



# THE FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK NEWSLETTER

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**Braeside Park**  
470 Lower Dandenong Road,  
Braeside 3195  
Melway Map 88 D8  
Phone: 8427 2027



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If you would like your newsletters emailed then  
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[braesideparkfriends@gmail.com](mailto:braesideparkfriends@gmail.com)

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

## President's Report

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Braeside Park, on 11 August, was the venue for celebrating 30 years of volunteering. Comparing the early images of our Park with today is a revelation. Empty paddocks have become open woodlands. Wetlands edged with sedges and rushes have developed into a water bird mecca. What a great debt we owe to the earliest members and Park Rangers who showed just how to transform a sewerage farm into an indigenous landscape.

It fills me with hope to think that in just 30 years such a transformation can occur. Now at the present, and into the future, the challenge is to protect this treasure. It is a big task, especially with the prospect of the construction of the Mordialloc Freeway at the bottom of the Park. The mitigation measures proposed are not going to be sufficient to protect the Park. Swales along the Freeway will have to be large, and cleaned out every 5-10 years to cope with the run-off from petrol, tyres and litter onto the road. The noise and lights, regardless of 2-3 metre walls and road surface changes, will affect the endangered Australian Bittern's booming mating call. We, the public, will lose the benefit of a quiet, healthy, green oasis. The Freeway will remove some large trees. This is a big concern. Such trees are like human's high-rise buildings providing homes for possums, bats, birds, reptiles and insects. It is to be hoped that these creatures will be removed to an appropriate habitat, and the trees' trunks re-used within the Park.

The Friends have raised this concern with Major Road Projects Victoria and I hope that the Friends' recommendation, along with those of Parks Victoria, are followed. Braeside Park is our largest open space, which is going to be even more valuable with Melbourne's ever-increasing population. The Friends of Braeside Park are determined to work with anyone to preserve this space, and welcome any members of the Public interested in maintaining the Park.

***By Judith Sise***

## Park Activities

### Mystery Walk

On Sunday 23rd June, Ranger Des Lucas welcomed a large group of enthusiastic walkers on the Mystery Walk through Braeside Park. We visited a dam surrounded by ancient river red gums. This famous racecourse dam was used by Phar Lap, our 1930 Melbourne Cup winner, who was stabled at Braeside for a short time. Harry Telford is remembered as Phar Lap's trainer. Des said the Friends' group is reviewing how to restore the racecourse area and invited interested parties to get involved.



Des lead us to a field where ghostly shapes now stand in a tree graveyard that traces the path of salinity in the Park. These hollow trees house many animals and birds including parrots, cockatoos, owls and kookaburras. Des said staff and volunteers are planting seedlings and shrubs to reduce soil salinity which will improve the health of the Park.



I asked Des if we could visit the Heathland area. The Heathland has a great diversity of plant species and is the last large remnant left of Cheltenham heathland. It is zoned as a conservation area. I was keen to share a discovery from a recent walk, a rare sighting of giant bolete mushrooms.

Visitors were gob-smacked by the size of the mushrooms and took photos to share with family and friends. One of the boletes was large enough for a toddler to sit on, although not encouraged, as extremely fragile! We saw a variety

of fungi throughout the walk.





## Park Activities (cont.)

An early flowering white orchid was spotted in the Heathland. It was too early for Wedding Bush; Des said this will be flowering for the Spring Walk. I asked Des if I could show the group some ghost fungi I spotted on a weekend walk. Ghost fungus, a species mostly known for its bioluminescent properties generates its own light, glowing faintly in the dark. My husband shared his experience of photographing ghost fungi and said long-exposure photography could lift the mushrooms' luminescence from ghostly white to glowing green.



Des pointed to an old river red gum and said this tree has a unique resume – it has been struck by lightning twice! He pointed to another tree and said an oval piece of wood had been carved out some 150 years ago. It has been documented that the Bunerong people lived for many thousands of years in and around the area now called Braeside Park. Aboriginals used river red gum bark for canoe and shield making. Des said six Aboriginal scar trees can be found in the Park. These trees are now fragile reminders of the resource harvesting techniques practised for thousands of years, and need to be protected.



Nearing the end of our walk, Des said that the Mordialloc Freeway's future path would run through the Rangers' lunchroom.

