



THE FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK

NEWSLETTER

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Friends of Braeside Park
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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.

From the President

The first Committee Meeting brought together many concerns and plans.

This first half of the year will see the departure of all our experienced Parks Victoria staff. Ranger Andrew has begun a new posting closer to home; Ranger Kelly has also departed for a new posting and Rangers Des and Digger are going on long service in April – May with a view to retiring afterwards. That cleans out all the “old” experienced staff and the process to recruit new staff is under way, but this will take time.

This leaves our A Team (Wednesday Park Volunteers) in limbo with no Ranger co-ordinator but a list of tasks possible if a few arrive. Considering once this Group was a vibrant incredibly productive team working 3 hours weekly per volunteer of weeding, guard removal, planting and general dog’s body tasks. It was quite a social group with a morning tea break pre-Covid.

Most volunteers felt a great sense of achievement and slight exhaustion at the end of Wednesday mornings. Hopefully, the new staff will be willing to revive the A Team.

The Nursery Revegetation Program started on Sunday 20 February 2022 after the Covid relapse. Ranger Des has rejuvenated the process and hopes that the new recruits will be motivated to stay. The Nursery will be from 9-12 on the first Saturday, third Sunday and first Tuesday of the month. The A-Team will work in the Nursery on the first Tuesday of the month. Here’s hoping for a new beginning.

The Phar Lap Project and the Cypress Tree Chain Saw Carvings Program are back on the Friends’ yearly Agenda but with the imminent departure of Rangers Des and Digger, now is the time to move these long-standing programs forward to fruition.

So 2022 is off and running with departures, plans and energy high.

Frank and Helen will begin community engagement with a Clean Up Australia activity in early March and Margaret has already taken Nocturnal Walk bookings which begin after Daylight Savings ends.

Friends’ New Year Resolution is to get the Phar Lap Trail begun and maybe finished by 2022.

Judith Sise

The Friends of Braeside Park News

Update from the Friends Committee

The Friends Committee met in February to plan the activities for the coming year, and to look at options for increasing the volunteer involvement in Friends activities in 2022

Promotion and expressions of interest for the Re-Vegetation groups and the Wednesday A Team are proceeding following declining numbers in both groups, and the need to re-establish the Re-vegetation groups in 2022. Both groups have been inactive, due to Covid in 2020-2021, and the Friends are keen to get these groups reestablished and working with more volunteers in 2022. Expressions of interest for both groups to friendsofbraesidepark@gmail.com, or to the Secretary, Margaret Hunter on 0417 323 460.

The Clean Up Australia Activity is on 6 March 2022, and is being organized by Frank Russo, with further information in this newsletter.

The Friends Committee meetings are open to all members to attend, and are held on the second Thursday of the month from February to December. Please let the secretary know that you would like to attend beforehand, so that we can confirm your attendance at each meeting. We also welcome new committee members, please contact the secretary if you are interested.

Volunteer Update

Volunteers for assisting the Friends to organize Friends' activities (as seen on the activity calendar at the end of this newsletter) are welcome. There are many opportunities in assisting with the night walk program, revegetation, Wednesday A team, park monitoring activities, and other projects in a number of areas. This is an opportunity to gain some on ground experience in tree planting, nursery work, tour guiding, and also to gain knowledge of Braeside Park and its environment.

Groups are managed with the assistance of the Parks Victoria rangers, and recognition is provided with increasing your knowledge and skills in these areas.

As a group over 30 years old, we are always looking for new people to be involved in our activities, and who have an interest in Braeside Park. A volunteer activity day is planned for Saturday 19th March at the information centre. This will enable future volunteers the opportunity to explore what areas are available with members of the committee. Please contact the secretary for more information.

Night Walk Program 2022

The night walk program is starting on Friday 8 April 2022 after the finish of daylight saving in Victoria. Walks leave from the Visitor Center Carpark at 7.00 pm sharp, with sturdy footwear, and warm clothing required. Closed in shoes are required, and all walkers are required to be fully vaccinated under Parks Victoria guidelines.

Bookings will be taken from 13 March 2022, with numbers limited and all bookings confirmed before the walk. All bookings are confirmed before the walk and must be prebooked with Margaret Hunter before the walk. Please call 0417 323 460 or email braesideparkfriends@gmail.com for further information. A walk will be cancelled if the weather conditions are deemed unsafe. Bookings will be notified if a cancellation occurs.

The Friends of Braeside Park News (cont.)

If you are interested in assisting with these walks as a guide/group leader. Please contact us and let us know. Group bookings are run as separate walks to accommodate bookings on the normal Friday evening walks.

