

FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK NEWSLETTER

January 2013



BRAESIDE PARK

Friends Tribute to Elsie	2
'A Team' activities	2
Activities calendar	3
Night Walks	3
Bird Reports	4
Nursery News	5
Cypress Stump Art	5
Redgum Picnic Area	6
Environment Minister Visit	6
Cypress Stump Art - cont	7
Grants	7
Park report	8



Printed at Braeside Park Parks Office,
Parks Victoria

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



BRAESIDE PARK

Phone 9265 7300

Lower Dandenong Road

Braeside 3195

www.braesideparkfriends.org.au

FRIENDS TRIBUTE TO ELSIE

Sadly Elsie Anderson passed away on 21st November, 2012. Elsie was an amazing lady serving as an office bearer for The Friends of Braeside for over 15 years but her involvement as a member dates back to 1991. Elsie served as secretary and is renowned for the brilliant letters that she would write which helped us bring some of the Friends ideas to fruition through her persistence.

She was one of those great volunteers who got things done and was very generous with both her time and actions, particularly with the Propagation & Wednesday Volunteer group.

We always enjoyed the Community planting days when Elsie would often bring her sour cream and apple slice. This slice will live on as Elsie was not secretive about her recipe and shared it with those who asked. We will all think of her when we share this slice. Morning teas will not be quite the same and who will bring the milk for our cups of tea?

One wonders how many of the plants planted throughout the park have passed through Elsie's hands either as a seedling or through planting.

Photo by Des Lucas

Shows Elsie pricking out seedlings for future planting throughout the park.



Wednesdays with Ernie's 'A Team'

By Bev Bancroft

Extra help is always needed for a variety of jobs: meet at the Park Office, Wednesdays 9 am - 12:00 noon with morning tea 10.30 am (3 "C"s - Cuppa, Cake & Chat)

GRASSLANDS

Mowing and weeding has continued. Some 800+ grasses have been planted in the weeded areas. There has been a huge increase in the Choc Lillies, Early Nancy & 100+ Purple Diuris - some grasses are regenerating. Still lots of weeding & mowing which will continue over Summer.

HEATHLAND

The last planting was on the practice fairway. We helped Digger & Max with chipping a Ginormous Botriodis which need to be removed. A couple helped with road topping on the new wetland track, while the rest removed tree frames & guards from Ibis, Robin & Magpie carparks.

CLIMATE POSITIVE

We helped out with the planting of nearly 4,000 plants by volunteers in the new site (Governor Road area).

SCHOOLS

The Mentone Girls have done a great job with planting in the grasslands, pricking out seedlings & general maintenance of the propagation area.

Recommencing the 1st Wednesday in February, 2013

More help is always needed for a variety of jobs - everyone is most welcome.
- meet at the Park Office, Wednesdays 9 am - 12 noon.
- morning tea provided

Wednesday afternoons are continuing 1 pm - 3 pm in the Friends Community Garden for anyone that may be keen to learn about propagation.

Thanks To The Helpers

Those who helped produce the newsletter:

Elsie Anderson
Bev Bancroft
Park Rangers

Friends of Braeside Park Inc.

Lower Dandenong Rd. Braeside 3195 (Melway Map 88 D8)
Postal Address: PO Box 608 Braeside, Vic. 3195
ACN: A 002 4027 B
Phone: 9265 7300

President: Margaret Hunter, 9588 0867
Secretary: John Burns, 9583 6099
Treasurer: Bev Bancroft, 9551 4578
Editor: Des Lucas, 0418 173 228

Friends of Braeside Park

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Activity	Time/Day	February	March	April
Committee Meeting	4th Monday, from 1.00pm at the Visitor Centre	25	25	22
Community Garden	9.30 - 12.00, 3rd Sun of the month at nursery	17	17	21
Community Projects Weekday	9:00 - 12:00 noon Wednesday at the Park Office	6	6	3
		13	13	10
		20	20	17
		27	27	24
Nursery open for plant sales	10.00 - 12.00 3rd Sunday of the month	17	17	21
Plant Propagation Nursery Facility	10:00 - 12:00 noon 1st Sat & Mon 3rd Sun	2	2	1
		4	4	6
		17	17	21
Plant Propagation Nursery Facility	1.00pm - 3.00pm Wednesdays each month	✓	✓	✓
Water Quality Monitoring Meet at the Park Office	9:00 - 12:00 noon 3rd Tues	19	19	16
Community Projects Weekends	9:00 - 12:00 noon, follow the signs	Nil	Nil	Nil
Special Activities	Times to be advised	Night Walks are offered from April through to September Gold Coin Donation per head Bookings Essential on 9551 4578		

Night Walks

The Friends are offering night walks as an activity from April through to September. **Are you an Friends Member who has an interest in assisting with this activity. If so please give Bev a call on 9551 4578.**

This is an opportunity to learn about and see the night life of the park. And share your knowledge with others whilst sharing the load to deliver these activities with other members.

