



THE FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK NEWSLETTER

AGM Notification
Sunday 6th August 2017
2:00 pm
At the Braeside Park Visitor
Centre

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Braeside Park
470 Lower Dandenong Road,
Braeside 3195
Melway Map 88 D8



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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.

**Mordialloc Bypass Proposal VicRoad Presentation at Visitors' Centre Braeside Park 6th July 2017 Visitors' Centre.
44 Representations from the Friends of Braeside Park, Braeside Park Men's Shed, Dingley Community Association.**

Charlie Broadhurst, Stephanie Menta and Lavan Nathan and 2 other VicRoads representatives (an engineer and the other, community relation) came to the Friends of Braeside Park meeting to share the map and process for the Mordialloc Bypass. Charlie's opening statement was that his role was to present the map and outline the process of the building and to listen to the concerns of the community. He was unable to stop the road and had no access to the Feasibility and Business Study or the traffic data nor the criteria for the building of this Bypass. The State Government's Cabinet maintains these are subject to privacy. Rosemary West, Kingston Councillor, asked for this information.

Mr Broadhurst outlined the history of the Bypass initially. The reservation was put aside in 1957 and there had been promises for the development of the road since 1960s. There was a community consolidation in 2012 and David Boldiston, a Committee member, has kept a series of press articles, advertisements and photographs of this process. The Friends Group was not approached.

The issues involved in building the Bypass, Mr Broadhurst identified as environmental, engineering, technical, and social. The wetland site presents some technical issues with ground water at the northern end, as the Bypass bridges over the wetlands.

The Bypass will initially be **four** lanes with capability of being extended to **six** lanes. There will be shared links with pedestrians and recreational cyclists. Mr Broadhurst indicated that this would be on the Park side of the Bypass. He suggested that there might be an overpass for pedestrians to enter the Park.

The Bypass will begin in 2019 and be completed by 2021!

A Biodiversity Study carried out by DELWP, Department of Environment, Land and Water Planning, State Government Department, and will be presented to the Minister of Planning. This will investigate endangered species of fauna and flora. The water quality will be assess. Mr Broadhurst said that there would be an Environmental Protection Document produced for the contractor to follow. There could be NO GO zones. VicRoads would audit the safety and traffic and have an independent audit as well. There would be an investigation of the economic impact of the Bypass!

Mr Broadhurst indicated that local interest groups would be kept informed. He said there is a wide range of opinions on the Bypass.

Questions were wide and extensive. Some were:

What noise protection would be provided? There is a need for noise protection but it is not in the poli-



Photos by Geoff Hergt

What speed limit would be imposed on the Bypass?

Possibly 80 km/h to 100 km/h. The traffic lights would be regulated to prevent stopping and starting.

Why is the Heritage Listed Pumping Station to be demolished?

Mr Broadhurst seemed sympathetic to the case that the loss of the Pumping Station was not only historically significant but could mean the end of Rangers stationed in the Park. The Rangers' lunch shed is on VicRoads land and will be demolished. There could be a case of re-building.

The bridge over the wetland will cause significant problems with noise, air and light pollution and casting shade into the wetlands. How is this to be addressed?

The cheapest bridge will be in 35-metre spans every 30 metres with space between two lanes or it could be a box girder bridge with 60-metre spans. The biggest risk to the wetlands is the building with possible cement spillages. Visually it will be imposing and certainly will affect the wetlands. The lights can have dampers to keep light focussed on the traffic lanes and air and noise are factors that cannot be avoided. There will be increasing noise in the Park. There will be no light towers! There will be some traffic management to determine the intersection lights control. There will be a robust environment reference document and possible a Commonwealth referral.

What will be done to support the wetland birds, which travel between Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands (remembering that Ramsar Listed wetlands are recognized as a matter of national environmental significance under the EPBC Act? Consequently, an action that has, will have, or is likely to have, a significant impact on the ecological character of a Ramsar wetland must be referred to the Minister and undergo an environmental assessment and approval process.) and Braeside Wetlands? These are migratory birds from the Northern Hemisphere.

