



THE FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK NEWSLETTER

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Braeside Park

Lower Dandenong Road,
Braeside 3195
Melway Map 88 D8

The Friends are seeking a Newsletter Editor. Kathryn our current editor has moved on and we thank her for compiling the newsletter for the last 12 months or so.

If you are interested then please contact the secretary via the following email

braesideparkfriends@gmail.com

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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Presidents Report

By Judith Sise.

As I drove down Cheltenham Road around seven last Tuesday (the day of the big winds), a cluster of stratus clouds in the eastern sky were tinged pink by the rising sun. The wind rocked my car and rain drops splattered the windscreen and I loved the wet wintery weather. As I sat at the red lights, I glanced up to see the birds were also enjoying the blustery conditions. They seemed to fly up against the wind and then let it blow them back – almost like wind surfers!

Then I saw a weird cumulus cloud in the shape of a question mark and above it was a bird of prey fluttering. The lights went green and I drove on watching the strange cloud and bird of prey. This was Cheltenham Road build up, with shops, fast food outlets and small business centres. The open grassland, paddocks with sparse trees had disappeared some twenty years ago and yet this little bird seemed to be hoping it would find some tasty morsel. I wanted to stop and take a photograph but the lights stayed green and the bird of prey disappeared into the sunny glare and I was left thinking where are the birds of prey now hunting.

A couple of weeks ago while walking through the Park I was struck by the number of fungi emerging. I did go home this time and returned to take some photographs which I have included in newsletter.

The Friend's Nocturnal Walks have been booked out and many of the participants were parents with young children eager to experience a walk in the dark to see the possums peeping down at us.

Thank goodness for Braeside Park and the other small reserves and open spaces still remaining in our area which allow everyone to enjoy nature. I imagine this is why many members of the Friends of Braeside Park are still volunteering and supporting the rangers to maintain our little bit of nature.

Volunteer Week was celebrated in early May and I congratulate all the members for their continued effort to conserve and to expand our parks for future generations.



Wednesdays with Ernie's 'A Team' *By Bev Bancroft, Treasurer*

While Ernie was away - we continued.

GRASSLANDS

All in order. No rain. Not too many weeds which were removed by the Volunteers.

FENCING

The team has removed fencing from areas along the Cypress Drive. Also areas are ready for Melbourne Water Grant Plantings.

Fencing wire has been removed & retained for future use.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Community Garden has been weeded, grasses cut back and Rabbit Warren demolished. Pots have been washed & Propagation beds have been mulched & paths weeded.

DINGLEY WATERWAY

Looks great - weeded. Our plants doing very well.

VOLUNTEER WEEK 9 - 14th May

Our volunteers were each pinned by Ernie.

THANK YOU FOR THE GREAT WORK YOU DO TO

Earlier submissions appreciated.

***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.

Newsletter Contributions

Thank you to Margaret, Judith, Bev & park Staff for this months contributions

If you have an item to share in future editions or have any feedback in relation to the newsletter, please contact the editor at braesideparkfriends@gmail.com

Deadline for July/August edition: 1 July 2016

Friends Nightwalk Program Report

By Margaret Hunter

The Friends of Braeside Park run very successful night walks to view the nocturnal animals of Braeside Park, which is an activity enjoyed by a large number of families over the last two years, with many bookings and requests for special walks received by the friends group.

Committee members of the friends run these walks as a voluntary activity on a monthly basis with the walks leaving from the visitor centre carpark at 7.00 pm sharp. We advise arrival at 6.45 pm to 6.50 pm, with appropriate clothing, and closed footwear. The Friends provide some infra red torches and spotlights, for these walks which take a different route in the park on most occasions so that the animals spotted are different each time.

It is also an important monitoring activity for the park rangers, and the sightings of the night animals are all recorded on a map so that communities of nocturnal animals can be recorded. This provides information on the park which is essential for park management, and development, and trail management.

Bookings for these night walks are through the email address:- braesideparkfriends@gmail.com with numbers capped at 20 for each walk. You can book ahead, with walks until the end of the non daylight saving season in September. Information is on our friends webpage also with special group bookings taken outside the monthly walks. Further information is available from Margaret Hunter at the email address included.

April night walk

Our first night walk was held on Friday 8 April, the second Friday to accommodate daylight saving restrictions, and was attended by 20 people. Most were young families, and some adults, with a good mix of age groups and interests. To minimise noise and give better viewing of the animals we took alternate routes, with view of the cypress drive, the racecourse, and the many possums around the visitor centre, and Telford Picnic area, as well as the walk to the Cherry bridge. The group enjoyed the experience, and the animals obliged in good numbers including tawny frog mouths and doves on some occasions. We arrived back at the visitor centre carpark at around 8.30 pm, tired but elated at the abundant night life of the park.

May night walk

The May night was held on 6 May on a still warm night, with an attendance of 20 people, a good group for spotting nocturnal animals in the park. The possums obliged even in the visitor centre carpark, much to the delight of the children present and hung around for early arrivals for the walk.

We had a varied group of families and seniors, and split into two groups, with many sightings of foxes, possums, cats, doves, rabbits, the sulphur crested cockatoos who as always warned us of their presence, and others – the purple swamp hens at the duck pond and other ducks also welcomed us to the quiet surrounds of Braeside Park. The aircraft noise was not unusual and the animals were sleeping through this on a warm still night.

On the way back to the visitor centre near the playground, we were accompanied by an inquisitive brush-tailed possum on the ground who seemed to enjoy the opportunity to experience ground level walking much to the delight of both the children and adults present.

