



FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK



Healthy Parks
Healthy People®



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**24th AGM Sunday 11th August 2:00 pm at
the Visitor Centre**

BRAESIDE PARK
Phone 9265 7300
Lower Dandenong Road
Braeside 3195

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

www.braesideparkfriends.org.au

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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

No work has been done. Grass has not grown very much. Hopefully neither have the weeds – looking forward to using the new ride on mower donated by the Friends of Braeside Park.

GUARDS/ FRAMES

Many guards & frames were removed from plantings in red gum area and climate positive plantings in readiness for Community Planting on National Tree Day on Saturday 27th July 2013.

VISITORS CENTRE

Mulch, mulch & more mulch distributed around plantings, with weeding & raking and over 500 seedlings were planted. Looks terrific – in time for the Friends' Annual General Meeting 11th August at 2 pm.

SCHOOLS

A new group from Mentone Girls Grammar (second for the year) has had their first day – "Orientation of the Park" – and are eager to learn propagation etc when school resumes after the holidays.

Help is 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 is interested.

Help is needed for a variety of jobs - everyone is most welcome.

- meet at the Park Office, Wednesdays 9 am - 12 noon.
- morning tea provided



**Cypress Tree
Stump Art work**
Soon to be increased



Friends of Braeside Park Inc.

Lower Dandenong Rd. Braeside 3195 (Melway Map 88 D8)

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This Edition of the Newsletter will provide a further insight into some of the groups that use our parks.

Southern Autistic School have developed a program that is being run out of Karkarook Park—this is their story.



In February a group of secondary students from Southern Autistic



School started making weekly visits to Karkarook Park to participate in horticultural and conservation activities in the park. With



the assistance of Ranger Des Lucas and Friends' members, Bev and Margaret, the students have been collecting



seed from plants in the Park, propagating seed stock and tending to seedlings in the nursery. Once the winter rains start, the students will participate in planting nursery stock

in an area of the park and will then continue to provide ongoing care for that area.

This community-based gardening project provides a great opportunity for these students to develop new skills and apply them in an authentic setting. We look forward to an ongoing relationship with the Park and Friends' members.



Kirsten Schmidt
Gardening Teacher, Southern Autistic School

Historical Snippets on Braeside Park

by Margaret Hunter

Thomas Keys, owned the property “Braeside” on Lower Dandenong Road, and it passed onto his sons, Robert and James on his death in 1891. It included a four-roomed brick cottage and several outbuildings. This was later sold to Dr Arthur Syme, a doctor from Lilydale, who used the land for farming. He established the racing activities at Braeside with a sand and grass track for training, which is the basis of the racecourse area of the current park, a feature of the latest mystery walk in May 2013.

It is currently being developed as part of the Phar Lap interpretation trail, with future developments planned. This track is shown on aerial maps of the park. The property was sold to the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works in 1928 and developed as a sewerage treatment plant. This was delayed due to the depression of the 1930's, and the land was then leased to Phar Lap's trainer, Harry Telford, with the famous racehorse being trained here at Braeside. Harry Telford paid 800 pounds a year for the use of the stables and track constructed by Arthur Syme. Harry employed twenty-five people as gardeners, farmhands, stable boys and apprentices.

Source: A Racing Establishment at Braeside Kingston Historical Website article 114 for further information.





Aerial showing the footprint of the race track

Edition two of the Friends Newsletter from 1990 is on the following two pages.

Items include an Urban Wildlife Survey, Arbor Week, the Death of Rubbish bins, Children's Week, Friends Logo, Friends Frolic to Wetlands, Working Bee, What's Special and Voluntary Historian.

Here we are 23 years later and a wildlife survey is underway throughout the park, a project on the history of the Friends Group is being discussed by the committee and activities inviting the membership and the wider community are planned for the coming months leading into the end of the year. So stay tuned for more details and hope you become involved

Newsletter No 4—July/August 2013

FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE METROPOLITAN PARK NEWSLETTER NO. 2 March 1990.

DATE TO REMEMBER

MARCH

21st.

OPEN MEETING OF PARK FRIENDS AND VISITORS

WEDNESDAY MARCH 21 st. 7.30 p.m.

SPEAKERS: Ray Brezeton
Martin Schültze

TOPIC: URBAN WILDLIFE SURVEY.

