

# Nov-Dec 2020

Wetland Warbler



Number 169

## Inside this issue:

On the Bird Hide	2
Climate Change for Kids	2
The Past Year	3
<i>Mimulus repens</i>	5



Clamorous Reed-Warbler

## Wetland Warbler

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

#### Annual General Meeting – President's Report



I hope you all have a Happy Christmas and successful New Year. We deserve a break after the stresses of 2020. We

hope to open the Bird Hide in January.

#### Notes from Annual General Meeting held on Zoom.

#### 'Glimpses' of FESWI book

I was very pleased when taking on the President's role that I had access to our new book, 'Glimpses' of FESWI, that outlines our history and achievements. Put together by Dorothy Meadows, the book has been printed. I wish to congratulate her on the quality and presentation in this book.

Unfortunately, it has not been widely distributed yet due to the Covid-19 lockdown. Current copies are available in Mordialloc, from Margaret Hunter; Chelsea from me; Seaford from Robin Clarey. Contact numbers are in the Warbler and on our website; or email [feswiwetlands@gmail.com](mailto:feswiwetlands@gmail.com).

The book is also available on the website. Both formats are free. We are grateful to receive donations to support the print cost of \$20. This can be paid directly by bank transfer to FESWI Commonwealth Bank account.

(Details, Account Name: FESWI Society Cheque Acc't, BSB: 063118; Account Number: 10059942).

#### Thanks to committee and consultants

I would like to thank all our committee members especially Margaret and Robin, for their helpful support. Jim is a great worker with management and maintenance jobs. Our longstanding committee members Rex, Matthew and Trevor continue their hard work.

We have several new and recent committee members; Scott is new Treasurer; Paula is new; Colin, Clare and Genevieve have been with us for about a year. All are very welcome.

We also have other members who contribute outside the committee. They are consultants, Tina and Kirsty, who are assisting us pro bono, with committee organisation and strategy planning, Humphrey developed our accounting software, and Inez looks after the membership records.



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

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Allan Broomhall  
**Wetland Study Group**  
Jim Wilson 0408 975 410

# PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE CONT

## Keeping in touch with our volunteers

All volunteers, we hope to see you again when our various activities re-commence. Check the news letter, website or facebook for information. All members please keep in touch and we hope to catch up sometime next year. Stay safe.

## Membership

Welcome to new members and thanks to all who have renewed their membership and made donations. Membership Officer, Inez, has been updating the list to clarify our records. Any queries should be addressed to the Secretary, Margaret Hunter

[[edithvaleseafordwetlandsfriend@gmail.com](mailto:edithvaleseafordwetlandsfriend@gmail.com)]; or our new Treasurer Scott King ([saking70@yahoo.com.au](mailto:saking70@yahoo.com.au)).

## Bird Hide

We hope to report that the Bird Hide, with Covid-19 restrictions in place, is opening in January. A notice will be posted on our Website and Facebook as soon as possible. Information will be circulated in the next Warbler. For queries: contact Secretary or Vice President.

**Finally stay well and safe, we hope to see you in 2021. Please feel free to contact me by email or phone if you have questions or suggestions about FESWI.**

# ON THE BIRD HIDE

## The bad news ...

The internal condition of the hide has suffered a little during its months of closure. A higher than normal rainfall has resulted in regular inundation of the floor on the lower level. Thick mud has been deposited there, and the lower part of the walls are stained with water marks. Many thanks to Alison Kuitert who has cleaned much of it, but it will require more cleaning. The path leading into the hide has become overgrown. Before it can be opened a working bee will be needed to clean it up.

## The good news ....

Jim Wilson has been in touch with Mr Jackson Bull, Manager, Community Safety, Edithvale Fire



Photo: Trveor Sasman

Station to help with cleaning the floor; and to join with us in a public information event to promote the bird hide, the fire service, and the community engagement of both groups at the hide—in January next year. More information will be via email, website and facebook.

# CLIMATE CHANGE FOR KIDS

## How do I talk to my kids about climate change?



Climate change is a pervasive and on-going issue in the news media, social media and the schools.

If your kids or grand kids are showing concern about climate change, a little article/guide on the *Australian Conservation Foundation* website may be of some help. Go to

[https://www.acf.org.au/climate\\_change\\_kids\\_talk](https://www.acf.org.au/climate_change_kids_talk).

## THE PAST YEAR

This report covers November 2019 to the present.

The advent of Covid-19 has put severe restrictions on our operations this year. The following, however, is not a bad inventory of our activities despite the restrictions.

### Community Presences

FESWI, whenever possible attends community events, using the opportunity to showcase our wetlands - both at Seaford and Edithvale.



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

Environmental Award: Each year we award a graduating student from St Louis de Montfort the school's *Environmental Award* which includes a FESWI memberships, book vouchers and information packs. Margaret made the most recent presentation on 16th December 2019.

World Wetlands Day: The *Friends of Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands Inc* celebrated this event on the afternoon of Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February at the Bird Hide with displays, activities for kids and a kangaroo walk. There were many visitors and 40 people participated in the walk.

Mayor's Picnic Frankston: FESWI participated in a virtual version of this event in September..

### School and Community Visits

We managed to fit in four before operations closed down.

Woodleigh Students, on their third visit, weeded and spread mulch at Seaford.

