals, activities and recreational use, the impact of climate change is also an emerging threat to wetlands' ecological character.

Effectively managing these threats is critical to maintaining the character of Victoria's Ramsar wetlands. (Auditor-General's comments; *Meeting Obligations to Protect Ramsar Wetlands*; Victorian Auditor-General's Report September 2016)

On 3rd December FESWI was invited to attend, and present a submission to the *Parliamentary Inquiry into Meeting Obligations to Protect Ramsar Wetlands*, held at the Education Centre.

The event was well attended. Outcome will be printed in a later edition of Warbler.

St Louis Graduation Awards

Every year, FESWI awards a graduating student from St Louis de Montfort the school's *Environmental Award*, and this year it went to twins Cooper and Manuel Riley who contributed brilliantly to the sustainability of the school. Congratulations boys. They received FESWI memberships, book vouchers and information packs. Margaret made the presentation on 16th December.

Group Visits to the Wetlands

Woodleigh Students made their third and final visit to Seaford Wetlands where they weeded and spread mulch – thank you boys for your excellent work this year.

Year 7E from Patterson River College toured around Seaford Wetlands as part of their environmental studies. A polite and friendly group.

The Stonnington Seniors group visited the hide and took a conducted walk around Edithvale North Wetlands.



Woodleigh boys at work



7E takes a break at the main lagoon

VALE FRANK JUPP

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Frank Jupp. Frank had been a member of FESWI since 1991/92. He had a major role in the renovation of Duck In (1998/1999) which was a massive job – converting it into a double storey building and replacing the east-west walls. He also helped Ross Nelson when Ross was lining the inside hide walls and putting the pathway in to the hide.

He was an important part of the team helping to supervise the *Community Corrections Work Programs* (circa 1996) when those programs involved our wetlands. And he was a keen advocate for the hide when it came under periodic danger of permanent closure. He will be remembered as a kind, generous and easy-going man.

Deepest condolences to Barbara and family.

WORKING BEES

The last Working Bee in the southern buffer zones at Seaford was in October. This was devoted to weeding (not the most popular activity) and the spreading of mulch. Altogether, about 450 understorey plants were put in over the planting period this year. Thank you to Rex (coordinator) Jacqui, Greg, Denise, Fiona & Dan, Lorraine and Robin.



UP-COMING EVENTS

Summer by the Sea

More than 300 free activities will be on offer along Victoria's coast between 2 and 26 January 2020 for the *Summer by the Sea* events.

On Sun 26th January 2020, 1:00-3:00pm, there will be an event at the Education Centre Edithvale Road, Chelsea Heights. Tours will be run in conjunction with the *Friends of Edithvale – Seaford Wetlands Inc* and *Melbourne Water* to enable community members access to the Wetlands which are a haven for shorebirds, both local and migratory at this time of year.

This Event is suitable for all ages. Children under 16 years of age must be supervised by an accompanying adult.

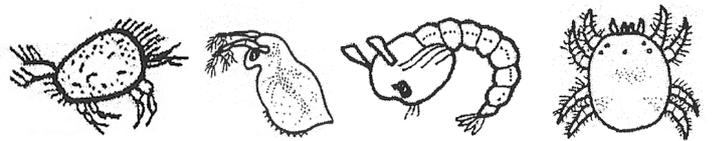
You will need to book - <https://summerbythesea.vic.gov.au/whats-on/>

World Wetlands Day: Sunday, February 2, 2020. More details later.

Clean Up Australia Day: Sunday 1st March. If there is significant rubbish around the wetlands, FESWI will participate in this event. More details later.

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WETLAND STUDY GROUP



We can see the birds and hear the frogs – but what is in the water and the mud of the wetlands? This group aims to discover that. Why not join in – two or three extra members would be excellent. Next meeting is on Sunday 12th January (10:00am – 12:00 noon) at Duck In. For more details, email Robin (robin.clarey@hotmail.com) or Jim (ejbwilson02@gmail.com).

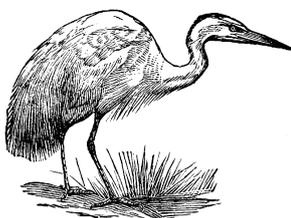
Become an Active Member of FESWI

Plant trees and under-storey in the buffer zones.

Help out at the bird hide on weekends.

Discover life in the wetland waters.

(See Front Panel)



Corporate Members

Longbeach RSL

Tania Ireton

Viridans Pty Ltd

Patterson River Golf Club

Edithvale Family And Children's
Centre

Peninsula Pedallers,

Sonya Kilkenny

Ray White, Chelsea

Merry Christmas to all our members



**Melbourne
Water**

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**Friends of
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