



THE FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK

NEWSLETTER

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Additions

Invitation- 25 Year Anniversary Celebration

Invitation- Propagation Workshops



Braeside Park

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Committee News

Summarised by the editor

Plans for The Friends of Braeside Parks' 25 year celebration are well under way, a preliminary invitation is attached so you can plan to keep the date free. Further details including RSVP requirements will be provided in the near future - keep an eye on our webpage and Facebook page.

The Friends group have increased the collection of taxidermied birds with a Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, now on display in the Visitors' Centre.

New membership renewals have been posted, remember that if you would like to receive your newsletter electronically rather than via post please let us know.



Newest taxidermied Sulphur-crested Cockatoo at the Visitor Centre. Photo Bev Bancroft.

Newsletter Contributions

Thank you to Bev Bancroft, Margaret Hunter, Des Lucas, Joanne Cody, Heather Lamond, Philippe Rouillon and Margaret and Ian Langdon for contributing to the July/August Newsletter.

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

kylie_eklom@yahoo.com.au
0403 174 731

Deadline for September/October edition: 29th August 2014

Earlier submissions appreciated.

Recognition of The Friends of Braeside Park

By Margaret Hunter, President

On the 17th May, a small group of volunteers and Braeside Park staff attended a special ceremony at Point Nepean National Park. The Friends of Braeside Park were presented with a certificate of appreciation for our 25th anniversary. Those who attended the day appreciated the free bus trip to the 'Point' and the guided walking tour of the quarantine station. Thank you to Bernice for organising the day.



Top: Certificate of appreciation. Photo Kylie Eklom

Bottom: Parks Victoria CEO Bill Jackson with FOB volunteers at Point Nepean. Photo courtesy of Margaret Hunter

Wednesdays with Ernie's 'A Team'

By Bev Bancroft

TANKS

Our water tanks have been delivered and are in place, thanks to those who helped Digger do the frame work & tank pads.



*Delivery of the water tank at the park depot.
Photo Bev Bancroft.*

VOLUNTEER WEEK

The group removed a very large area of tea tree (near Southern Golf Club) and then dug in rabbit warrens. A BBQ lunch was provided and volunteer pins and certificates were given to those who were present. We love our Volunteers for the contribution which they make to Braeside Park.

DINGLEY WATERWAY

The Melbourne Water Grant has just about been completed. The area has been slashed, weed controlled and planted up with 500 trees & grasses.



Planting along the Dingley Waterway. Photos Bev Bancroft.

Wednesdays with Ernie's 'A Team' cont...

OLD SHED (OLD STABLE)

The old shed which is in the compound was relieved of all of the spare polyboxes, tubes & frames. These are being stored in the "Mash Unit" until required by the propagation group.

MULCHING

Our favourite in car park Two. Some of the group went off to check Fauna tiles & pads.

PARKS OFFICE

The morning spent weeding around this area & clipping back some of the grasses - looks good. Some of the group went with Digger to help with the chipper which was flat chat after the days of wind and storms with lots of debris.

CYPRESS DRIVE

Replacement of the Cypress *Cupressus macrocarpa* var. *aurea* has started - they have been planted and guarded by 4 or 6 bollards. Great Job!



Two of our volunteers planting the Cypress trees. Photo 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 - 3 pm in the Friends Community Garden.

The Enjoyment of Being a Volunteer

By Joanne Cody



Readers of this newsletter all have either a long connection or a more recent connection to Braeside Park like me. I initially joined the Friends about 20 years ago when my step kids were at High School. Now they are both parents & we introduced the grandsons to the park with a wonderful time at the playground. I remember a past talk and presentation with snakes - David was keen to handle the long reptile but I declined! In those days we had time to attend a night walk with the kids & some AGM's with a speaker. Then for many years my only contact with the park was through the newsletter & an occasional walk there.

A few years ago the late Elsie asked me to join the Friends committee meetings and I did agree with the idea that I could enjoy a walk in the park as well. That did not happen as I was rushing from one commitment to another. Sounds familiar to you busy people! Did you know that busy people help more in their local communities as volunteers! I

volunteer as well in healthcare & for a not for profit organisation but I was personally asked and like to help out if I can. Currently the Friends of Braeside Park NOW only have *three* members on our committee.

Since being on the committee I have enjoyed coming to the park at least once a month, been introduced to our plant nursery where I have done some thinning out of seedlings, had some great walks with the rangers and my first visit to the old pump house, attended two open days, learnt fantastic skills on propagating at a free workshop and helped at a community planting. I have now also become interested in birds after meeting and chatting to two birdwatchers at one of my walks.

Well I think the positives benefits to myself far outweigh what I have given back as a volunteer to the Friends group and to the park for all of us to enjoy. So I will continue to give an hour when I can to help with our activities. Can you also?

Are you looking for a new interest? Are you looking for some new friends who enjoy our local natural environment? Do you have skills you want to use or to learn something new? Or do you like to give a hand?

