



THE FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK

NEWSLETTER

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Braeside Park

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Committee News

By Judith Sise, President

STATE AND TERRITORY LAND AWARDS NOMINATIONS

The Secretary of the Friends of Braeside Park has been nominated for the 2015 State and Territory Land Care Award.

Margaret Hunter's mother, a geography teacher in the 1950 and 1960s, meant that young Margaret visited many unspoilt environments from Wilsons Promontory to the Grampians so it was no wonder that she became passionate about preserving the environment. As a student of La Trobe University, Margaret built on her youthful experiences, completing a Graduate Diploma in Recreation at Preston Institute of Technology at Bundoora. She became involved in recreational activities around Bundoora including creating cross country tracks. Moving back to Mentone, Margaret became part of the Gould League's educational activities. As secretary and tour guide for 15 years of the Mordialloc and District Historical Society from 1983 to 2007, Margaret received a Centenary Medal from the Commonwealth Government for her community work in 2003.

Many would have considered this their life's achievement, but not Margaret who having moved opposite the Epsom Race Track, as it was closing, saw the need to campaign to save the remaining landscape of the former racecourse, by preserving the large gum trees, tote box and the rare grassland area. She represented the community group on a panel which was successful and incidentally formed the Friends of Epsom Grasslands to maintain this area within the Kingston Friend's network.

Margaret also saw the need to preserve and protect the RAMSAR Wetlands at Edithvale and Seaford so became secretary of the Friends of Edithvale-Seaford which meant regularly involvement in community events, walks around the wetlands, administration and management of the grant program, writing a tour guide of the Edithvale wetlands, working with the Melbourne Water to develop programs at the Edithvale-Seaford Education Centre, assisting with Coast Care/Summer by the Sea activities.

She sits on Kingston Climate Change and Bio-Diversity Reference Group and is secretary of the Friends of Braeside Park and in her spare time, Margaret volunteers at major international sports events!

Newsletter Contributions

Thank you to Judith Sise (President), Parks Staff, Bev Bancroft, Mel Nicholls, Margaret Hunter, Margaret & Ian Langdon, Steve McDonald 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

harmonyfreya@gmail.com

Deadline for September/October edition: 28th August 2015

Earlier submissions greatly appreciated.

Margaret Hunter as President of the Friends sought funding to celebrate Australia's Federation 2001 in the Park. This resulted in a walkway with community decorated arches. Today the arches are enhanced by the mature trees and bushes planted when Margaret was President. Ten years later, as Secretary, she worked with the support of the committee to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Friends' Group. The Group is proud to have Margaret as Secretary and hope her nomination highlights the wonderful volunteer work Margaret has and continues to do for Land Care.

The Friends of Braeside Park Group has been nominated for a Land Care Award. I feel the work of the volunteers over 25 years transforming and continuing to maintain and extend the natural and historical features of the former farm, sewerage and horse training area into the popular urban park is worthy of state wide recognition. Let's hope that both Margaret and the Friends Group are acknowledged for the great environment work they have achieved in the past.

Wednesdays with Ernie's 'A Team'

By Bev Bancroft, Treasurer

COMMUNITY GARDEN

General maintenance continued including mulching and the great job removing mulch from Fog Hollow - re aligning banks and digging , now we have a pond again.

CAR PARK5 & 6

Both areas remulched.

VISITORS' CENTRE

Tidied up - weeded, some guards and frames removed. Acacias and Grasses were pruned.

GRASSES

A lot of weeding - Rabbit warrens found. Approx. 500 grasses planted out - mostly Themeda.

DINGLEY WATERWAY

250 Carex planted out in damp areas. Some guards & frames removed.
The previous plantings are looking fantastic.

***Join in the activities with Parks Victoria rangers every Wednesday
Meet at the Park Office - Lunch Room from 9 am - 12 noon
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.



