



THE FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK NEWSLETTER

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Park Office

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The opinions expressed in this newsletter are the authors' and do not necessarily reflect those of Parks Victoria or its staff.



Presidents Report

By Judith Sise.

On Saturday, 19th November, a small group of five met to conduct a reptile survey of 8 specific areas across the Wetlands, Red Gum and Heathland environments. This is the third year of the surveys being conducted by the Victorian Field Naturalists with the input and support of the Parks Victoria and the Friends of Braeside Park. I was wearing two hats – Friends and as a member of the Field Naturalists. It was a beautiful day and we set off, led by Robin Drury (Field Naturalists) hopeful of finding many reptiles. Because of the wonderfully wet spring rain, finding the tiles and iron sheets was difficult.



Originally the areas were set up with four sheets of corrugated roofing iron at each corner and in between were 16 roofing tiles laid out in a square pattern. Over the years, the tiles have often been moved or disappeared into the grasses or subsided into the wetlands. Let us say most were found! Then it is lifting carefully to see what lies beneath and always remembering that some of the inhabitants of Braeside Park are not very keen on voyeurs inspecting their homes. The group found skinks, snakes, Jacky lizards and many ant and mouse nests, beetles and larva. The skink species found were the Delicate, Garden, Weasel and Bougainville. Two copper head snakes were found – one over a metre and one juvenile. Neither were interested in leaving their roof sheeting home.

I also have joined Jessica and Des (Ranger) on a couple of time in the last month to survey frogs – called Frog Watch but which is really Frog Listen. Using Melbourne Water's Frog Watch app., the Friends Group has recorded the frogs at 10 places in the park. The app tapes and uploads and gives a report all within 24 hours – fantastic. If you want to join us at approximately 0330, please let Des know. YES, I did say 3:30 am in the morning. It is a great way to start the day – watching the dawn break and listening to the bird chorus and of course, the frogs! We encounter a few early morning riders and joggers too!

These are all important parts of the Friends' group activities. Knowing what is in the park can help to establish what we need to cater for and to protect and to educate others about. It is also the reason for many joining the Group – to learn more about the natural world and especially our Park.

Photo's Jessica Scott-Smith



Wednesdays with Ernie's 'A Team' *By Bev Bancroft, Treasurer*

The Group is back in action from Wednesday 1st February—9:00 am at the Park Office

COMMUNITY GARDEN

A big clean up, weeding & some mulching.
Volunteers' choice – completed the clean up of the Community Garden,
And 100 plants were chosen, planted, guarded & watered.

FEDERATION

Too hot to do more planting.
Volunteers' choice – so off we went & tidied up the area.

GRASSLANDS

Ernie back & Phil too. The rain came down.
400 assorted grasses - Themeda & Danthonia planted.

*Join in the activities with Parks Victoria Rangers
every Wednesday from 9 am - 12 noon
- meet at the Park Office
- morning tea provided*

Help is needed for a variety of jobs - everyone most welcome.

*Wednesday afternoons continue
from 1 pm - 3 pm in the Nursery & Community Garden.*

Come on Friends Membership your Help Help Help is required - See below

The Friends are seeking help with the committee.

If you are interested in helping with the direction the Friends head into the future & the decisions focusing on projects & activities then please consider joining the committee.

The committee meeting is held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Park Office.

Time 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Any help with the committee would be greatly appreciated.

If you require further information then please email the friends on braesideparkfriends@gmail.com

Newsletter Contributions

**Thank you to Margaret Hunter, Judith Sise, Bev Bancroft, Jessica Scott-Smith
& Park Staff for this months contributions**

**If you have an item to share in future editions or have any feedback
in relation to the newsletter, please contact the editor at braesideparkfriends@gmail.com**

Deadline for Deadline for Mar-Apr 2017 edition: 7th March 2017

THE GREAT INSECT DAY/NIGHT EVENT

Saturday, 25th November, a small group of excited children and adults congregated in the Braeside Park's Visitors' Centre waiting for the insect hunt to begin. The Entomology Society of Victoria had contacted the Friends' Group to ask if they could have a



day and night insect hunt to wet their appetite for their Melbourne three-day conference. Twenty-three persons started a slow meander down the path to the little pond, stopping every few metres to share finds of moths, butterflies, beetles, dragon flies hover flies and ants. It is amazing what is to be found. The time flew by and soon it was 5:30 pm and the members headed back

to begin their BBQ dinner and children went home with an increased appreciation for the bugs in their back yards. At 6:30 pm, a small procession of cars headed off in to the Heathland to set up the "sheets" with lights powered by



