



THE FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK NEWSLETTER

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Braeside Park

Lower Dandenong Road,
Braeside 3195
Melway Map 88 D8

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Committee News

By Margaret Hunter, Secretary

The Friends of Braeside Park currently have a small committee of five members, who are keen and enthusiastic and participate in many activities. Our committee meetings are held at 7.00 pm on the second Thursday of the month at the Rangers' lunch room.

The Committee plan future Friends' activities, including night walks, community garden activities, the Wednesday work group activities, and work with the park rangers to make Braeside Park one of the icons of Kingston.

Any member of the Friends of Braeside Park is welcome to attend committee meetings. Margaret Hunter at braesideparkfriends@gmail.com or send a letter to PO Box 608 Braeside Vic 3195. I look forward to hearing from you.



Praying Mantis on Correa at the Community Nursery. Photo Kylie Eklom

Newsletter Contributions

Thank you to Frank and Helen Russo, Margaret Hunter, Bev Bancroft, Des Lucas, Margaret and Ian Langdon and Steve McDonald for contributing to the March/April 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 May/June edition: 24th April 2015

Earlier submissions appreciated.

Wednesdays with Ernie's 'A Team'

By Bev Bancroft, Treasurer

We're **BACK** !

Ernie's AMAZING "A" TEAM

After a 6 week break, the volunteers are ready to continue with various jobs
i.e. continued maintenance of the Grassland & our new project Dingley Waterway.

Help is always needed - everyone most welcome.

Meet at the Park Office - lunch room

9 am - 12 noon

Morning tea provided



Ernie's A team at work in the community nursery. Photo Kylie Eklom

***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.

Australia Day Awards 2015

By Frank Russo, Webmaster and Helen Russo, Assistant Secretary

The Friends of Braeside Park have been awarded “Community Group of the Year” during a presentation at the Australia Day Awards 2015 held by the Kingston City Council.

Breakfast was held at the Town Hall on Monday 26th January 2015 and in attendance from the group were Margaret Hunter (Secretary), Marg Seaton, Judith Sise (President), John Prestt, Heather Lamond, Bev Bancroft (Treasurer), Frank and Helen Russo and Des Lucas of Parks Victoria. Presented to Judith and Margaret from Mayor Geoff Gledhill were a Certificate, Medal and flowers.

An excerpt from the letter received by Cr Geoff Gledhill is below

“On behalf of my fellow Councillors, I again offer my congratulations to the Friends of Braeside Park on being named Kingston’s Community Group of the Year 2015.

Over the past 25 years, the Friends of Braeside Park group have successfully reclaimed and re-vegetated a former quarry, equestrian and sewerage centre in a native heathland and wetlands. The award of Community Group of the Year is a fitting recognition of your tremendous contribution to the community.

The City of Kinston is proud to count the Friends of Braeside Park among its citizens, and we are really pleased that your many achievements have been recognised in the appropriate way.

Congratulations once again.

*Cr Geoff Gledhill
MAYOR”*



Friends members at the award ceremony enjoying breakfast. Photo courtesy of Frank Russo

The Friends of Braeside Park Win the Kingston Community Group of the Year Award 2015

By Margaret Hunter, Secretary

The Friends of Braeside Park were thrilled and delighted to receive the accolade on Australia Day at the Kingston City Hall of receiving the Community Group of the Year award for 2015. This was presented to the President, Judith Sise and Secretary, Margaret Hunter, by the Mayor of Kingston, Councillor Geoff Gledhill. It was a big thrill for the committee and all the members of the friends, and acknowledgement of the work of the friends in the last 25 years.

The citation for the award highlighted the hard work of the Friends in restoring a former sewage farm into a highly regarded and much visited nature reserve, with many local features of community interest. These included the rehabilitation of many areas of the park including the Dingley waterway, salinity areas, the community garden, the wetlands at Governor Road (created in 1984), and the work of the Wednesday working group in a number of areas of the park often unseen by the public. The work of the friends in the restoration of the trees in the Cypress Drive in art works representing the natural aspects of Braeside Park and the Friends high level of community involvement was also noted by the Mayor.

Judith Sise, as President of the Friends, in accepting the award on behalf of the Friends, highlighted how important open spaces such as Braeside Park are to the community. Finding volunteers to continue revegetating and maintaining the park's environment is a challenge. She reminded the politicians present to maintain the present open space and to extend the space.

In closing, I would like to thank members of the Friends for their continued involvement in Braeside Park, and look forward to future activities planned in 2015. These include night walks, community garden activities, and water-watch activities. All volunteers are most welcome.



