



THE FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK NEWSLETTER

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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.

President's Report

By Judith Sise

It has been a long hot summer. Braeside Park seems to have survived better than most places.

As I walk through in the early morning, I have encountered blue tongue lizards, echidnas and long necked turtles. I also saw Freckled Ducks, Blue Billed ducks and I think Shovelers and Hard Head Ducks on the wetlands. The White Faced Herons seem to find sustenance in the fast disappearing creeks ponds and does not seem too worried if I stop and watch his feeding. The many campervans and caravans also seem oblivious of my stopping and watching them in our carparks.

However, what I did not see was the usual abundance of butterflies. They seemed to have also disappeared from my own garden. Even at night. I have only seen the occasional moth fluttering near the window. I asked a friend who specialises in Terrestrial invertebrates and he said there has been a major collapse in insect numbers.

This is quite worrying when the Mordialloc Freeway seems unstoppable. The Environment Effects Survey (EES) has been completed and submissions from many individuals and groups worried of the consequences of the building have been made. However, the dateline for the building has been widely advertised even before the verbal submissions are presented to the Panel. This is possibly a political ploy to suggest to the public opposing the Freeway you have not power to stop or change this construction.

The Friends of Braeside Park are gearing up for another year of Nocturnal Walks, Cleaning Up Australia activities, Spring and Senior Walks and celebrating 30 years of volunteering. Surveys were sent out and I hope that everyone makes an effort to return the completed questions.

It seems ironic that the Friends should also have to fight for mitigating the effects of a Freeway right on our Park's boundary. That word "mitigating" is a key word used in the EES. It suggests that the effects of the lighting, sound and dust and the impact of building roads across previous waterways for the building a 6 lane Freeway at the bottom of the Park can be controlled. Planting more trees will solve the loss of other trees.

The dead fish in the Murray-Darling River system seem to have no impact on the State's politicians. We will try to inform the Panel that the Freeway next to Braeside Park is not needed .



Editor's Note

After a hot summer, the ponds have recovered quickly and now look absolutely beautiful. This picture (part of the Dingley Drain) was taken after the recent rains and shows clean clear water and a happy duck.



Park Activities

2019 Night Walk Program

The Friends night walk program will once again be operating in 2019 with expected bookings via 2 methods – text/phone to 0417 323 460 or email to braesideparkfriends@gmail.com. The dates are April (to be determined add when available), 3 May, 7 June, 5 July, 2 August, and 6 September. We take a maximum of 15 to 20 people per walk only for safety reasons and to ensure that the animals can be sighted in a quiet and welcoming environment. Sturdy shoes and appropriate clothing are essential, with a gold coin donation to the friends.

With large group bookings we will need confirmation 48 hours before at the latest so the spaces can be filled, and appreciate minimal torches on these walks so we can use our infra red torches to spot the animals in their home environment. We leave at 7.00 pm sharp, and return around 8.30 pm. Departure point will be advertised on website and flyers around the park. We do not take pushers/prams and parents need to supervise their children on the walks.

If you want to arrange a group walk eg. Kinder, scouts, guides, other social group please contact the Friends secretary, Margaret Hunter for further information and booking requirements. Walks will not run in dangerous weather conditions with cancellation to all people by Wednesday evening.

If you have an interest in becoming a guide on these walks please contact the friends secretary, Margaret Hunter for further information and guidelines.

Margaret Hunter

Mordialloc Freeway

The Mordialloc Freeway IAC Panel Hearing is taking place at the Dingley International Hotel from February 25 2019 for approximately two weeks. These hearings are open to the public with the timetable available on-line at planning panels Victoria following the directions hearing. You can also see all the submissions including the Friends and others before this. I expect the hearing to be recorded and be available on line following the submissions each day if you are unable to make the hearings.

The Community Engagement Hub in Boundary Road, opposite Costco is open, run by the Major Roads Project Authority if you require further information, an important community initiative. If you would like an email copy of the Friends submission please contact the secretary, Margaret Hunter on braesideparkfriends@gmail.com

Margaret Hunter

Park Activities (cont.)

Racecourse Walk 27 January 2018, and earlier

Members of the Friends of Braeside Park and the Dingley Village Mens' Shed, with the Ranger Team Leader, Des Lucas, as our host, took part in a walk around the racecourse trail at Braeside to celebrate the history of horse racing at Braeside from the 1920's to the 1960's with an appreciative audience and plenty of information changing hands on this walk.

We looked at the history of this important project, developed over 12 years to celebrate the achievements of the doyen of the track Phar Lap in the 1920's and 30's. Many visitors to the park run and walk along the race course without appreciating the historical significance of horse racing in the sandbelt district from the 1880's to the closure in 1998. Many residents of the racecourse estate in Mentone or Richfield Village/ or Aspendale do not realise the significant contribution that many trainers made to the environmental history of the area in this time.

I am often asked where were these racecourses and how popular were they? As the grand daughter of a local well known bookmaker I am aware of the significance and the fact that these locations were developed for housing and their history not recorded. This is an opportunity to develop this with the Phar Lap project at Braeside Park with a rich and varied race history. Please see historical article on Eric Wilmott if you are interested.

Where were these racecourses you ask?