CHILDREN ESPECIALLY WELCOME.:

PLACE: The visitors centre at Braeside Metropolitan Park

Both the speakers are about to commence an official survey of the animals in Braeside Park. Coloured slides will be used to help with the description of their work. Everyone welcome. The meeting is to start at 7.30p.m. so children can attend.

ARBOR WEEK 1990.

This week in the past was held in April but the alteration of the school year has delayed the celebration till the week commencing May 14th. Even before the park was officially opened, six schools had participated in planting trees.

I wonder if the boys and girls who planted the trees in 1988 and 1987 have revisited their tree to see how it has grown. Perhaps this visit should be undertaken and if you cannot remember the area where the planting took place a ranger may be able to help.

R.I.P.

The R.I.P. signs on the rubbish bins certainly carry an important message. If everyone takes home their own rubbish the savings are almost \$25000 a year in cleaning costs. This money can then be spent in a more productive way. Last weekend was the first weekend of the trial. A minimal amount of rubbish was left in the park so it looks as if the trial will be successful.

CHILDREN'S WEEK * 1990*

Plans are being made to celebrate Children's Week this year in October. Activities will have a "bird theme" like last year. For many of the adults reading this newsletter they will remember October is bird month.

FRIENDS LOGO.

I hope that this will be the last newsletter prepared on plain paper. A "friend" has designed a terrific logo for us.

Newsletter No 4—July/August 2013

FRIENDS' FROLIC FEBRUARY 18th.

" Walk the New Track to the Wetlands."

The weather was very pleasant and by the time the three rangers were ready to start the walk there were about one hundred people ready to participate. Half of the people were from the "friends". It was a very special occasion and I offer thanks to ranger Malcolm Brown for organizing the environmental activities for the walkers during the afternoon. The other two rangers were ready to answer questions during the walk and I thank them too. It was a very worthwhile event.

WORKING BEE March 4th.

Many thanks to the enthusiastic "FRIENDS" who attended. Four special activities were arranged.

1. Nesting Platforms. These were prepared by the Cheltenham Scouts and placed in the wetlands within sight of the 'bird hide' It was a fine effort from this group of scouts as a few of the boys had just commenced their scouting life and this would have been their first community task.. BRAVO BOYS

2. Beach area. A beach area for wading birds has been prepared near the 'bird hide' . This was task 2.

3. Planting trees. It is necessary to revegetate the wetlands area to provide cover for the birds against their predators. Trees were planted near the beach area by a group of "friends."

4. Seed collecting. Another group of about eight "friends" belonging to the seed collection group, accompanied by several members of the Society For Growing Australian Plants, went to the Heathland area to collect seed of the plants growing there.

On this first expedition, a small amount of seed was collected and members of the group gained a familiarity with the requirements of seed collection.

They learnt that it needs exceptional co-ordination between the plants, the weather and the collectors for seed to be available at the time of a seed collection excursion. Many thanks to those who took part in this informative and enjoyable day.

Next seed collection day will not be held until later in the year after the spring flowering.

A special thank you to all those people that helped at the working bee..

WHAT'S SPECIAL. Regular human visitors to the park may observe things that should be recorded. Have you ever thought that you may have some special information about an unusual migratory bird that is resting in the wetlands or you may have discovered some rare native plant. If you are fortunate enough to have seen something worth recording please notify a ranger and we will publish it in our newsletter.

VOLUNTEER HISTORIAN.

I wonder if any of the "Friends" reading this newsletter would volunteer to commence writing the history of "the friends". It would mean collecting any press clippings , photos of working bees or special occasions and collating them in a scrap book. If you feel you have the skill and the time I would be very happy to hear from you.....Contact Eric. 546 6656.

Newsletter No 4—July/August 2013

Park Report:

There is not much to report but the below item certainly has been a focus for staff over the last couple of months with further work planned over the coming year.

Rabbits:

The rabbit management program along the eastern boundary of the park has continued over the last two months.

A temporary trail link has been established between the Cypress Drive and the Red Gum Trail—this trail link will be opened for use by all using the trail system—it will be open when there is no cattle grazing on the immediate area. See the below aerial for details of the linkage.

Dingley Village Men's Shed:

An application to setup a men's shed base within Braeside Park is currently being worked through by Park Management. It's hoped a lease agreement will be in place in the near future for use of the two sheds within the Federation Picnic Area.