Photos — Entomology Society of Victoria



portable generators for the "moth" hunt. At about 8:45 pm the generators began and the sheets lit up the small tracks and the entomological members began hovering around the sheets in anticipation. The first moths arrived small and tentative but soon they were joined by awkward crane flies and beautiful green moths and larger moths.

Some settled and some kept on walking

while the members tried to photograph all arrivals. I really was in awe of the ability of the members to rattle off the names of most moths.

By 8 pm, one small Prep boy had had enough and decided to go home and one generator packed up and the owner also went home. However, the others stayed till 11:30 pm until the fuel for a generator ran out and as luck would have it, the wind dropped completely out which is the best time for photographing moths.

Then there was a general pack up and by 12:45 am I dropped into bed with moths in my dreams. The entomologist would like to return in Summer and we would welcome them back as they add another layer of knowledge about our Park.



The date for moth and insect hunt will be advertised on our website. While all this exciting event was happening, a man decided to release a couple of ring-tailed possums into the park! Firstly, possums are protected Australian animals and it is illegal to capture them and this the man knew as he quickly exited the car park when approached by some members of the public. Secondly, by releasing the possums in the park he is condemning them to death as the Park has resident possums who do not accept any new possums.

Luckily, the people who were trying to stop him were in fact Wild Life Carers who captured the Ring-Tailed Possum and he/she will be cared for until the carers allow him/her to leave and live on their property. I have enormous respect for Wild Life Carers who spent their own money and time caring for wounded and sick wildlife. Where would we be without them!

Judith Sise President



Coastal Flax-lily *Dianella* sp. aff. *revoluta* (Coastal)

Article by The Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula

Coastal Flax-lily is a long-lived, rhizomatous perennial herb that can form large spreading colonies. The arching green leaves grow to 65 cm long and 5-12 mm wide, with a reddish base and flattish to slightly revolute (rolled under) margins. Blue to violet flowers to 20 mm wide have yellow filament swellings and dark brown



to black anthers. They are in panicles generally held above the foliage and flower from October to January. Flowers are followed by an ovoid, deep bluish succulent berry, with shiny black seeds. The *Dianella* genus is undergoing a revision with several species separated from *Dianella revoluta*, including Coastal Flax-lily. It is an exclusively coastal species and grows extensively at Venus Bay. *Dianella brevicaulis* is another now separate coastal spe-



cies with flower stems only up to 15 cm long, not exceeding the foliage.

Once Coastal Flax-lily is established it is very hardy, being both drought and frost resistant. It provides long periods of interest in the garden with its compact, clumping and evergreen foliage. It prefers a well-drained soil and accepts part or full shade. It looks best in mass planting and makes a decorative understorey plant while adding texture. Birds, including parrots, are attracted by the berries. The strappy leaves were used in basket and cord making by Aborigines, the roots were cooked and the fruit used for dyeing. Propagation is from seed or division of rhizomes.

The genus *Dianella* has recently changed to the Asphodelaceae or Aloe family. *Dianella* is named from *Diana* the Roman Goddess of the hunt; 'ella' being small. *Revoluta* refers to the inrolled leaf margins.

Bird Monitoring Program

Are you interested in birds?

Why not join the Bird Life Australia group on the 4th Friday of each month
See the activity calendar on the rear page for details.

So grab you binoculars, camera and favourite field guide and head down to Braeside Park!

For further information and a copy of the monitoring sheets
please contact the park office on **8427 2027**

Friends of Braeside Park—Activity Calendar

Weekday Community Project-The A Team:

Every Wednesday with Ranger staff commencing at 9:00 - 12:00 from the Park Office.
Activities can include weeding, mowing weeds, mulching, planting, fencing etc.

Community Garden:

3rd Sunday, monthly from 9:30 to 12:00 Noon.
A short meeting followed by various garden and nursery activities.