Pelicans, Braeside Wetland, Photo by Des Lucas

Green Army News *By Mel Nicholls (Supervisor)*

The Green Army at Braeside Park

Over the past month you may have noticed some extra people working throughout the park, wearing fluoro yellow and driving a white bus. Don't worry, it's not an invasion! This is the Green Army team, who are working in the park for six months, assisting with habitat restoration and biodiversity improvement.

The Green Army is a federal government program, where teams of young people (17-24) work with a supervisor on specific environmental projects. Along with gaining practical experience, the young people in the program receive a first aid certificate and industry-based training, which will assist in their future career prospects.

The team at Braeside Park are working on a number of tasks across the park, including weed control, propagation, fencing and tree guard removal, and enjoy the support of Parks Victoria and Conservation Volunteers in delivering these projects.

The participants come from a wide range of backgrounds and experience levels, and you can learn more about them from the boxes to the right. Or feel free to say hi if you see us in the park!



The Braeside Green Army Team

Alex, Amy, Anna, Bronwyn, Daniel, Lauren, Leigh, Richard, Tyler and Mel (supervisor)



Why did you apply for the Green Army?

- Gain experience
- Work in the outdoors
- Learn skills and techniques
- Help the planet
- Gain knowledge
- Aid future employment
- Enjoyment

What are three things you hope to gain from the experience?

- Hands on knowledge
- New skills
- Networking
- Experience
- Plant ID
- Chemical handling
- Wisdom from Parks Victoria Rangers
- Propagation techniques
- Experience in industry

What career would you like?

- Park Ranger
- IT
- Bush Crew
- Conservation or Animal Related
- Natural Landscape Photographer
- Agricultural industry

Night walks in June at Braeside Park

By Margaret Hunter

The Friends have been involved in two night walks at Braeside in June with varying conditions and sightings. These have been delivered by Judith Sise, Margaret Hunter and Frank Russo. Night walks are now an integral part of the friend's activity program, with the use of the friend's infra-red night vision torches which enables good viewing of the nocturnal animals of Braeside including rabbits. Foxes, doves, many possums and sulphur crested cockatoos. A sugar glider was sighted on a recent walk near the heathland.

On 4 June, in extremely cold and often wet weather in the afternoon, the Beaumaris Scout troop of 13 members and families including the Kookaburra, Jenny had a night walk noted for few sightings, and fast walking due to the cold and misty weather conditions. The main sightings were the possums that abound in some areas of the park, and a couple of rabbits. It was still an enjoyable night with the highlight being the enjoyment of an important scout activity in a natural area. The scouts appreciated the bush environment and enjoyed the opportunity to learn about Braeside Park

On 5 June, 21 people and two friend's guides, Judith and Margaret, took a mixed group of adults and children around a park circuit in much milder conditions. We started with a sighting of rabbits and an obliging ring-tail possum sitting expectantly in a tree in the car park happily munching leaves, waiting for a captive audience and an infra-red light to be the star attraction at the start of the walk.



The kids loved it. On further exploration we were able, with the assistance of members of the group to see a dove, sulphur crested cockatoos, a tawny frog mouth, sugar glider, more possums and other rabbits, as well as the purple swamp hens at the duck pond. We explored the red gum trail with sightings of a tawny frog mouth, and other animals. We had a successful night, with a repeat booking for July, and the promise of more sightings and explorations of other routes for future walks.

The Friends are interested in training more night walk leaders. If you are interested please contact Margaret Hunter, the Friends secretary on the following contact details: braesidepark-friends@gmail.com or on the phone number (03) 9588 0867. Training is provided.

Thanks to all people who have attended these walks, and members of the Friends committee who have delivered these walks, Judith, Frank and Margaret. We also thank the animals of the park who gave the groups such a wonderful experience. Why not come along for the next night walk and experience the park for yourself. Bookings are essential through the park office (03) 9265 7300.

Park Report

As reported by Des Lucas, Ranger Team Leader

There is not a lot to report over the last few months but the commencement and bedding in of the Green Army Group now has them working on a number of tasks.