Conservation Volunteers Australia have been involved in a program over the last few months with fence removal, mulch spreading a rabbit harbour removal all being part of the projects they have assisted with delivering.

Des Lucas, Ranger in Charge.

Portraits of Braeside Park—Poems by Jill Dawson:

The Booklet Portraits of Braeside Park is a collection of poems, photographs and illustrations depicting the history, the flora and fauna and other features within the Park.

Below is one of the poems from the booklet which has been reproduced with permission from Jill.

Over the coming editions its proposed to reproduce each of the poems.

Cypress Drive

They were planted in 1939,
Until recent times, they were doing fine

Wind-breakers to their generation,
Torch-bearers to the pumping station.

While some stand stubbornly strong and stout,
Others are stressed from the lengthy drought.

And those still standing in thinning strips
Will make way for native eucalypts.

What hope that they'll go on to survive,
And what of the name, Cypress Drive?

FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK

NOTICE OF FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK Inc No A0024027B
2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 24th Annual General Meeting, will be held on Sunday 11th August 2013, commencing with Registration at 2:00 p.m. in the Visitors Centre

Friends of Braeside Park – Nomination Form for Committee Membership

I hereby nominate

Of-----

As a Committee Member of the Friends of Braeside Park.

Nominator-----

Secunder-----

I hereby accept nomination

Signed-----Date-----

If A Member wishes to make a Nomination, please post the above form to the Secretary, Friends of Braeside Park, PO Box 608, Braeside 3195

The Friends of Braeside Park

are appealing for your help with a revegetation planting day to coincide with National Tree Day.

When: 9:00 till 12:00 noon.

Saturday 27th July 2013

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.

A free sausage sizzle will be provided towards the conclusion of the activity.

RSVP numbers attending to 9265 7300

**For further information call the
Parks Office on 9265 7300**

Newsletter No 4—July/August 2013

Environmental Monitoring Program update no 3:

Frogs:

Monitoring of frogs is about to commence at both Braeside and Karkarook Parks. This involves the monitoring group meeting at the Park Office and then going out into the field to set locations to record frog calls and record details of observations for each location.

This includes date, time, location including site number, general weather conditions and any other noteworthy aspects.

If interested in this type of monitoring program then please call the park office on 9265 7300 and provide your contact details.

Thursday evenings have been set aside during August, October, November and April where 2 nights of recording are to be completed.

Some basic rules include winds less than 20 km/h, No heavy rain and commence recording 30 minutes after sunset and before 1 am.



Photograph; Spotted March Frog from Melbourne Water Website link below.

http://frogs.melbournewater.com.au/content/library/get_involved/A_Beginners_Guide_To_Frog_Identification.pdf

Some Water facts

Water storages decreased by 0.1% of capacity in the past week on the back of below-average rainfall at the major catchments.

The 2-billion litre decline came as the four major catchments received between 12 and 26 mm of rain, with the average being 17 mm.

This was 36% below the long-term average for the period (26 mm).

The volume of water that flowed from the catchments into the reservoirs in the past week was also below average.

The 5 billion litres of streamflow was 66% below the 30-year average for the period (14 billion litres).

Rainfall will be required over the next week to arrest the decline in storage levels.

Water storages are now 70.6% (1,279 billion litres) full, compared with 71.5% (1,296 billion litres) at the same time last year - a difference of 17 billion litres.

Melburnians used an average of 144 litres of water per person per day over the past week.

This is 4 litres per day more than the same time last week.

Activity Calendar 2013

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 9:30 am to 12:00 Noon.
A short meeting followed by various garden and nursery activities.

Nursery—Plant Propagation:

1st Saturday, 1st Monday and 3rd Sunday from 10:00 am to 12:00 Noon.
Undertaking a variety of propagation activities. To confirm your attendance call 9551 4578.

Committee Meeting

The 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:

The 3rd Tuesday, monthly at 9:00 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:

Nightwalks are offered from April through to September. Gold Coin Donation. For details and bookings please call 9551 4578.

National Tree Day planting:

Saturday 27th July from 9:00 am till 12:00 Noon follow the signs after entering the park.

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

Join us on Facebook 

Newsletter contributions from, Margaret Hunter, Bev Bancroft, Kirsten Schmidt and Park Staff

Contact us via email on information@braesideparkfriends.org.au

Postal Address — Friends of Braeside Park, PO Box 608, Braeside, Victoria. 3195