A trial of this activity was undertaken in September last year with three nights being held. There appears to be lots of interest in attending these activities.

Bird Sightings in the Park

From report by Steve MacDonald, Friends Members and Park Staff.

There have been some exciting bird sightings in the Park from September to January, with some species recorded for the first time and others not having been seen in the park for many years.

Over 117 species have been recorded by Steve MacDonald throughout Braeside Park and its surround's during December and January:

New Species Recorded include;

Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) & Reeves or Ruff (*philomachus pugnax*)

Other interesting species include Spotless Crake (*Porzana tabuensis*), Spotted Crake (*Porzana fluminea*), Baillons Crake (*Porzana pusilla*), Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus funereus*), various sightings of Wedge Tailed Eagles (*Aquila audax*), Bassian Thrush (///) not seen for 17-18 years, 11 Pairs of Tawny Frog Mouths (*Podargus strigoides*) Nested, over 17 Pink Eared Ducks (*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*), Freckled Ducks (*Stictonetta naevosa*), Lewin's Rail (*Rallus pectoralis*), Fairy Martin (*Cecropis ariel*), Brown Falcon (*Falco berigora*), Nankeen Night Herons (*Nycticorax caledonicus*) x 5, Musk Duck – Female (*Biziura lobata*), Pacific Heron (*Ardea pacifica*), Kookaburra (*Dacelo gigas*), Sacred Kingfisher (*Halcyon sancta*) and Satin Fly Catcher (*Myiagra cyanoleuca*).

Many thanks to Steve and Friends for providing this valuable information.

Photos provided by Des Lucas.



Nursery News

The Friends committee wish to extend their sincere thanks to **Marj Seaton** and **Bill Jackson** for the many years of involvement in propagating plants for the community nursery.

Both have decided that its time to move on and have retired from activities at the nursery although both are still active friends members.

The Committee of the Friends have requested that an **SOS** be placed for new members to become involved in the propagation group as numbers have now reduced to a critical level.

New people are required to assist with propagating some 10,000—15,000 plants for the coming planting season.

New members will ensure the revegetation program continues in the park.

S O S

Seeking Other's Support

Do you have spare time

are interested in the environment,
like learning and broadening your life experiences,
like meeting like meeting and socialising with like minded people,
get enjoyment from achieving a task or project,
sharing knowledge and experiences with others,
like leaving a leaving an everlasting legacy and like parks and what they offer to the community?

If so then please consider becoming actively involved with the Friends Activities especially the propagation group where the numbers have been reduced by three.

See the activity calendar for dates and times

Cypress Stump Art - The story behind the art:

From the Editor:

The Kangaroo, Koala, Wombat, Goanna and several birds including owls, the wedge tailed eagle and cockatoos have all returned to Braeside Park as Art. Chainsaw sculptor Rob Bast was commissioned by the Friends of Braeside Park to create an ongoing legacy for two of the Cypress tree stumps.

The Cypress Trees were planted in 1939 to form an avenue to the pump house for the Braeside Sewage Plant which operated on the site from 1940 to 1978.



Cypress Tree at entrance to Cockatoo Car Park, Photo by Des Lucas

After the 14 year's drought (1996-2010) had broken the extensive growth on the trees created a series of risk issues for any of the multi trunked cypress trees as light rainfall would build up on the leaves which then increased the overall weight of branches. This ended up causing one of the three trunked trees to fail completely while several others also lost single trunks.

Parks Victoria who manages Braeside Park arranged for an arborist's risk report to be completed on the cypress trees where the public parked vehicles. This resulted in five trees being cut down but stumps of up to 3 metres tall being left to be used for sculpting.

The animals and birds sculpted by Rob now provide a key focal point within the Park along the Cypress Drive. Over the coming years further sculpting work is planned on the remaining tree stumps. Why not plan a visit to the park in the near future to see these

newly sculpted animal features. Also stay tuned for further developments on the other stumps.

The Friends of Braeside Park are seeking assistance with the funding for the sculpting of the remaining tree stumps.

If interested please send a donation to The Treasurer, Friends of Braeside Park, PO Box 608 Braeside, Vic. 3195.