Friends Banner

The Friends of Braeside received a Friends publicity banner to promote the Friends' activities in the community which was designed by David Maclean, and purchased through Hot Promos at Dandenong South. This will be used for our events in 2022, and was from the Kingston Annual Grant Program. We thank the City of Kingston for this grant, and the opportunity to get this wonderful banner which will be put to good use by the Friends.



Margaret Hunter

Park Activity

Braeside Park Bird Surveys

The January 2022 survey had to be cancelled because of a weather forecast of big winds and thunderstorms but the February survey went ahead in spite of access difficulties such that only eight of the ten survey sites were able to be covered. One team did four heathland sites and the other, one heathland and three woodland. The survey sites were all very dry with little evidence of blossom so both insect and nectar food sources would be low. In spite of this, there were a good number of bush birds around.

The heathland team came back bubbling with excitement over the number of small birds they had seen - many Spotted Pardalotes, White-browed Scrubwrens, Grey Fantails, and both New Holland and White-plumed Honeyeaters. They had good numbers of both Red and Little Wattlebirds and had also seen a large raptor on the wing which, from their descriptions, was most probably a Little Eagle - a species which has been recorded previously on several occasions in the Park on the bird surveys.

Sadly, the woodland team found their areas heavily overpopulated with Noisy Miners with several birds indicating they were still nesting and others being chased by noisy fledglings. Parrots were plentiful, both Eastern Rosellas and Red-rumped: Sulphur-crested Cockatoos were common but, surprisingly, no Galahs. Both White-faced Heron and Straw-necked Ibis were recorded over the woodland; and a small number of Crested Pigeons and Common Bronzewing were also seen.

Both teams recorded Tawny Frogmouths; one was found close to the entrance to the heathlands and three just north of the Redgum Picnic area.

The March survey will be on the fourth Friday of the month as usual, (March 25th) but, in order to avoid Easter and Anzac weekends, the April survey will be on the fifth Friday (April 29th).

Pat Bingham

WATER WATCH BRAESIDE PARK

Previously The Friends completed Stream Watch and Salt Watch as well as WaterWatch. There are records going back 25 odd years- all stored in the Rangers' Office. This is a job just waiting for a dedicated member to spend hours sorting through. If there are members wishing to be trained by Melbourne Water to join the WaterWatch Team please contact the Friends through their website. The training takes about a day and maybe sited at Braeside Park or at another Friends or Community Group site.

	Bent Bridge	Sherry Dam	Dingley Drain	Wetlands
Temperature				
Air	20	20	19	19
Water	19	19	20	21
pH	7.6	7.3	7.6	7.7
E.C.	400	430	270	470
Turbidity	20	60	30	10
Ammonium	0	0.03	0	0
Phosphorus	0.30	0.15	0.30	0.20
Oxygen	4	4	4	6

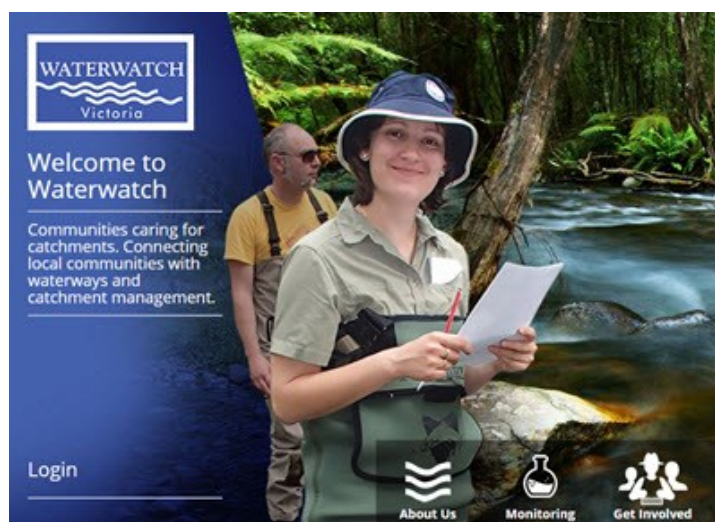
8 January 2022

Park Activity

	Bent Bridge	Sherry Dam	Dingley Drain	Wetlands
Temperature	16	16	19	19
Air	18	19	20	20
pH	8	7.6	7.6	8
E.C.	370	480	870	470
Turbidly	30	40	40	10
Ammonium	0	0.0	0	0
Phosphorus	0.6	0.4	0	0.20
Oxygen	3	4	4	6