Certificate and medal awarded on the day. Photo Kylie Eklom



Photos of the award ceremony. Photos courtesy of the City of Kingston Facebook page.



Opening of the Dingley Village Men's Shed

By Margaret Hunter, Secretary

It was an exciting and action filled day for the Dingley Village Mens Shed when their new venue, the former art shed at Braeside Park was officially opened on Friday 30 January with a large crowd in attendance. Those attending, in addition to the many members of the Dingley Village Men's Shed included representatives of Parks Victoria, park rangers, representatives of the Friends' Group, the Victorian Men's Shed Group, the Mordialloc Men's Shed, local councillors including the Mayor Geoff Gledhill, and local politicians Martin Pakula, and representatives of the Dingley Village Neighbourhood Centre as well as members of the local community.

We had a tour of the excellent facilities including computer facilities, a wood working area, a car restoration area, a bicycle area, and latheing area, and other areas to involve men from Dingley Village in this worthwhile activity. It was quoted to me that men were keen to join such is the popularity of this group in the former art sheds. Some members of the Friends will remember the Federation Trail celebrations and making the blocks for the trail in the kiln. The possums have lost a home in this section of the park, with an alternative use of this former dilapidated buildings into a activity centre for the Men's Shed formerly based in a garage in Dingley Village. The possums have lost a 'home' with much work to restore this area of Braeside Park.

Chris Hardman from Parks Victoria highlighted the important role of the men's shed in promoting Braeside Park as a destination and venue for a wide range of activities to add to the normal range of park activities. This was followed by an afternoon tea and a chance to meet and discuss the achievements of this group and their important contribution to the profile of Braeside Park in the local community. I can recommend a visit, with a cuppa available on Monday afternoons and other activities planned for the future.



Above: President Graham Kilby presenting Robert O'Brien with Life Membership to the Dingley Village Men's Shed and Right: members and guests at the shed opening. Photos Des Lucas



Park Report

As reported by Des Lucas, Ranger in Charge

MONITORING PROGRAM

Thank you to everyone who helped with the delivery of the 2014 frog surveys. The next Session is for Tuesday 14th & 28th of April.

PEST ANIMALS

Rabbits have risen from 7 rabbits per spotlight kilometre in July to 28 in early October and 54 in mid December. Rabbit numbers have dropped due to Myxomatosis

PARK MAINTENANCE

A project day has been setup within the park for staff – with Tuesdays now allocated to delivering team focused projects. Completed to date include: addressed an access issue at Red Gum picnic area entrance, installed signage in the Federation picnic area and fencing at Mount Braeside – 5 fences being realigned. Further works will include fencing, tree risk issues, pedestrian crossings.

DINGLEY VILLAGE MEN'S SHED

Official opening of Shed is occurred on Friday the 30th January.

RAINFALL

A number of plants throughout the park are showing signs of stress due to the lack of water. Stats since June last year.

July 38.2mm with 9.8mm the highest daily figure

August 40.4 mm with 7.4mm the highest daily figure

September 41.8 mm with 15.8mm the highest daily figure

October 40.8mm with 16.0mm the highest daily figure

November 65.4mm with 33.6mm the highest daily figure

December 62.4mm with 17.8mm the highest daily figure

January 36.6mm with 16.8mm being the highest daily figure

February 3.8 mm with 3.0mm being the highest daily figure to 12/2/15.

VISITOR STATISTICS

An increase of some 14,000 visitors from the previous year (2013).

NATIVE FAUNA

A Red-bellied Black snake was killed in Casava Court Dingley – opposite the park. A local resident called the park and offered it to the park for future mounting – the snake was collected and is now in the freezer.

Bird Monitoring Program

Are you interested in birds? Why not join BirdLife Australia with a new bird monitoring program at Braeside Park. Full training will be provided and this is a suitable activity for all age groups.

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

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

Bird Report

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

The weather has remained relatively cool throughout January and February and the main wetlands have thus been able to retain some water over the summer period. Small numbers of Pink-eared and Blue-billed Ducks have remained on the wetlands over summer. Of particular note over the past couple of months have been reports of a Wedge-tailed Eagle, Nankeen Night Heron and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. Perhaps the most exciting report is that of a Peregrine Falcon that was spotted flying very high over Braeside Park.