Share this with your friends and family and help out when you can at one of our activities or think about joining our committee. We are celebrating this year our 25th birthday and your active support is needed and asked for to keep the park alive and well for all of us to ENJOY.

Correa reflexa green form and red form, in the Visitor Centre garden, propagated, planted and tended by volunteers of The Friends of Braeside Park. Without volunteers, special plantings like these would not be possible. Photos Kylie Eklom.



Eye Spy With My Little Eye...

By Kylie Eklom

The night activity program offered by The Friends of Braeside Park is in full swing. The first of the series kicked off with the Dingley Scouts as part of their environmental badge. Following in inauguration of new members, around 30 scouts, leaders and family joined myself and Margaret on a night walk into the Heathland. The usual suspects were seen along the way including Ringtail and Brushtail Possums as well as a Tawny Frogmouth.

Our first public night walk attracted 12 people, most of whom are members of FOB of Dingley Village Men's Shed. Although it was a fairly slow start, eventually the group were able to get excellent views of Ringtail and Brushtail Possums and a Boobook Owl. Several rodents were also seen, although the species was not able to be confirmed due to them scuttling down the trees into the grass. The June night walk had to be cancelled due to bad weather.



Although the temperature is plummeting, on a cool calm night it is still a fantastic experience to get rugged up and go for a walk in the park. We still have three more night walks planned for this year, please remember to book your place with the Parks office on 9265 7300.



The group meeting in Swallow car park ready to start the night walk (top) and a Ringtail Possum seen on the Self Guided Heathland Trail (bottom). Photos Kylie Eklom

Report on the Community Garden Open Day

By Heather Lamond

An early start was had by a handful of volunteers in preparation for this years Community Garden Open Day. Information displays were set up in the shed and a quick tidy up of the nursery and community garden was all that was required as much of the work had been completed in the weeks leading up to the day. Ranger in Charge Des Lucas kicked the day off with a guided history walk followed by Margaret and Ian leading a wetlands walk. Phillippe Rouillon conducting a study on 'pricking out' plants, this proved to be very informative and we look forward to more learning's from this knowledgeable man. There were numerous cups of tea and coffee consumed along with a marvellous BBQ cooked by Des. A number of new faces had a look through the nurseries igloos and shade houses and a small number of plants were sold. There was an approximate number of 50 people in attendance and a great day was had by all. Photos of the day are included on the next page (courtesy of Kylie Eklom)

Wetlands Walk, Community Garden Open Day

By Margaret Hunter, President

A group of bird enthusiasts and families took part in a walk around the wetlands to view the Governor road end of Braeside Park and visit the bird hide as part of the activities for the Community Garden Open Day. It was evident as we walked along that the environment changed with many trees and phragmites along the wetlands track, and around the wetland areas. We visited also the viewing platforms with many swans and ducks to be seen as well as information on this important area of Braeside Park. Many vowed to come back in the spring when the migratory birds had returned from Siberia. It is interesting to note the bird life around the wetlands with the Swamp Hens and other birds that were obligingly on view for the enraptured audience. This is an important area of Braeside Park worth visiting.

National Seniors Week

As part of this year's National Seniors Week activity program,
a free guided ranger walk will be held at Braeside Park.

Thursday 9th October 2014

10am start, meeting at the Visitor Centre

The walk will be for approximately 60-90 minutes, followed by light refreshments

Booking are essential by calling the park office on 9265 7300



Park Report

As reported by Ranger in Charge Des Lucas

DINGLEY VILLAGE MEN'S SHED

The group has moved into the workshop shed and are continually setting this up. Work has now commenced on the amenity building with the rear wall being replaced and a new concrete floor installed. The Men's Shed will be undertaking a first aid training course at the Visitor Centre on the 4th July.

RACECOURSE TRAIL

The portion that links the Cypress Drive to the Red Gum trail has been topped with new trail materials and graded. It is currently closed whilst the cattle graze the area out but will be open again in the next week. This has become a very popular portion of the trail system.

TRAIL WORKS

A number of the trails have had minor work completed during the last month with bare areas and pot holes being treated with new trail toppings.

INFORMATION SHELTERS

The information shelters throughout the park have had repair works undertaken with the roofs being replaced. This will add a further 20 odd years to the life of the asset.

PEST ANIMALS

The Good Neighbour Baiting Program and rabbit proof fencing along the southern side of the Southern Golf Course has been completed. Fumigation and implosion works of rabbit warrens will continue over the coming months, while rabbit proof fencing around the parks perimeter is currently being negotiated.

REVEGETATION

Conservation Volunteers Australia completed stage one of the 2 Million Tree Site on the 30th May, stage two for this site was held on Friday 27th June. Two planting sessions have also been completed for the Melbourne Water Grant along the Dingley Waterway.