Some of us took photos of the giant trees that stand in its pathway.

Despite Government assurances to recycle felled trees into other shapes that can be used to house creatures in the Park. I am sad that these majestic trees are going to be destroyed.

We returned to the cosy confines of the Ranger's lunchroom and shared our stories over steaming drinks. Cakes and slices were devoured as many of us had quite the appetite! To conclude a very enjoyable afternoon, one of the Friends group thanked Des for taking us on a very informative journey through Braeside Park.

*By Rosemaree MacLean*

## **Friends of Braeside Park—Activity Calendar**

### **"WEDNESDAYS - B TEAM"**

#### **Seed Cleaning**

A new chore: On a very cold day we were in the big shed, preparing Themeda seed for plantings on the Heat Beds.

One tray has been planted & already is ready for picking out.

#### **Propagation**

A large tree between two of our areas came crashing down in the last windy storm. It was cut back & reduced to manageable pieces & taken to the tip pile.

Weeding & maintenance of the Community garden.

#### **Grasslands**

Over 400 Themeda & Danthonia were planted in bare areas.

Weeding continued. Chocolate Lillies, Pimelia and other small plants are already in flower.

#### **Guards & Sticks**

These were removed from a previous planting & stacked in readiness for National Tree Day Community Planting.

1,500 trees were planted – Congratulations !

#### **Wetlands**

Close to the freeway area beyond the Propagation Centre, the Melbourne Water Grant has started with the preparation of the site and the planting of 500 trees.

More Volunteers are needed. Please come & join us.

Wednesdays 9 am - 12 noon

Meet at the lunch room - Park Office

Morning tea provided.

*By Bev Bancroft*

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

### **2019 Night Walk Program**

The Friends night walk program is operating in 2019 with expected bookings via 2 methods – text/phone to 0417 323 460 or email to [braesideparkfriends@gmail.com](mailto:braesideparkfriends@gmail.com).

The last Nightwalk for 2019 will be held on 6 September.

We take a maximum of 15 to 20 people only per walk 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 Group.

*By Margaret Hunter*

#### **Committee Meeting:**

2nd Thursday, monthly 7:00 to 9:00pm at the Visitors Centre.

The Committee meets to make decisions about the running of the group.

### **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

### **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

**Publicity Officer:** Vacant

**Postal Address:** PO Box 608 Braeside, Vic. 3195

**Phone:** 0417 323 460

**Email:** braesideparkfriends@gmail.com

**Web:** [www.braesideparkfriends.org.au](http://www.braesideparkfriends.org.au)

**ACN:** A 002 4027 B

Join us on Facebook

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

Current Facebook Members = 118

### **Newsletter Contributions**

Thank you to Judith Sise, Margaret Hunter, Bev Bancroft, Frank Russo, Rosemaree MacLean, 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

# Planting Day

## The Friends of Braeside Park

are appealing for your help with a  
revegetation planting day



**When: 9:00 till 12:00 noon.**

**Saturday 21st September 2019**

Look for the directional signs when entering the park from Lower Dandenong Road Braeside – Dingley. Melway 88 – C8.

Tools are supplied but please bring gloves, a drink and wear sturdy footwear. No previous experience is necessary.

**For further information call  
Parks Victoria on 0418 173 228**

*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 Annual  
Spring Walk  
The Wedding Bush &  
other native plants are  
in flower**



**When: Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019  
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—Gold Coin Donation**





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 thru to September  
on the 12<sup>th</sup> April, 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 7<sup>th</sup> June,  
5<sup>th</sup> July, 2<sup>nd</sup> August & 6<sup>th</sup> September  
Meet at Visitors Centre  
Braeside Park, Lower Dandenong Rd, Braeside**

**Cost: Gold Coin Donation per person  
Numbers Limited - Bookings Essential  
Via email:  
[braesideparkfriends@gmail.com](mailto:braesideparkfriends@gmail.com)  
or contact Margaret Hunter on  
0417323460**

## 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 Watervatch 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	*	*	*	*	*	World Environment Day Tree Planting Sunday 2nd	National Tree Planting Day Saturday 27th	*	*	*	*	*
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](http://www.braesideparkfriends.org.au)Email [braesideparkfriends@gmail.com](mailto:braesideparkfriends@gmail.com)

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