European Goldfinch. Photo Steve McDonald

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Australian Pelican | Sharp-tailed Sandpiper | Magpie-lark |
| Black Swan | Royal Spoonbill | Grey Butcherbird |
| Australasian Darter | Yellow-billed Spoonbill | Australian Magpie |
| Little Pied Cormorant | Masked Lapwing | Little Raven |
| Great Cormorant | Red-kneed Dotterel | Welcome Swallow |
| Pied Cormorant | Black-winged Stilt | Australian Reed-Warbler |
| Little Black Cormorant | Silver Gull | Golden-headed Cisticola |
| Hoary-headed Grebe | Whistling Kite | Red-browed Finch |
| Australian Shelduck | Wedge-tailed Eagle | Silvereye |
| Pacific Black Duck | Swamp Harrier | European Goldfinch |
| Grey Teal | Peregrine Falcon | European Green Finch |
| Chestnut Teal | Common Bronzewing | Common Blackbird |
| Australian Shoveler | Crested Pigeon | Common Starling |
| Pink-eared Duck | Sulphur-crested Cockatoo | Common Myna |
| Hardhead | Rainbow Lorikeet | Rock Dove |
| Blue-billed Duck | Eastern Rosella | Spotted Turtle-Dove |
| Spotless Crake | Red-rump Parrot | |
| Dusky Moorhen | Tawny Frogmouth | |
| Purple Swamphen | Laughing Kookaburra | |
| Eurasian Coot | Superb Fairy-wren | |
| White-necked Heron | Brown Thornbill | |
| White-faced Heron | Red Wattlebird | |
| Great Egret | Noisy Miner | |
| Intermediate Egret | White-plumed Honeyeater | |
| Nankeen Night Heron | Grey Shrike-thrush | |
| Australian White Ibis | Willie Wagtail | |
| Straw-necked Ibis | Grey Fantail | |

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.
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: Kylie Eklom, **Webmaster:** Frank Russo, **Publicity Officer:** Barry Lowe.

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Join us on Facebook 

Friends of Braeside Park Activity Calendar 2015

| Activity | Time/Day | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--|--|---|---------------------|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|--|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Committee Meeting | 7:00 - 9:00 2nd Thursday at the Park Office | | 12 | 12 | 9 | 14 | 11 | 9 | 13 | 10 | 8 | 12 | 10 |
| Community Garden | 9:30 - 12:00 3rd Sun of the month at nursery | 18 | 15 | 15 | 19 | 17 | 21 | 19 | 16 | 20 | 18 | 15 | 20 |
| Community Projects Weekday - "The A Team" | 9:00 - 12:00 noon Wednesday at the Park Office | | 4 11 18 25 | 4 11 18 25 | 1 8 15 22 29 | 6 13 20 27 | 3 10 17 24 | 1 8 15 22 29 | 5 12 19 26 | 2 9 16 23 30 | 7 14 21 28 | 4 11 18 25 | 2 9 16 |
| Nursery open for plant sales | 10:00 - 12:00 3rd Sun of the month | 18 | 15 | 15 | 19 | 17 | 21 | 19 | 16 | 20 | 18 | 15 | 20 |
| Plant Propagation Community Nursery | 10:00 - 12:00 noon 1st Sat & 3rd Sun | 3 18 | 7 15 | 7 15 | 4 19 | 2 17 | 6 21 | 4 19 | 1 16 | 5 20 | 3 18 | 1 15 | 5 20 |
| Plant Propagation Community Nursery | Wednesdays 13:00 - 15:00 Bev 9551 4578 | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Water Quality Monitoring Meet at the Park Office | 9:00 - 12:00 noon 3rd Tue | 20 | 17 | 17 | 21 | 19 | 16 | 21 | 18 | 15 | 20 | 17 | 15 |
| Bird Observations | Glen Oliphant 9265 7300 | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Nightwalks | From Swallow Car Park at 7:00 PM | Nighwalks offered from April through to September. Gold Coin Donation per head Bookings Essential on 9265 7300 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Community Projects Weekends | 9:00 - 12:00 noon, follow the signs | | | | | | World Environment Day, Tree Planting Sun 7th | National Tree Planting Day Sat 25th | Introduction to Wattle Day Community Nursery Open Day 30th Aug 10:00 to 2:00 Guided Walks, Propagation, Tours of Nursery, Free Barbecue, Plant Sales etc | | | | |
| Special Activities are held throughout the year at various times | | | | Clean Up Australia Day Sunday 1st Meet at Visitor Centre 10:00 - 12:00 | Natures Play Sunday 18th Meet at Visitor Centre 1:00 - 3:00 | Mystery Walk Sunday 17th 12:30 - 3:30 with afternoon tea | | | AGM 8th 2:00 - 4:00 | Breakfast with birds 13th Meet at Red Gum Picnic Area Sunday 18th 7:00 - 9:30 | Spring Walk - Heathland & Grasslands Sunday 18th 1:00 - 3:30 | | End of Year BBQ Wed 16th |

Web Page www.braesideparkfriends.org.au

Email braesideparkfriends@gmail.com

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