This matter would be referred to Commonwealth Minister. There will be a survey of water and wild life pre and post building. There would be post project monitoring.

Councils have been trying to establish a chain of parks and what possibility is there for the Bypass to link through pedestrian and cyclist tracks this link? Possibly even horses to ride to Braeside Park and around the Phar Lap track!

There is some possibility. But not the horses!

Is there any information regarding the traffic data predicted for this Bypass?

It could possible be obtained but rough estimates suggest 30-50 thousand cars daily with 10-12% trucks.

Is there possibility that Vic Roads can return with answers to some of the questions unanswered and how is the consultation process going to proceed?

Yes, we can return with further information. We have made a note of the concerns expressed from this group. There will be an interactive road map with an overlay allowing zooming in. There will be a drag and drop suggestion boxes. There will be a letter drop and pop-up information centres. The first consultation will conclude in around 6 weeks and then there should be a first round of feedback. There will be on line blogs and the consultation of 2012 will be used. VicRoads will access any group information to gather thoughts and opinions as well.

The meeting ended around 8:45 pm and most who attended felt they had been listened too and that their concerns were noted. They were looking forward to more information after the 6-week consultation.



Photos by Geoff Hergt

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

We are back, busy as usual on Wednesdays.

GRASSLANDS

Several visits to the Grasslands have include another favourite "weeding" and checks of the fences and rabbit warrens for intruders – all O.K. for now.

Over 3,000 grasses – Themeda, Poa & Danthonia were planted in 2016. To date 290 have been planted with 2,000+ available in the hardening off area for future plantings.

HEATHLAND

Days x 2 collecting guards & frames from previous plantings.

PROPAGATION (COMMUNITY GARDEN)

The Green House has been rejuvenated with shade cloth on the back wall.

Rabbit warrens have been fumigated & so far no sight of rabbits.

Hundreds of pots have been washed ready for the next stage ie. Pricking out.

General pruning of grasses, weeding and raking have continued to maintain the area.

*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.*

Newsletter Contributions

Thank you to Margaret Hunter, Judith Sise, Bev Bancroft, Stephen Garth, John Burns, Ivan Kravchenko, Geoff Hergt & 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

Photo, Des Lucas



Mystery Walk—by John Burns

On Sunday 18th June 2017, Des Lucas led 26 people on an infotainment Mystery Walk commencing at 2.30p.m. from The Park Office.

We share vehicles and drove down Cypress Drive turning right, then hard right proceeding past the cattle yard through the park to the convergence of Red Gum Track and the Race Course Track.

There we alighted and the Mystery Walk began!

Walking back through the Race Course gate to the Dam where Phar Lap exercised, we passed by the special area where the purple flowering orchard grows.

Stopping at various locations Des explained the age and growth of the trees. Moving on we then arrived back on the Red Gum Track.

Next we entered the Heathland, pausing inside the gate Des asked how many of us had been in this area before, only 10. After meandering through this beautiful area we approached the boundary fence with the Southern Golf Course at the fourth fairway.

Walking the 600 metres along this boundary fence, we turned and proceeded along the south boundary to view the fence line, that had been shifted in approx 2013.

Then we came upon a well about 25 metres deep that once had a windmill to draw the water out. Once again Des asked how many of us had been in this area before, NONE!

Upon returning to Red Gum Track, Des pointed out the Red Gum Stump that had been cut to form a chair, it was noticed that after the long drought a branch had grown from the side of the stump. Now that branch is some 4 years old.

After a short walk we were back at our vehicles for a photo shoot.

Returning to the ranger's lunch room we enjoyed afternoon tea with scones jam & cream that some of the ladies had baked.

Des was thanked, presented with a jar of honey and those present applauded him in appreciation of a wonderful adventure through the Park & Heathland.

Photos by of Mystery Walk by Ivan Kravchenko, a fellow resident of Dingley Village, grandson of two beekeepers - Diana and Nikolai Faizouline.

A very enthusiastic photohobbyist, taking his camera everywhere he goes - be it shooting the amazing scenery, cars at a racetrack or a show, or just people enjoying a festival out in the public.