Year 7E from Patterson River College toured around Seaford Wetlands as part of their environmental studies in late 2019.

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

On Sunday the 16th of February, 16 bird watchers from Mornington Peninsula Birdlife Branch arrived at the bird hide, hosted by Jacqui Sheppard.

### The Bird Hide

The hide has been closed for much of this year. However, various members have been keeping an eye on it during this time.

The whole area of the wetlands has changed over the year with water levels being at near maximum. In early winter there were many birds - around 2000 plus; and there were approximately 11 Swan nests with one pair of Swans deciding to make one right near the bird hide, and another pair next to the viewing platform.



### Submissions

FESWI is regularly invited to submit to various inquiries/studies being conducted into the wetlands by government and other organisations

On 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

FESWI applied to the MW's *Waterway Blitz Project* for work to be done in the hide carpark to make it less secluded and hopefully less attractive to rubbish dumpers.

# THE PAST YEAR CONT

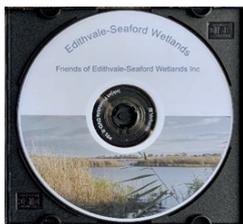
Just recently we participated in the Victorian Parliament's *Inquiry into Environmental Infrastructure for growing Populations*

## Membership Training

On 29th February, three FESWI members attended a Water Quality Testing Workshop in Doncaster run by *Melbourne Water*.

On 16th February a number of FESWI members attended a workshop (MW) at the Education Centre, on a Latham's Snipe Project run by Dr Birgita Hansen. Three FESWI members are actively involved in this project.

## Other



Many years ago, Ross Nelson, past president, initiated the production of an audio cassette (about 16 minutes, that went with slides) about our wetlands.

. It was decided to remake it, using up-to-date photos and videos, into a DVD format. Great work by Alan Broomhall and Alison Kuitert.

## On Our Volunteers

### Sad Losses

Sadly, we lost, this year, three of our most active and valuable members, who were particularly active in the past when the FESWI was being established. Frank Jupp, Barry Ross and Les Williams - all giants in terms of their passion, activity and achievements. They will be truly missed.

### A Huge Thankyou

None of this report could have been written without our many active volunteers, who are the absolute life blood of our organisation. Without your interest, willingness, enthusiasm, efforts, and enterprise we would be nothing. In all of the following areas we have active volunteers

Committee Members, Hide and Education Centre Duty, Website, Facebook, Newsletter, Working Bees, Wetland Study Group, Maintenance, Special Events, Walks and Talks and School Groups, Publications. Submission/Grant Writing

**How amazing is that!**

**Thank you so much to all of you.**

## OUR NEW COMMITTEE

- President: Rosalie Cooper
- Vice-President: Robin Clarey
- Treasurer: Scott King
- Secretary: Margaret Hunter

### Committee Members

- Clare Bracey
- Rex Chugg
- Colin Franklin
- Paula McCarthy
- Matthew Mitchell
- Genevieve Pound
- Trevor Shewan
- Jim Wilson



Above: Royal Spoonbill

Photos: Steve McDonald



Below: Nankeen Night Heron

## *Mimulus repens*

Clare Bracey

**Common name:** Creeping Monkey-flower

**Plant type:** Herb

**Description:** Small herb usually growing along the ground with small broad oval shaped leaves. Flowers are blue, purple or pink with a white or yellow tube. The flowers are distinct and mimic a monkey's face.

**Flowering season:** September to April

*Mimulus repens* is a widespread species and grows in swampy sites, open margins of lakes, watercourses or in temporarily wet areas. It can also tolerate saline environments and often grows in margins of coastal and inland saltmarshes. There is lots of variation in the robustness and size of the leaves and flowers

depending on the environment it is growing in. The Latin name translation is mimus = ape-flower, and repens = creeping.



Image source: grasslands.ecolinc.vic.edu.au



## STATE OF VOLUNTEERING IN VICTORIA



Volunteering Victoria, in partnership with the Victorian Government has released the State of Volunteering 2020

The report found that there are 2.3 million (or 42.1% of) Victorians over 15 years of age who volunteer in Victoria. This includes people who volunteer formally with organisations and those that do not have an affiliation with an organisation but contribute informally to their communities.

Volunteers contribute on average 223.9 hours a year or 4.3 hours every week with their fellow Victorians. The data for this report was collected across April-June 2020 when the impact of COVID-19 altered the work, travel and daily pattern of life across the entire State.

The report examined both the 'usual' pattern of volunteering (undertaken in the 12 months of 2019) and to understand the initial impact of COVID-19 on volunteering behaviours. Across the 12 months of 2019, the value of volunteering to Victoria was \$58.1 billion dollars. This includes the \$19.4 billion it would cost to replace the labour that volunteers contribute to Victoria as well as \$8.2 billion in contributions to Victoria's Gross State

Product. This represents a net return of approximately \$3.70 on every dollar invested.

The Department of Health & Human Services is undertaking the development of a Victorian Volunteer Strategy and consultation is open until 31 December 2020

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/victorian-volunteer-strategy>.



**Corporate Members**

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

Centre  
Peninsula Pedallers,  
Sonya Kilkenny

Patterson River Golf Club  
Edithvale Family And Children's

Longbeach RSL  
Tania Ireton  
Viridans Pty Ltd



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

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