FAUNA MONITORING

Frog surveys at Braeside and Karkarook have now been completed. Despite a number of evenings doing frog surveys very few frogs were recorded at either park. Reptile survey pads are currently being installed in the reptile survey areas.

TRAINING

The Indigenous plant propagation course has begun with great success, with the first session attracting 10 participants. The propagation course will continue over the coming months and will be held on the **3rd Sunday of each month**, see the attached flyer for further details

Bird Report

As reported by Margaret and Ian Langdon

Fifty-two species were recoded on the latest bird count on 20.6.2014. Of particular note was a single White-bellied Sea Eagle, Pink-eared Ducks and Little Grassbirds. To spark your interest and entice you out on these cold mornings for a visit to the park, below is the complete bird list of sightings on the day.



Sulphur-crested Cockatoo drinking at a dam at Braeside Park. Photo Robert Van-

<i>Black Swan</i>	<i>White-bellied Sea Eagle</i>	<i>Red Wattlebird</i>
<i>Australian Wood Duck</i>	<i>Swamp Harrier</i>	<i>Noisy Miner</i>
<i>Pacific Black Duck</i>	<i>Brown Goshawk</i>	<i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>
<i>Australasian Shoveler</i>	<i>Brown Falcon</i>	<i>Grey Shrike-thrush</i>
<i>Grey Teal</i>	<i>Purple Swamphen</i>	<i>Magpie-lark</i>
<i>Chestnut Teal</i>	<i>Eurasian Coot</i>	<i>Grey Fantail</i>
<i>Pink-eared Duck</i>	<i>Black-winged Stilt</i>	<i>Willie Wagtail</i>
<i>Hardhead</i>	<i>Masked Lapwing</i>	<i>Grey Butcherbird</i>
<i>Australasian Grebe</i>	<i>Silver Gull</i>	<i>Australian Magpie</i>
<i>Hoary-headed Grebe</i>	<i>Rock Dove</i>	<i>Little Raven</i>
<i>Little Pied Cormorant</i>	<i>Spotted Dove</i>	<i>Welcome Swallow</i>
<i>Great Egret</i>	<i>Long-billed Corella</i>	<i>Little Grassbird</i>
<i>Australian Pelican</i>	<i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i>	<i>Golden-headed Cisticola</i>
<i>White-faced Heron</i>	<i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>	<i>Common Blackbird</i>
<i>White-necked Heron</i>	<i>Eastern Rosella</i>	<i>Common Starling</i>
<i>Eastern Great Egret</i>	<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	<i>Common Mynah</i>
<i>Cattle Egret</i>	<i>Spotted Pardalote</i>	
<i>Straw-necked Ibis</i>	<i>Brown Thornbill</i>	

Activity Calendar 2014

Weekday Project:

Every Wednesday with Ranger staff commencing at 9:00 am from the Park Office.
Activities can include weeding, mowing weeds, mulching, planting, fencing etc.

Community Garden:

3rd Sunday, monthly from 9:30 am to 12:00 Noon.
A short meeting followed by various garden and nursery activities.

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:

4th Monday, monthly at 1:00 pm at the Visitor Centre.
The Committee meets to make decisions about the running of the group.

Water Quality Monitoring:

3rd Tuesday, monthly at 9:00 am 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 Glen Oliphant on 9265 7300 to become part of this program.

Special Activities:

Night walks are offered from April through to September. Gold Coin Donation. For details and bookings contact the park office on 9265 7300.

**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.

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Friends of Braeside Park

25 Years Celebration

**The Friends invite you to attend a series of events as they
celebrate the groups 25 years**

Sunday 21st September 2014

7:00 – 9:00	Breakfast with the Birds
10:00 – 11:30	Plant Propagation Training
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 3:00	Formal Celebration Slide Show

Bus tours from the Visitor Centre at:

9:30am, 11:30am and 2:30pm

**Further details and booking requirements will be
provided in coming months**

The Friends of Braeside Park invite you to attend a series of



Indigenous Plant Propagation Workshops

Discover the skills to successfully grow Indigenous plants

Useful tips for growing Indigenous Plants in the backyard or a professional polyhouse.

An opportunity to discover the 'tricks of the trade' for growing indigenous plants. These no cost workshops are an excellent source of knowledge for anyone interested in the Indigenous plants found at Braeside Park and the best methods to ensure success in their propagation.

Topics range from basic propagation or "pricking out" of monocotyledons, or how to identify the perfect moment to collect seed from Chocolate Lilies.

Topics covered

Sunday June 15: Propagation techniques - Cuttings

Sunday July 20: Propagation techniques - Division

Sunday August 17: Extended propagation techniques and an insight into nursery pests and problems

Sunday October 19: Seed storage, cleaning, preparation and Sowing

Sunday November 16: Seed Collection ethics/principles/techniques



Location: Braeside Park Plant Nursery

Melway Map Ref D-11

Time: 10am to 11.30am

Cost: FREE!