See Page 7 for more on this story

Help is at hand for injured wildlife: call **AWARE** (Patterson Lakes Branch) on **0412 433 727**

Redgum Picnic Area Improvements

From the Editor

When was the last time you visited the Redgum picnic area of the Park? If you have not visited over the last 18 months then I suggest you consider a visit.

Over the last 15 months there has been a number of projects completed by staff, volunteers and contractors to improve this portion of the park. Projects have included the upgrading of the access road, speed humps, car park, signage and development of a 24 hour car park facility catering for six vehicles, the installation of a new gate and exit spikes to assist with daily closures of the park, planting of over 8000 seedlings to improve the habitat of the area, the removal of the old information shelter and placement of the interpretive cabinet from the shelter under the verandah of the toilet block facility.

Further to this mulch has been spread underneath the red gums through out the area north and west of the car park. This mulching work will continue over the coming 12 months or so.

All this work has led to a steady increase in visitation to the southern entrance of the park.

Environment Minister Visit to Braeside Park

Extract from MP Lorraine Wreford newsletter November 2012:



Minister for the Environment and Climate Change, Ryan Smith, has joined Mordialloc MP Lorraine Wreford, the Friends of Braeside Park and Parks Victoria staff for a tour of Braeside Park to discuss the Parks future needs.

Braeside Park is a 295 hectare urban park. It has something for everyone; from joggers to families and more, with its wetlands, heathlands, woodlands, paths, picnic areas, bird hide and playground.

Ms Wreford said: "Braeside Park is a wonderful natural asset for the region. The Friends of Braeside Park do a brilliant job of keeping it that way, and certainly enjoy their role.

"In the middle of the park, it's hard to

believe suburbia is so close by. We need to plan for the park's future to ensure it stays that way, so people can get back to nature, and the park can be made an even better place over time.

Mr Smith said: "Visiting Braeside Park gave me a good perspective of the issues and challenges the park faces. By placing a focus on planning for its future we can ensure Braeside Park is kept as a valuable community asset.

The Minister's visit was in response to Ms Wreford's Parliamentary request for the Minister to visit to consider the Park's need for a new masterplan.

Cypress Stump Art—cont

By the Rangers

The newly completed sculpted cypress stumps have certainly created interest with many park visitors.

This contribution to art in the park was funded by the Friends group (Friends of Braeside)

Further sculptures are planned for the future

Ranger staff have stained the stumps and will follow up with further treatments as required.

Interpretive material for each stump is planned and will form part of future grant applications.

The below photographs show one of the stumps before and then after the sculpting work has been completed.



Grants

By Bev Bancroft and Des Lucas

The Friends have been busy in applying for numerous grants during have the following active applications.

The City of Kingston has provided a community grant of \$957.00 to be used for portable A-Frames/ signage.

The Dept. of Family And Community Services have provided a small tools grant of \$1,027.00 for small tool replacement.

The Port Phillip and Western Port Management Authority has provided a grant for work within the Diuris block for \$9680.00

There is an application with Melbourne Water for work along the Dingley Waterway for \$9445.00. It is hope we'll be advised whether this grant has been successful in the coming month.

Melbourne Water also provide a grant of \$1000.00 for group support.

Three grants have been applied for through Parks Victoria no decision of these as yet,

Burgan Control and Revegetation = \$10875.00

Community Garden Interpretive Signs = \$9300.00

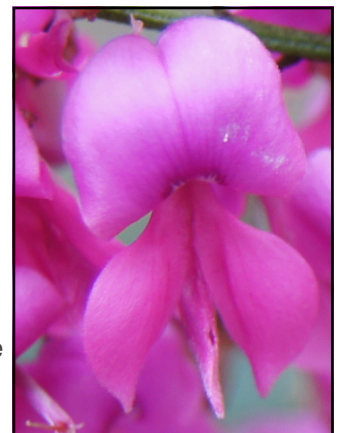
Cypress Stump Art = \$9000.00

The grants received are greatly appreciated by Volunteers & friends.

Park Plants:

Do you know the name of this Plant?

Details about this plant will be in the next edition of the newsletter.

