



THE FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK

NEWSLETTER

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Healthy Parks
Healthy People®



Braeside Park

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

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Committee News

Summarised by the editor

Three new water tanks have been purchased by The Friends of Braeside Park, bringing the total number of tanks to seven. Two of the new tanks will be located at the Community Nursery and the third at the Parks Victoria lunch room.

As part of the Cypress Drive tree replacement program, 14 *Cupressus macrocarpa* var. *aurea* have been purchased and will be planted by the Wednesday project group during May.



Cupressus macrocarpa var. *aurea* awaiting planting. Photo by Kylie Eklom.

Newsletter Contributions

Thank you to Ray Fox, Frank Russo, Bev Bancroft, Margaret Hunter, Margaret and Ian Langdon and Des Lucas for contributing to the May/June Newsletter.

If you have an item to share in future editions of our newsletter, please send these to the editor
kylie_eklom@yahoo.com.au

Deadline for July/August edition: 27th June 2014

Earlier submissions appreciated.

Wednesdays with Ernie's 'A Team'

By Bev Bancroft

GRASSLANDS

Our second day back for 2014 saw the group removing weeds adjacent to areas which were then planted up with approx. 400 grasses.

GUARDS/ FRAMES

Hundreds of guards were removed from "Robin" car park 6. Some infill planting of 200 Loman-dra, Patersonia etc. was done & cuttings of our beautiful Correa taken for propagation in the afternoon. Many of the cuttings were also taken to Karkarook Park to increase their stock for future plantings.

MULCHING

OH JOY our favourite - one morning spent moving & raking mulch in the picnic area close to car park 8.



Volunteers busy cleaning tubes ready for potting up. Photo by Digger.

***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.

Farewell from Braeside's Summer Ranger

By Kylie Eklom

Some of you might recognise me as the ranger in the bush putting up pink flagging tape and creating a lot of smoke. "What on earth is she doing" is the thought that came to mind for many passers by. Well, as part of my role as summer ranger (or more correctly seasonal ranger) I've been marking out rabbit warrens as part of the current rabbit eradication program at Braeside Park. I certainly made my presence felt with lots of pink tape scattered throughout the park marking some 400+ rabbit warrens.

I've also been involved with several other projects during my four months working at Braeside and Karkarook, including assisting rangers with park maintenance and completing an asset validation project, where I went around the park armed with a GPS and camera documenting the condition of all of the assets in Braeside Park. Also, with the propagation group taking a break over the summer period, I collected hundreds of seeds from 30 native plant species ready for propagating in the community nursery. This was a particularly rewarding part of my time at Braeside as I was able to spend lots of time in the Heathland which happens to be my favourite vegetation community. And speaking of favourite things, another favourite part of my job was being able to sneak in a spot of bird watching as part of my regular foot and bike patrols on weekends!

My time as a summer ranger has sadly come to an end now, however you will still see me around as I have joined The Friends of Braeside Park and am now the editor for our newsletter. Thank you Des, Digger, Ernie and Glen for having me as part of the PV team, it was a great summer and I hope to one day work with you on a more permanent basis.



Kylie smoking rabbit warrens, collecting seed and hard at work bird watching at the wetlands.

Mystery Walk Led By Des Lucas, Ranger in Charge

By Margaret Hunter

On Easter Sunday, a band of 15 members and friends of Braeside Park took part in a mystery walk, arranged by Des Lucas, who told us that there is always something to discover about Braeside Park even after 17 years of working in the park. Des took us firstly to the nursery and community garden, where we saw the frog pond, constructed with a grant from Parks Victoria. We were all invited to the community garden open day on Sunday 18th May which features a bicycle ride, wetlands walk and a history walk.



Racecourse Dam. Photo by Kylie Eklo.

From the community nursery we went across a cattle grid, a new experience for some, to the salinity area of the park to view the results of the series of grants to re-establish this area of the park following issues with a high water table. The healthy trees spoke for themselves, while the older Red Gum's have also benefitted from this program as they are now able to survive longer with the extra trees offering protection of their root systems. From here we learned about the watering points for the cattle agisted in the park, with one point for eight or nine paddocks, in which the cattle are moved as required for the benefit of good grazing practices. Dieter was, as always, a very good gate opener and at times asked for tips from the walkers.

We followed the route along a path to the Governor Road end of Braeside Park, with Red Gums and other trees not often seen as they are in areas of the park not usually available to the public. One of these trees is believed to be 800 years old, with other mere babies at 500. They are truly worth the walk. In the 1987 Master Plan of the park, there were plans to develop a path around area adjacent to the Southern Golf Course. This may happen one day. The major issue here is that of rabbits, often seen while driving around the park. There is a grant program to assist staff to work on this issue, but the extensive damage is clearly evident in this area of the park in the form of many large warrens.