Thanks to Margaret, Judith, Frank and David for once again being volunteer guides for this activity, we need more, with training provided as required, so if you are interested please contact me on the email address braesideparkfriends@gmail.com

Friends of Braeside Park

Mystery Tour

**The Friends of Braeside Park invite you to a
Mystery Tour of Braeside Park.**

**Ranger Staff will be leading a tour of Braeside Park.
Come and discover the park whilst learning about
hidden secrets and changes within the park.**

When: Sunday 19th June 2016

**Where: Melway Reference = 88 – D8
Enter the Park from Lower Dandenong Road
Then park follow the signs to the
meeting location.**

Time: 12:30 pm till 3:30

**Please Bring: Water bottle, snacks, binoculars, camera
sturdy footwear, clothing to suit weather
conditions of the day & insect repellent.**

Cost: Free – Afternoon Tea Provided

**Bookings are limited and essential, so please
phone the park office to secure your place.**

Phone: 8427 2027

The watermark on this paper depicts the emblem of the Friends Group - The Wedding Bush (Ricinocarpos pinifolius)

Park Report

As reported by Des Lucas, Ranger Team Leader.

Park Office:

Staff had a period of 3 weeks where they were locked out of the office. This occurred after it was noticed that the building was moving and concern was raised about whether the internal fit out of the building was safe when it was converted to an office back in the early 1990's. One of the internal brick walls had moved away from the building internal fit out material. A structural assessment was required along with an asbestos check as there is asbestos materials within the building. In the end the all clear was given and



staff could again work from the old sewer pump station building.

Dogs:

Ranger staff have been speaking people waking dogs in the Park educating them about the NO DOG policy for the park. Rangers also receive lots of reports of people with dogs in the park after hours especially allowing them to roam free with out being controlled on a leash.

Wind damage:

The last week there has been lots of wind with many branches being blow from the trees, this can be seen as natures way of removing the dangerous



branches from the trees especially throughout the picnic areas.

Rabbits:

Rabbit baiting program has been delivered again with the rabbit number peaking at 52 rabbits per spotlight kilometre and after baiting now at 16, due to the funding levels this year the integrated rabbit program of fumigation and ripping of rabbit warrens has not been delivered. Hopefully an increase in funding will allow for this activity over the next year as its crucial reducing the rabbit numbers further.

Green Army:

The third session of the Green Army program is well underway with further plants being propagated, mulch spread and the planting program now well underway. So far approximately 4000 plants have been planted.

Litter:

Litter has been a major issue for staff over the last year with general garden waste, mattresses, furniture, paling fences, garden waste etc being dumped regularly in the park. Precious time is spent by staff cleaning this up which means other duties within the park are just not being delivered.

Stump Art Project:

The next stump is just about to receive some sculpting work. The top stump near the men's shed will have a link to our racing history carved by Rob Bast. Its proposed that Pharlap, the 1930 Melbourne Cup and Tommy Woodcock be part of the stump art. We all look forward to the next phase of this art. Thank you to the Friends for providing the funds to carry out this task.



Bird Report

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



All photos this page from Environment East Gippsland Facebook Page.

Pink Robin



Scarlett Robin



Flame Robin



Eastern Yellow Robin

Margaret and Ian have completed 4 Wetland Surveys this year January to April with the following being the most observed species, Golden Headed Cisticola, European Golden Finch, Red Browed Finch, Superb Fairy Wren, Red Rump Parrot, Rainbow Lorikeet, Rock Dove, Eurasian Coot, Welcome Swallow, Little Raven and Starling.

Steve has been observing birds throughout the park for over 25 years.

A discussion with him focusing on the most significant birds that he has observed over the last twelve months includes, Wedge Tailed Eagle, Sea Eagle, Australasian Bittern, Wee Bill, Scarlet Robin, Little Eagle, Little Bitten, Musk Duck, Eastern Spine Bill, Scaly Breasted Lorikeet, Purple Crowned Lorikeet, Wood Sandpiper, Marsh Sandpiper, Flame Robin, Rufous Whistler, Nankeen Night Heron.

Steve has spotted and recorded over 220 species of bird at Braeside Park during his time observing.

Bird Monitoring Program

Are you interested in birds?

Why not join the Bird Life Australia group on the 4th Friday of each month
See the activity calendar on the rear page for details.

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 **8427 2027**

Friends of Braeside Park—Activity Calendar

Weekday Community Project-The A Team:

Every Wednesday with Ranger staff commencing at 9:00 - 12:00 from the Park Office.
Activities can include weeding, mowing weeds, mulching, planting, fencing etc.

Community Garden:

3rd Sunday, monthly from 9:30 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 7:00 to 9:00pm at the Park Office.
The Committee meets to make decisions about the running of the group.

Water Quality Monitoring:

3rd Tuesday, monthly 9:00 to 12:00 noon 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 (03) **8427 2027** to become part of this program.

Birds Australia Monitoring Program:

10 bird monitoring transects are monitored in this program with 5 completed one month and the
Other 5 the next month.
These sessions occur on the 4th Friday of each month from 8:00 am alternating between the
following starting locations.

Park Office January, March, May, July, September, November
Robin Car Park February, April, June, August, October, December

Special Activities:

Night walks are offered from April through to September. Gold Coin Donation. For details and
bookings contact the park office on **8427 2027**

**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:** Currently vacant

Treasurer: Bev Bancroft **Newsletter Editor:** Vacant **Webmaster:** Frank Russo

Publicity Officer: Currently vacant

Postal Address: PO Box 608 Braeside, Vic. 3195 **Phone:** (03) **8427 2027**

Email: braesideparkfriends@gmail.com **Web:** www.braesideparkfriends.org.au

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