19 February 2022

- **TEMPERATURE** - Measures the average temperature of the water, which affects the chemical changes in water and affects survival of aquatic life.
- **pH** - Measures the alkalinity or acidity of the water, which affect the survival of aquatic life.
- **ELECTRICAL CONDUCTIVITY** - Measures the amount of dissolved salts in the water (salinity level). Salinity affects the survival of aquatic life.
- **TURBIDITY** - Measures the clarity of the water (relates to the amount of suspended particles), which affects the survival of aquatic life.
- **FLOW VELOCITY/RATE** - Measures the stream volume and speed of water flow, which affects the survival of aquatic life.
- **DISSOLVED OXYGEN (DO)** - Measures the amount of oxygen in the water, which is essential for the survival of most organisms and aquatic plants.
- **REACTIVE PHOSPHATE**- Measures the amount of phosphorus in the water, an indicator of the nutrient status, organic enrichment and subsequent health of the water body.
- **AMMONIUM**- Measures the amount of ammonium (a form of nitrogen) in the water, which indicates organic enrichment and subsequent enrichment of the water body.



Park Activity

Revegetation Program

On Sunday morning the 20th February, Ranger Des along with Judith (President - Friends of Braeside Park), Claudia, Vicky, Denyse, Jane, Jean, Isobel, Penny, attended the Park Community Nursery to commence the reinvigorate work for the vegetation program.

The tasks undertaken included the removal of thistles and general weeds, raking of car park and paths and utilising the removed leaf matter for mulch, cleaning out the large shed, sweeping and tidying up to make the shed functional again. The fridge also was given a big clean-out and some of the seedlings were moved from the igloo to the shade house.

Everyone shared a good chat over a cuppa and also a short walk to view a pair of tawny frog mouths near the Park Office.

Thank you everyone for your efforts and we look forward to the March sessions which are listed below.

All sessions are 9:00 to 12:00 noon.

1st Saturday the 5th
 3rd Sunday 20th.
 3rd Wednesday 16th.

Des Lucas



Park Report (extracts)

- Park Connect – Loading and reporting of Friends needs to be an ongoing activity into the future as Parks Victoria is working towards having all volunteers registered via this portal.
- Tree Art - “Go fund me” page up and running with over \$1485 committed from 49 donations. A number of stumps have been identified for development and ideas have been sought from committee and other interested members.
- Deakin University Student Projects - Intensive Rabbit Monitoring and Monitoring of Possums throughout the Self-Guided Heathland Trail and the Heathland.
 - Program has commenced with 8 students involved in the program.
- New signage (46) has been placed throughout the park including 4 information boards.
- The A Team will undertake activities without a ranger’s presence for the moment
 - A list of self-managing task is to be developed and added to by all.
 - There will be no one up activities



Des Lucas

Park Activity

Meaning of life and Friends of Braeside Park

I have been a member for a couple of years, and it is time to renew my membership.

So, what are the Benefits?

There are many activities that you can participate in.

You are invited to night walks in the park where I try to take photos of the night wildlife, not very successfully though. The aim is to catch the wildlife without using flash or bright lights which at times becomes a bit tricky but adds to the enjoyment of the night.

You get to experience the excitement of the kids that come along as they are shown the wildlife.

One special night (Bat Night) that was run by a Bat specialist who brought and setup special bat netting so we could catch some of the bats that fly around the park. The bats were all identified then released. Overall, that was a very educational and informative night.

Then there is the FOBP Facebook page where people post their photos of the various wildlife in the park. To me, it is very enjoyable to see the other birds and animals in the park, but it is also very frustrating because I have not been able to see, let alone photograph several of the species shown. Future challenges?

While walking around the park during the year you get to observe the various bird families as they develop (e.g., the Black Swan, the pink eared duck, the cormorants, and other varieties of birds). You occasionally get to see a raptor (which the local birds tell you all about with warnings).

You get to hear a lot of the small birds in the bushes and occasionally they sit on a branch long enough to allow you to get the camera in focus, but they dart off again before you can press the shutter.

The sad part about the park is the loss of rangers (due to retirement and promotions) which means that the maintenance will suffer (e.g., clearing paths, fire breaks, removing nonlocal flora). Rangers like Des provide support for the Friends of Braeside Park activities with guidance and suggested areas for improvement. FOBP also have input into the improvements in the park, so working with the rangers is very important. The other issue is the dying trees where the salt level in the ground water is rising, this needs to be addressed urgently otherwise no trees and ground cover, then no wildlife for people to observe.