From here we were able to follow "in the hoofs" of Phar Lap, on the former training track, used by Harry Telford, which can be seen from the main trail. The hidden highlight of this part of the walk was the Racecourse Dam, with its resident duck population and with water. The horses were swum here, as there was no transport to do this at the beach as is the case now. There was also evidence of former agricultural uses of the park, with the original furrows plainly seen as we walked along the trail. There are plans for a sculpture on Cypress Drive depicting the head of Harry Telford and of Phar Lap. The most recent of the sculptures is the new art work of two Pelicans, which were a popular attraction for park visitors on Sunday. These have been supported by the Friends group and enhance this area of Braeside Park.

Continued next page...

Mystery Walk Cont...

We ended up, after a 2 kilometre walk, in areas not usually seen without a ranger, on the Cypress driveway near the office, having experienced an enjoyable 2 hour walk with Des, whose knowledge of the park is still to be further explored on future mystery walks. Why not come along. This was topped off by an enjoyable afternoon tea, and an excited young family from Dingley, who will now visit the park more to enjoy its historical and natural values.

Park Report

As reported by Ranger in Charge Des Lucas

STAFF MANAGEMENT

Kylie Eklom has finished her four month period as summer ranger - she is already missed by the ranger team as she provided a very positive and enthusiastic vibe throughout the work centre. Meanwhile Des and Glen have taken some time off throughout April while Ernie will be taking a break in May.

PEST ANIMALS

The rabbit baiting program has largely been completed and already there has been a noticeable reduction in rabbit numbers. A few hot spots remain and these will be targeted in the coming weeks. Warren works are now underway with implosion works scheduled in the coming days. During May the Good Neighbour Baiting program will also be undertaken.

FAUNA MONITORING

Frog surveys have recommenced, if you would like to come along for one or more evenings please contact Des at the park office on 9265 7300.

TRAINING

The first session of the Indigenous plant propagation course will be held during the Community Garden and Nursery open day on **Sunday 18th May**.

Community Garden & Nursery Open Day

A reminder that The Friends of Braeside Park will be holding their annual Community Garden & Nursery Open day on **Sunday 18th May from 10 am until 2 pm**. Lots of activities and a free sausage sizzle will be available. A gold coin donation would be appreciated for the guided walks.

Art Collection Grows

By Des Lucas, ranger in charge

Sculpting Artist Rob Bast has produced another spectacular piece of public art to add to the collection at Braeside Park. The newly completed art work features two pelicans and adds to the three art stumps completed over the last two years by Rob.

The art stumps are produced from old cypress trees which were planted in 1939 to form an avenue to the pump house for the Braeside Sewage Plant which operated on the site from 1940 to 1978. Some of the trees have and recently been cut down to three metre stumps after being assessed as presenting a high risk to park users. The art pieces feature birds and animals of Braeside Park.

Friends of Braeside Park treasurer, Bev Bancroft is delighted the collection has grown and said “This is a fantastic art legacy that is being created for visitors to the park.” She also added, “The Friends of Braeside Park have worked hard to raise funds for the sculptor for this ongoing project.”

There are still several stumps which need to be produced into art forms but additional funding is required for the project to progress.

If interested in helping to progress this fantastic project then please make a donation to The Friends of Braeside Park at PO Box 608, Braeside, Vic. 3195.



Tree stump before sculpting and the new Pelicans after sculpting. Photos by Des Lucas.

Next Page: *Rob Bast and his tree stump art creations. Photos by Frank Russo (Pelicans), Des Lucas (Possums & Gliders, Rob in action and Raptors), Kylie Eklom (Marsupials & Reptiles).*



Bird Report

As reported by Margaret and Ian Langdon

Sixty-four species were recorded during the April bird survey, which included Australasian Shoveler, White-necked Heron, Cattle Egret, Brown Falcon, Black-fronted Dotterel, Musk Lorikeet, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Long-billed Corella and Flame Robin.



A Grey Butcherbird spots something above and takes flight. Photo Ray Fox.

Do you have a story, picture or anecdote to share?

2014 marks the 25-year Anniversary for The Friends of Braeside Park. As part of the celebration we would like to compile a commemorative piece that includes contributions from past and present members.

Any contribution, small or large, is welcome. For example, a favourite picture taken in the park, a special memory, a funny story, something you saw that made you smile (or grimace) - just about anything Braeside Park related would be welcome!

Please email contributions to kylie_eklom@yahoo.com.au

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 please call 9551 4578.

**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

Night Activity Program

The Friends invite you to attend a night walk to view nocturnal animals of the park

**2014 Dates include
30th May, 27th June, 25th July,
22nd August and 19th September**

**Time: 7:00 pm at Swallow Car Park (No. 1)
Braeside Park, Melway 88-D8**

Duration: Approx. 1.5 hrs

Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult

BYO small torch, binoculars and a sense of adventure

**Cost: At a minimum
Small Gold Coin Donation per head**

**Bookings are Essential
Call: 9265 7300**