One of these tasks is the removal of tree guard throughout the whole park. This has never been undertaken before and it is anticipated that it will take a further few months to complete it. The recycling of the frames and guards means that the park's stocks have been bolstered although a number needed to be thrown away as they could not be used again.

A further project has been to assist with the revegetation program. This has required the group to learn about seed collection, sowing seeds, cuttings and details about native plants of the park. The first of the plants from the group will be pricked out in preparation for planting in the coming weeks.

Whilst out and about I've managed to get a few interesting photographs. The first on this page is of some fungi and the second is of the Braeside Wetland at sunrise in June this year on page 13.



Bird Report

As reported by Margaret & Ian Langdon, Steve McDonald and park staff.

Significant birds observed over the last few months by Steve McDonald include Hobby Hawk, Australian Bittern, Male and Female Scarlett Robins, Wedge Tailed Eagle, Mistletoe Birds, Red Kneed Dotterel, Flame Robins and the White Bellied Sea Eagle.

Margaret and Ian Langdon have continued with bird monitoring activities around the wetland. Their list includes the following.

Australian Pelican	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	White-plumed Honeyeater
Black Swan	Masked Lapwing	New Holland Honeyeater
Australasian Darter	Red-knead Dotterel	Eastern Spinebill
Little Pied Cormorant	Black-fronted Dotterel	Flame Robin
Great Cormorant	Black-shouldered Kite	Grey Shrike-thrush
Little Black Cormorant	Whistling Kite	Willie Wagtail
Australasian Grebe	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Grey Fantail
Hoary-headed Grebe	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Magpie-lark
Pacific Black Duck	Little Eagle	Grey Butcherbird
Grey Teal	Brown Falcon	Australian Magpie
Australian Wood Duck	Common Bronze Wing	Little Raven
Chestnut Teal	Galah	Welcome Swallow
Australian Shoveler	Crested Pigeon	Eurasian Skylark
Hardhead	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Golden-headed Cisticola
Buff-banded Rail	Rainbow Lorikeet	Red-browed Finch
Dusky Moorhen	Eastern Rosella	Mistletoe Bird
Purple Swamphen	Red-rump Parrot	European Goldfinch
Eurasian Coot	Tawny Frogmouth	Common Blackbird
White-necked Heron	Laughing Kookaburra	Common Starling
White-faced Heron	Superb Fairy-wren	Common Myna
Cattle Egret	Spotted Pardalote	Rock Dove
Great Egret	White-browed Scrub-wren	Spotted Turtle-Dove
Australasian Bittern	Brown Thornbill	
Australian White Ibis	Red Wattlebird	
Straw-necked Ibis	Noisy Miner	

Bird Monitoring Program

Are you interested in birds? Why not join Bird Life Australia with a new bird monitoring program at Braeside Park through the Heathland and Woodland areas of the park.

So grab your binoculars, camera and favourite field guide and head down to Braeside Park!

For further information and a copy of the Park monitoring sheets please contact the park office on 9265 7300

Bird Life Australia Braeside Park Monitoring Program

The third session of monitoring the woodland and heathland areas of the park has been undertaken. A list of birds from the first session is below within the newsletter.

These sessions occur on the 4th Friday of each month from 8:00 am alternating between the following starting locations.

Park Office – July – September - November

Robin Car Park - August – October – December

If you are interested in this monitoring program then please attend at the meeting location at the commencement times. If you require further details about this program then please send an email to the Friends Group via braesideparkfriends@gmail.com