So, what can you do to provide a happier atmosphere at the park, become involved with the various volunteer groups, make sure you clean-up after you? Be very proud of your park and show it to your friends and relatives as a local place to observe wildlife and have a relaxing picnic while the kids enjoy the various structures.

Ian Morehouse

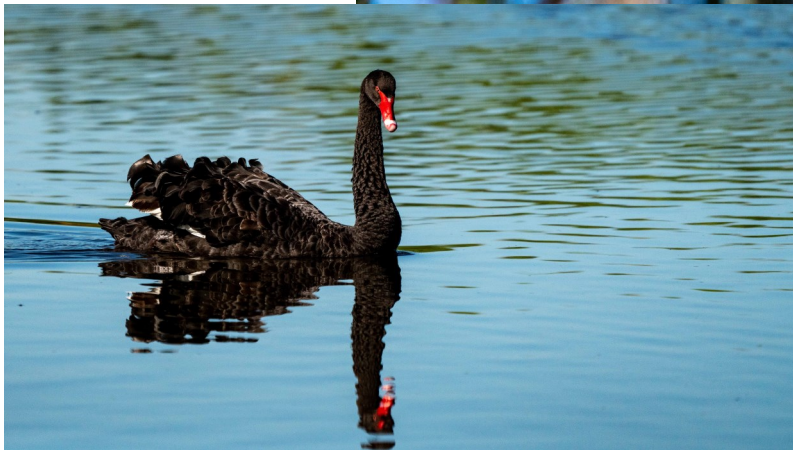
Park Activity

From the Editor

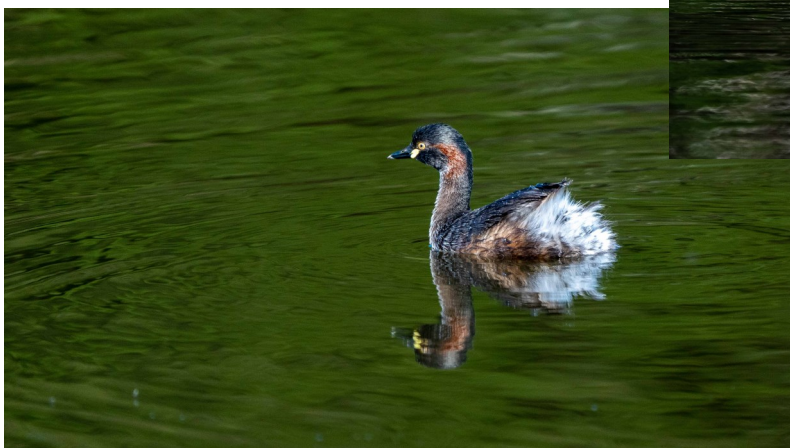
This last few months have seen very hot days with some of the worst winds that I can remember. Many trees were damaged before Xmas, and many have been damaged since.

The rangers have been doing a wonderful job of keeping the walkways clear and safe. Nonetheless, it is up to each individual to watch out for falling branches on windy days and to take appropriate precautions against the sun on bright days.

Even with these caveats, I have been able to photograph some of our inhabitants in their full glory during my morning walks.



David MacLean



Park Activity

Following are selected photos from The Friends Facebook page

(selected by Rosemaree MacLean - Administrator)



Black-shouldered Kite – Chris Gray



Caspian Tern – Chris Gray



Sacred Kingfisher – Roy Burgess



Australian Reed-warbler – Roy Burgess



Buff-banded Rail – Roy Burgess



Blue-winged Shoveler Male – Chis Gray

Park Activity

Following are selected photos from The Friends Facebook page

(selected by Rosemaree MacLean - Administrator)

Nankeen Night Heron – Roy Burgess



Brown Goshawk – Feather as a Light



Striated Pardalote – Roy Burgess



Silvereye – Roy Burgess



Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo – Roy Burgess



Latham's Snipe – Roy Burgess



Black-fronted Dotterel – Roy Burgess



Royal Spoonbill – Ian Kiddell



Editor's Note

2022 promises to be an interesting year.

- Federal and State Elections
- New Ranger team
- New A Team
- Management and future of Nursery in question
- Revegetation program slowed down

On the positive side, all the above (other than the elections) are being worked on by both the Friends and the Rangers, so we have high hopes for success on all fronts. The night walks and other activities are resuming and things are slowly getting back to a pre-pandemic normal.

David MacLean

de_edfobp@iinet.net.au

Friends of Braeside Park Inc.