Ivan is also a first year civil engineering student, car enthusiast and a nature lover.



MYSTERY WALK IN BRAESIDE PARK

Twenty-six community members gathered at the Rangers' office to participate in this year's Mystery Walk led by Des Lucas, Ranger Team Leader, Sandbelt Parklands. After a short drive to Red Gum Trail, Des began the two and half hour Mystery Walk. He led the group along the Race Track and then via a rough track to see the results of re-vegetation and some 500-600 hundred year old River Red Gums.



He told of the rabbits' love of eating the bark of certain trees, which must be guarded for a few years. We all viewed the racehorse water-training pond

covered in red Azolla and a couple of sleepy Tawny Frogmouths in a tree.



From here, we ventured into the Heathland, which half of the group had never entered before. Des explained that the area is not open to the Public as it is a Heathland remnant with many special indigenous plants and animals. It does have some invasive native plants including Burchardia umbellata, which crowds out many other plants and even will eventually kill large eucalyptus trees.

The group walked to Golf Course boundary and followed the fence line to a gate into large pad-

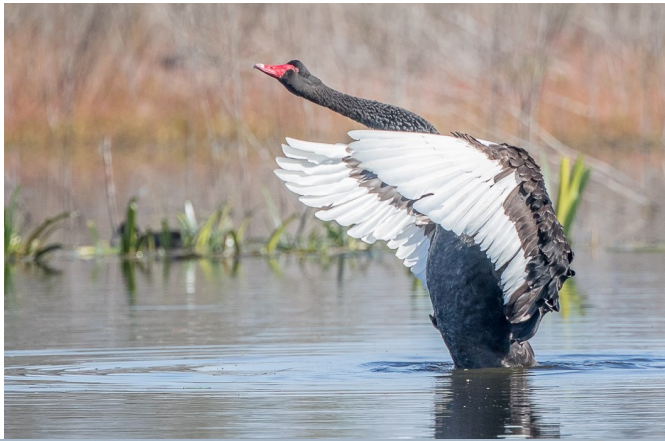
docks where cattle are grazed but one day hopefully will be developed into more trails. This area watered by drainage from the Golf Course and Mentone Grammar playing fields could be developed into another wetland complex.

A fox startled by the sudden invasion of his territory, watched the approaching group for a few moments before deciding to take refuge in the long grasses. Des took time to show some of the interesting trees and plants in the Park and to explain why and how the cattle grazing is part of the Park's program.



There were hidden wells and cattle watering troughs to discover along the walk. As Des led the group back to the Red Gum Track, only a few were able to guess how close we were to the cars. There were queries as to the whereabouts of Mount Braeside! Des said that this maybe the destination for 2018's Mystery Walk, which will be the 14th such walk hosted in the Park.

Birds of Braeside Park - Stephen Garth— Take 2



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

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 **Phone:** 0417 323 460

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ACN: A 002 4027 B

Join us on Facebook

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

Current Facebook Members = 118

The Friends of Braeside Park

**Invite you to Breakfast
with the Birds, an early
morning guided walk &
barbecue at Braeside
Park's main Wetland**



When: 24th September 2017 at 7:00 am

Where to Meet: Red Gum
Picnic Area, Melway Map
Reference 93 — F 1 & 2 from Governor Road Entrance

Cost: Free

What to Bring: Camera, binoculars, sturdy footwear etc

Time Activity Concludes: 9:30 am approximately

**Please RSVP for catering purposes
your attendance by calling the
0418 173 228 by Friday 22nd
September 2017.**



The watermark on this paper depicts the emblem of the Friends Group - The Wedding Bush (Ricinocarpos pinifolius)

The Friends of Braeside Park

**Invite you to the Spring
Walk**

**The Wedding Bush &
other native plants are
in flower**



**When: Sunday 15th October 2017
1:00 - 3:30 afternoon tea supplied**

**Meet at the Visitor Centre after entering
the park from Lower Dandenong Road**

Melway Map Reference 88 - D8

**What to Bring: Camera, binoculars,
sturdy footwear etc**

All Welcome

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