



FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK

NOVEMBER 2005 No 8

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BRAESIDE PARK



Melbourne
Water



BRAESIDE PARK

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City of
KINGSTON



EDITORIAL

FROM THE 'EDITORIAL COMMITTEE'

Eric Mitchell has proved to be a very hard act to follow; our editorial plans for a September issue unfortunately fell apart. This issue is a brief update, with apologies to everyone for the absence of our newsletter. Hopefully, we'll have a colour insert due soon, and this will partially make amends; the insert will be funded by Melbourne Water.

You can guess what our New Year's resolution will be: regular newsletters to members—a most important way of keeping everyone informed of Park news and Friends' activities.

Best wishes to all for Christmas and for 2006 !



PARK NEWS

Staffing

Welcome to Judy Turnham, who is a temporary ranger for 2 months. Judy has already been making a tremendous contribution to Park operations.

For some time, the Friends Committee has been concerned about the delay in replacing ranger Liz Mynes. Our Secretary wrote to the CEO of Parks Victoria and to Minister John Thwaites expressing our concern at the lack of funding for permanent Park staffing. We received a reply from Michonne van Rees, the Parks Vic. Regional Manager, which announced Judy's appointment, as well as 2 temporary rangers for the summer period. We remain concerned about the lack of permanent staff, who provide vital stability and continuity of knowledge; the government has still not addressed this issue.

Revegetation Program

This was a bumper year for Park revegetation: nearly 12,000 plants were put in. A mighty effort too, from the Propagation Group who produced all these plants. You may have noticed the forest of new tree guards along the main drive and the western picnic area—evidence of all our hard work. Many thanks to all the staff and volunteers who participated.

Playground Repairs

Repairs to the Playground are completed, and the new work has been painted, thanks to Joe Cristoph.

Waterwatch Meeting

A special quarterly meeting of people in the area who are doing Waterwatch work was held in the Park Visitors Centre on November 10th. Four Braeside Waterwatchers were invited to this meeting.

Stop Press
Recently sighted in the Park:

Juvenile Barn Owl,

Sugar Glider

Dunnart (possibly)

More Tawny Frogmouths

Please let the Editor know if you've seen any other recent arrivals in the park.



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FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK - 2005/6 PLANNING CALENDAR

To find the location for the community day plantings please follow the signs in the park.

ACTIVITY	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB
Committee Meetings	Nil	Nil	24th	28th
Community Projects	Nil	Nil	Nil	1, 8, 15, 22
Plant Propagation	Nil	Nil	2, 7, 15, 18	4, 6, 15, 19
Seed and Cutting Collection	Nil	Nil	6th	3rd
Water Quality Monitoring	Nil	Nil	18th	21st
Special Activities: Mar-Stargazing, May-Mystery Walk, Aug-AGM, Oct-Heathland Walk, Nov-Bird walk	Nil	Nil	Nil	Bat Night

Please note: Propagating group meets on the first Saturday, first Monday, third Wednesday and third Sunday. Times 10am – 12 noon. Contact Ron 9584 7443 Working Bees / Tree Planting information, phone Ernie 9551 1640

FRIENDS' REPORT

Plant propagation nursery improvement

To stop pesky possums and cockatoos from devouring plants in the nursery hardening-off area, the Friends Committee approved and funded a protective cover. This cover will be installed as an urgent priority; thus ensuring that the effort of the propagators results in even more healthy plants for Park revegetation.

Grant application

The Friends are applying for a Catchment Management Authority grant, for continued work in the grasslands restoration area, and also for a Melbourne Water grant for developing more wetlands. Friends who attended the Mystery Walk in June would have heard Des describe the plans for a wetland in the eastern section of the Park. The many hours of work that some Committee members have put into grant applications over the years have resulted in substantial funding for Park improvements.

Wednesday Community Projects Workers

A stalwart group of Friends has been turning up every Wednesday this year and they have been performing 'bloomin' miracles. The Grassland and western picnic areas are looking great, thanks to the workers' weeding and planting. The team has also done mulching and has revegetated a new area along the Dingley waterway (one of the projects funded by a grant). More hands are always welcome—just turn up at the Park Office at 9am on Wednesdays. (No projects done in January.)



Community Bus

Dingley Village notified the Friends that a 12-seater bus is available for hire for group excursions. The bus will be ideal for day-trips, e.g. to Serendip, Werribee, etc. and an ordinary driver's licence is all that's needed. Stay tuned for further developments!

Community Activities

The Dingley Neighbourhood Centre celebrated 150 years of European settlement in this area on November 20th. The Friends had a table and display of some of the Park's bird and mammal specimens, with nature notes, publicity and photos of the Park and Friends activities.



Springtime Heathland Walk

Saturday 15 October 2005

By Val La May

It was a glorious afternoon when 20 Friends of Braeside and last-minute joiners assembled at the Visitor's Centre for the annual Springtime walk. We split into two groups; having to choose as a guide either of two Braeside Park legends: Ron Pearson or Norm Cromwell.

Ron gave his group the "Cook's Tour" of the Heathland. Past the litter-filled drain, we heard about the many efforts by the Friends to get Kingston Council to clean up the water that flows into the park. Just inside the Heathland, Ron explained how the Burgan is gradually being reduced because this plant (*Kunzea ericoides*) takes over an area and crowds out the lovely understory plants.

The Wedding Bush was still glorious, but we saw fewer orchids than last year. I was hoping to see another glorious display of the yellow sun orchids.

Yours truly was so busy looking for birds that we didn't take notes on the plants. Although we saw no raptors, the birding highlight was a background serenade of Grey Shrike-thrushes and Pallid and Fan-tailed Cuckoos during Ron's Burgan story. In all, I recorded 22 species of birds—not bad for a leisurely stroll around the park!

Our group just managed to arrive back at the Visitor's Centre before Norman's team had consumed all the arvo tea. My spies tell me that Norman imparted copious information on all the plants they encountered. And a great day was had by all.

Bird List

Pacific Black Duck
Chestnut Teal
White-faced Heron
Purple Swamphen
Dusky Moorhen
Silver Gull
Spotted Turtledove
Rainbow Lorikeet
Eastern Rosella
Pallid Cuckoo
Fan-tailed Cuckoo
Shining Bronze-cuckoo
Laughing Kookaburra
Spotted Pardalote
Striated Pardalote
Brown Thornbill
Red Wattlebird
Little Wattlebird
Noisy Miner
White-plumed Honeyeater
Grey Shrike-thrush
Grey Butcherbird
Australian Magpie
Little Raven
Red-browed Finch



Shining Bronze-Cuckoo



RAINBOW LORIKEETS

Trichoglossus haematodus moluccanus



Gallinula tenebrosa
Dusky Moorhen