President:	Judith Sise
Secretary:	Margaret Hunter
Assistant Secretary:	Rosemaree MacLean
Treasurer:	Helen Russo
Newsletter Editor:	David MacLean
Webmaster:	Frank Russo
Publicity Officer:	Vacant



FOBP Committee

Frank Russo, Judith Sise, Helen Russo, Rosemaree MacLean,
David MacLean, Margaret Hunter, David Boldiston

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Join us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/327955807288240/#>

Newsletter Contributions

Thank you to Judith Sise, Margaret Hunter, Rosemaree MacLean, Pat Bingham, Ian Morehouse and David MacLean for their contributions to this edition.

We thank the many contributors to our Facebook page for their excellent photos and stories.

If you have an item to share in future editions or have any feedback in relation to this newsletter, please contact the editor at

de_edfobp@iinet.net.au
or braesideparkfriends@gmail.com

Friends of Braeside Park
ABN 72 959 503 118 INC NO A00242027B

Membership Renewal/Application Form:

I/We wish to become/renew our membership of the FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK INC
(No joining fee)

Membership types:

Corporate	\$20
Family	\$15
Ordinary Member	\$10
Student Member	\$5
Organisation Member	\$15
Concession/Pensioner	\$5

DONATION: \$.....

Personal Details

Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone Number: _____
Email address: _____
Interests: _____
Membership Type: _____ Paid: _____

Payments can be made into our Bendigo bank account –

BSB: 633 000

Account: 155348246 Include family name in description

Then mail or email this form to either of the following:

Mail to: The Treasurer, Friends of Braeside Park. PO Box 608,
Braeside Victoria 3195

Or Email to: braesideparkfriends@gmail.com

Further information on the Friends' activities are available on our website and our Facebook page.

<http://www.braesideparkfriends.org.au>

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

Secretary contact number 0417 323 460

Friends of Braeside Park Renewal Membership form November 2021

Night Walks for 2022



Friends of Braeside Park

**The Friends of Braeside Park invite you to
attend a night walk to view nocturnal
animals of the park**

**On Friday Nights at 7pm from April through
to September**

**8th April, 6th May, 3rd June, 1st July, 5th August and
2nd September**

**Meet at Visitors Centre
Braeside Park**

Enter at Lower Dandenong Rd entrance

Cost: Gold Coin Donation per person

Numbers Limited – Bookings are Essential

Via email: braesideparkfriends@gmail.com or Contact Margaret Hunter on 0417 323 460

Visit www.braesideparkfriends.org.au for more info



Friends of Braeside Park

ABN: 72 959 503 118 INC NO: A00242027B

2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

EVERYONE WELCOME

Where: Braeside Park Visitor's Centre

When: Sunday the 7th August 2022

Times: Registration at 2:00pm, AGM Meeting at 2:10pm

Presentation at 3:00pm by our Guest Speaker(s)

Afternoon Tea from 3:00pm

Everyone welcome and concludes at 4:00pm

Enquiries/Further information contact

Margaret Hunter, Secretary on 0417 323 460

Website: www.braesideparkfriends.org.au

Friends of Braeside Park Activity Calendar 2022

Activity	Time/Day	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Committee Meeting	7pm - 9pm 2nd Thursday at the Visitors Centre	*	10	10	14	12	9	14	11	8	13	10	8
Community Projects Weekday - "The A Team"	9am - 12pm Wednesdays at the Park Office	*	2 9 16 23	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23	7 14 * *
Nursery open for plant sales	10am - 12pm 3rd Sunday	*	20	20	17	15	19	17	21	18	16	20	18
Plant Propagation Community Nursery	10am - 12pm 1st Saturday & 3rd Sunday	* *	5 20	5 20	2 *	7 22	4 19	2 17	6 21	3 18	1 16	5 20	3 18
Community Waterwatch Program	9:30am - 12pm 2nd Sunday Visitors Centre	*	12	12	9	14	11	9	13	10	8	12	10
Bird Observations	8am - 11am 4th Friday Park Office	28	25	25	29	27	24	22	26	23	28	25	23
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	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	National Tree Planting Day Saturday 28th	*	*	*	*
Special Activities are held throughout the year at various times		*	*	Clean Up Australia Day Sunday 8th Meet at Visitor Centre 10am - 12pm Volunteer Information Session, Sat 19 2pm	*	Mystery Walk Sunday 1st 12:30 - 3:30 with afternoon tea	*	*	AGM Sunday 7th 2pm-4pm with afternoon tea	Breakfast with birds Sunday 18th Red Gum Picnic Area 7am - 9:30am	Spring Walk Sunday 16th 1pm - 3:30pm	*	End of Year BBO Wednesday 14th

Website www.braesideparkfriends.org.au

Email braesideparkfriends@gmail.com