Nursery - Plant Propagation:

1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday from 10:00 am to 12:00 Noon and
Every Wednesday 1pm to 3pm
Undertaking a variety of propagation activities.

Committee Meeting:

2nd Thursday, monthly 7:00 to 9:00pm at the Park Office.
The Committee meets to make decisions about the running of the group.

Water Quality Monitoring:

3rd Tuesday, monthly 9:00 to 12:00 noon from the Park Office.
Water samples are taken and monitored from the Dingley Waterway and Wetland.

Bird Observations:

A set bird observation is completed monthly around the main wetland.
Call Ranger Glen Oliphant on (03) **8427 2027** to become part of this program.

Birds Australia Monitoring Program:

10 bird monitoring transects are monitored in this program with 5 completed one month and the other 5 the next month.
The sessions occur on the 4th Friday of each month from 8:00 am alternating between the following starting locations.

Park Office January, March, May, July, September, November
Robin Car Park February, April, June, August, October, December

Special Activities:

Night walks are offered from April through to September. Gold Coin Donation. For details and bookings contact the park office on **8427 2027**

**Community Nursery is Open on the Third Sunday of the Month
10:00 am to 12:00 noon – Seedlings \$2.00 each.**

Friends of Braeside Park Inc.

President: Judith Sise

Secretary: Margaret Hunter **Assistant Secretary:** Currently vacant

Treasurer: Bev Bancroft **Newsletter Editor:** Vacant **Webmaster:** Frank Russo

Publicity Officer: Vacant

Postal Address: PO Box 608 Braeside, Vic. 3195

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Join us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/327955807288240/>

Current Facebook Members = 112

Friends of Braeside Park Activity Calendar 2017

Activity	Time/Day	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Committee Meeting	7:00 - 9:00 2nd Thursday at the Park Office		9	9	13	11	8	13	10	14	12	9	14
Community Projects Weekday - "The A Team"	9:00 - 12:00 Wednesday at the Park Office	-	1 8 15 22	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13
Nursery open for plant sales	10:00 - 12:00 3rd Sunday of the month	15	19	19	16	21	18	16	20	17	15	19	17
Plant Propagation Community Nursery	10:00 - 12:00 1st Sat & 3rd Sun	15	4 19	4 19	1 16	6 21	3 18	1 16	5 20	2 17	7 15	4 19	2 17
Plant Propagation Community Nursery	Wednesdays 13:00 - 15:00 Bev 9551 4578	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Water Quality Monitoring Meet at the Park Office	9:00 - 12:00 3rd Tuesday	17	21	21	18	16	20	18	15	19	17	21	19
Bird Observations	Park Office 8427 2027	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bird Observations	8:00 to 11:00 4th Friday Park Office	27		25		26		28		22		24	
Bird Observations	8:00 to 11:00 4th Friday Robin Car Park		26		28		23		25		27		15
Nightwalks	From the Visitor Centre at 7:00 PM	Nightwalks are offered from April through to September. Gold Coin Donation per head Bookings Essential via below email				See Flyer for Dates during 2017 - Large groups please contact the Friends via the email below to organise an alternative night							
Community Projects Weekends	9:00 - 12:00, follow the signs					Community Nursery Open Day 10:00 - 2:00 Sun 14th	World Environment Day Tree Planting Sun 4th	National Tree Planting Day Sat 29th					
Special Activities are held throughout the year at various times				Clean Up Australia Day Sunday 4th Meet at Visitor Centre 10:00 - 12:00			Mystery Walk Sunday 18th 12:30 - 3:30 with afternoon tea		AGM 13th 2:00 - 4:00	Breakfast with birds 24th Meet at Red Gum Picnic Area 7:00 - 9:30	Spring Walk - Heathland & Grasslands Sunday 15th 1:00 - 3:30		End of Year BBQ Wed 13th

Web Page www.braesideparkfriends.org.auEmail braesideparkfriends@gmail.com

Community Nursery is Open on the Third Sunday of the Month 10:00 to 12:00 noon – Seedlings \$2.00 each.

Date Printed 11/02/2017

FOB - Activity Calendar 2017.xls, 2017