Braeside Park training track 2 tracks sand and made track; Mentone (opposite the Thrift Park) Aspendale (named after the horse Aspen), Epsom at Mordialloc (McDonald Street) now the Epsom Estate with 450 houses. The Tote Box has been saved in some form as a reminder with some modifications. The final one is Richfield (with street names of racing identities), a retirement village on Wells Roads, Aspendale Gardens. The punters often walked back to the station penniless after a bad day but it is an era sadly gone and forgotten. More on horse racing in the next edition of this newsletter.

Margaret Hunter

Historical article—Eric John Wilmott Horse trainer Braeside Park

With thanks to Kingston Historical Webpage

While Harry Telford, the trainer of Phar Lap is better known there was other trainers in Braeside over its history that were also successful. One of these was Eric John Wilmott, who moved to Braeside in 1940 from Mentone, having originally lived in Berwick like other well known trainers.

Eric leased the Braeside property from the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works from 1940 to 1955, to difficult time with World War II and Australia under threat. The soil/ track must have been very suitable for horse training and close to the racecourses as very well known people asked Eric to train their horses there, at one time up to 30 horses. His own horses apparently did not do so well.. It is said that photos of race finishes and horses trained by Ernie lined the walls of his homestead. The favourite was Don Pedro the winner of the 1947 Moonee Valley Cup. Ernie's wife Eleanor looked after the many visitors to Braeside with several people living on the property. The cooking and cleaning, was done also the meals for boys and clothes for race day. She is said to have fed 14 people each day. In the article, their daughter Shirley Morgan records an idyllic childhood and a time long forgotten. EJ prepared his jockeys well and Shirley observes that "He was a very good judge of horses. I could tell whether a horse could win by the way my father reacted. He didn't say anything but there was a confidence in his behavior."

Margaret Hunter

Residents



Animal Pictures
by Merv



M. P. Dannelaerd Photography



M. P. Dannelaerd Photography



M. P. Dannelaerd Photography

ERNIE'S "A" TEAM - WEDNESDAYS:

Since early December, the "A" team has been on our Summer Break.

Ernie will return in early February and the "A" team will be on deck from the 6th February, 2019.

More Volunteers are needed.
Please come & join us.

Wednesdays 9 am - 12 noon
Meet at the lunch room - Park Office
Morning tea provided.

Bev Bancroft

*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 - 2:30 pm in the Nursery & Community Garden.
Everyone Most Welcome*

Newsletter Contributions

Thank you to Judith Sise, Margaret Hunter, Bev Bancroft, Frank Russo, Merv Dannefaerd, David MacLean & Park Staff for contributions to this edition.

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

Sunday March 3 2019

Major Partners

Shop A Docket

CLEANAWAY

Clean Up
Day

Braeside Park
10am till 12pm
Meet @ Visitor's Centre

Change starts with you.

SIGN UP AT WWW.CLEANUPAUSTRALIADAY.ORG.AU

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.

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 Janelle Cadd 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 phone 0417 323 460

**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: Rosemaree MacLean **Treasurer:** Bev Bancroft
Newsletter Editor: David MacLean **Webmaster:** Frank Russo
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Join us on Facebook

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

Current Facebook Members = 118

Friends of Braeside Park Activity Calendar 2019

Activity	Time/Day	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Committee Meeting	7pm - 9pm 2nd Thursday at the Park Office	*	14	14	11	9	13	11	8	12	10	7	12	
Community Projects Weekday - "The A Team"	9am - 12pm Wednesday's at the Park Office	*	6 13 20 27	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11	
Nursery open for plant sales	10am - 12pm 3rd Sunday	20	17	17	14	19	16	14	18	15	20	17	15	
Plant Propagation Community Nursery	10am - 12pm 1st Saturday & 3rd Sunday	5 20	2 17	2 17	6 21	4 19	1 16	6 21	3 18	7 22	5 20	2 17	7 22	
Saturday Waterwatch Program	9:30am - 12pm 2nd Saturday Visitors Centre	*	9	9	13	11	8	13	10	14	12	9	14	
Bird Observations	8am - 11am 4th Friday Park Office	25	*	22	*	24	*	26	*	27	*	25	*	
Bird Observations	8am - 11am 4th Friday Robin Car Park	*	22	*	26	*	21	*	23	*	25	*	13	
Nightwalks	From Visitor's Centre 7pm	Nightwalks offered from April through to September. Gold Coin Donation per head Bookings Essential 0417323460												
Community Projects Weekends	9am - 12pm, follow the signs	*	*	*	*	*	7	5	*	*	*	*	*	
Special Activities are held throughout the year at various times		*	*	Clean Up Australia Day Sunday 3rd Meet at Visitor Centre 10am - 12pm	*	*	Mystery Walk Sunday 23rd 12:30 - 3:30 with afternoon tea	*	AGM Sunday 11th 12pm-1pm	Breakfast with birds Sunday 22nd Red Gum Picnic Area 7am - 9:30am	*	Spring Walk - Nursery Open Day Sunday 13th 1pm - 3:30pm	*	End of Year BBQ Wednesday 11th

Website www.braesideparkfriends.org.au

Email braesideparkfriends@gmail.com

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