Common Name	Scientific Name	Braeside Heathland 1	Braeside Heathland 2	Braeside Heathland 3	Braeside Heathland 4	Braeside Woodland 4
Spotted Dove	Streptopelia chinensis				1	
Rainbow Lorikeet	Trichoglossus haematodus	7	6	4	11	2
Eastern Rosella	Platycercus eximius				1	6
Superb Fairy-wren	Malurus cyaneus	3	16		12	
Spotted Pardalote	Pardalotus punctatus	2	1	1	6	
Eastern Spinebill	Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris		1			
White-plumed Honeyeater	Lichenostomus penicillatus	2	7	3	1	
Noisy Miner	Manorina melanocephala	2		1	4	7
Little Wattlebird	Anthochaera chrysoptera			3		
Red Wattlebird	Anthochaera carunculata	6	6	7		2
New Holland Honeyeater	Phylidonyris novaehollandiae			1		
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Coracina novaehollandiae		1			
Golden Whistler	Pachycephala pectoralis		1			
Grey Shrike-thrush	Colluricincla harmonica		1			
Grey Butcherbird	Cracticus torquatus	1		1		1
Australian Magpie	Cracticus tibicen					6
Grey Fantail	Rhipidura albiscapa	4	3		6	
Little Raven	Corvus mellori					1
Magpie-lark	Grallina cyanoleuca					3
Welcome Swallow	Hirundo neoxena		1	1		
Common Blackbird	Turdus merula	3			1	
Common Starling	Sturnus vulgaris			1		
Common Myna	Sturnus tristis					1
Mistletoebird	Dicaeum hirundinaceum			1		

Message from the Editor

By Kathryn Lucas

Would like to introduce myself to everyone at Friends of Braeside Park. My name is Kathryn Lucas and I have taken over from Kylie as your new editor of your bimonthly newsletter. I look forward to meeting with you all in the near future and working together with all.

Any contributions or special notes you would like to add for future Friends of Braeside Park News letters, can be emailed to me at harmonyfreya@gmail.com.

Special word of wisdom—sourced from [*Ralph Waldo Emerson*](#)

“Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience.”

On behalf of all that read and contribute to the Friends of Braeside Park newsletter I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you so much for all the work and effort Kylie Eklom had done as our prior editor.

Friends of Braeside Park
2015 AGM
Everyone Welcome

When: 9th August 2015

Times: Registration at 2:00

AGM Meeting at 2:10

**Talk—Presentation at 2:40
by Bill Nixon OAM that will
include the local Racing
History & Phar Lap**

**Afternoon Tea and Socialising
from 3:15 - all welcome**

4:00 concludes.

Coming Activities

National Tree Day Planting

- When:** Saturday 25th July 2015
- Time:** 9:00 am till 12:00 noon
- Details:** Follow the signs to the planting location after entering the Park

Wattle Day

- When:** Sunday 30th August 2015
- Time:** 11:00 am till 2:00 pm
- Details:** Activities is at the Community Nursery—so follow the signs after entering the Park.

Overnight Walhalla Trip

- When:** 21st & 22nd November 2015
- Time:** Departing 8:00am on 21st November
Returning 5:00 pm on 22nd November
- Details:** Saturday - Train Ride, explore Walhalla town, Long Tunnel Gold Mine Tour, Accommodation at Rawson Caravan Park, Dinner at the stockyard Bar & Bistro
- Sunday - Breakfast at Stockyard Bar and Bistro - Supplied with Accommodation visit to Thompson Dam, an additional item to be added.
Return to Braeside @ 5:00 pm
- Please Bring:** BYO lunch Saturday, water bottle, snacks, binoculars, camera & sturdy footwear.
- Cost:** \$150 pp plus funds for Saturday Dinner & Sunday Lunch

Bookings are essential limited, and must be paid up front so please phone the park office on 9265 7300 to secure your place.



Sunrise—Braeside Wetland, Photo by Des Lucas

Activity Calendar 2015

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:

2nd Thursday, monthly at 7.00 pm at the Park Office.
Meeting changed to 6th August
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.

President: Judith Sise

Secretary: Margaret Hunter, **Assistant Secretary:** Helen Russo,

Treasurer: Bev Bancroft **Newsletter Editor:** Kathryn Lucas **Webmaster:** Frank Russo

Publicity Officer: Barry Lowe.

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