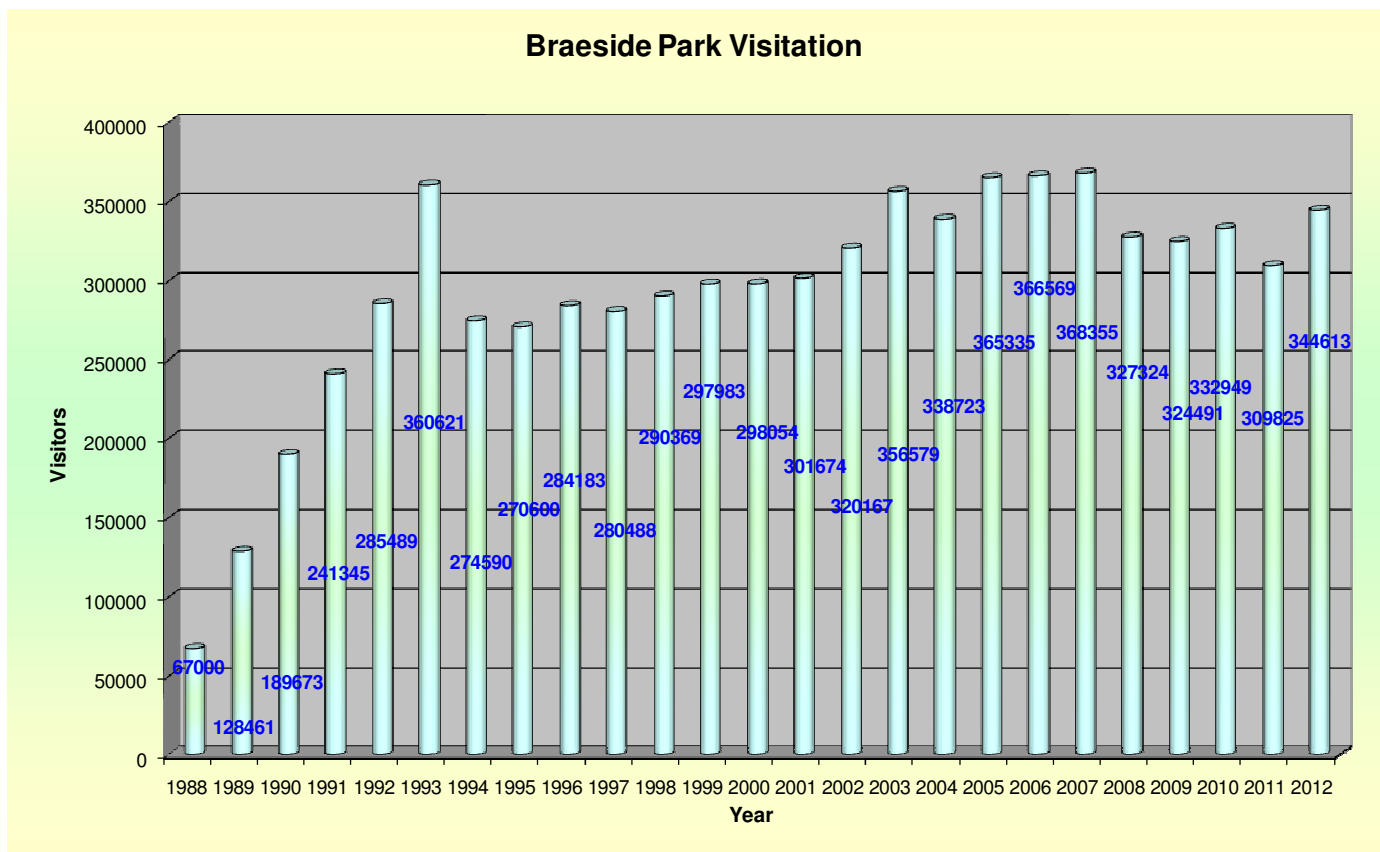


Park Report

From Ranger in Charge Des Lucas' monthly reports

Visitation:

During 2012, 344613 people visited the park, this is an increase of 11 percent from 2011. See Graph



Telford Picnic Area:

The mulch throughout the picnic area has been spread last week although there has been further loads dropped off over the last few days. This has certainly improved the vista throughout the picnic area.

Park Note – Brochure Boxes:

New stainless steel brochure boxes have been installed throughout the park at the Visitor centre doors, red gum toilets and birdhide.

Summer Ranger:

Summer Ranger John Patykowski commenced early December for his 12 week period at Sandbelt Parklands. His projects are focusing on mapping of rabbit warrens and weed species along the Dingley Waterway and reviewing the photographic point locations.

Elsie Anderson:

It's with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Elsie Anderson.



Elsie has been a very active member of the Friends group for many years and had been the secretary up until the AGM last year. A position she has held for some 15 years.

22nd October
1921 to 23rd
November
2012

RIP and many thanks for your contribution
you'll be sadly missed