



THE FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK NEWSLETTER



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Braeside Park

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Friends of Braeside Park

PO Box 196, Dingley Village



Healthy Parks
Healthy People®

Presidents Report

The year is rapidly coming to an end and The Friends of Braeside Park have been busy all year.

Frank produced 2025 Activities Calendar at the November Committee Meeting.

Christmas time is a good time to stop and congratulate us.

As volunteers, we do a great job! Monthly Bird Surveys, twice monthly Propagation activities, six nocturnal walks, two Heathland walks, a Frog Night, Breakfast with the Birds, Clean Up Australia activity, attending conferences and Water Watch Training, a Bunnings BBQ and now rabbit proof fencing.

Parks Victoria, being a government department, the paperwork is formidable! Volunteering is a full time job with a nicer staff than most of us enjoy/enjoyed when in full time paid work. I guess we share the same passion for conserving and celebrating our Park.

Today, I drove in to drop off stuff in the Nursery. It was a sunny, warm midday and there were walkers, runners, picnickers, sitters along Cypress Drive enjoying nature and Men's Shed members hurrying across to the Shed.

Last week on a hot afternoon, I saw walkers and kids on the playground and carers with their clients and mums with prams enjoying the cool leafy areas. Early morning, I saw the runners, cyclists, walkers and bird watchers laden with cameras. Midmorning, I ran into the Braeside Park Walkers drinking cups of tea, a small group of strollers admiring the tree Sculptures and the Nature Kindergarten kids in their yellow vests full of questions. There is always someone enjoying the park, enjoying what we helped to create and work to conserve for the future.

P.S. What was I doing?

Watering the plants the FOBP grew and planted out side the Visitors' Centre for the enjoyment of all and to support biodiversity.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all.

P.P.S. Seed collecting and plant cuttings continue through the summer break.

Bunnings BBQ

Thank you to all those who assisted at the BBQ today at Keysborough's Bunnings. It was a great team effort.

We made a profit of \$2 145.80 which was good for rainy day.

This was Vicky's last activity as Treasurer of FOBP. She has decided to withdraw from all her volunteer work and concentrate on her studies. I commend her for making that decision as I know that in the past week how much time was spent collecting bread, sausages and buying sauces, napkins, organising petty cash etc and selling FOBP's calendars. And this was just one of her voluntary roles!

I want to acknowledge Vicky's great organisation in coordinating this event and also for her role as FOBP's Treasurer which is very time consuming.

She will now wind up her links to FOBP over the next week or so. And we will be looking for someone to take on the role of Treasurer.

Judith Sise

From the Secretary

Members of Friends of Braeside Park Park Connect Group

We now have 46 members in our Park Connect group receiving information on the work and activities of the Friends Group.

We have successfully run monthly committee meetings, Propagation activities, Clean Up Australia, night walks, and a range of other activities in the second half of 2024.

We have re-started as an active group of WaterWatch, and also run our another Frog Night.

Friends Calendars for 2025 are still available at a reduced price. Please contact Margaret for more information on 0417 323 460.

Our events for 2025 have been posted on Parks Connect up to August for committee meetings, propagation (multiple listings) and final event for 2024 in the Propagation on Sunday 22nd.

Propagation is also operating in January 2025 for essential nursery maintenance and ongoing work as required.

We encourage you to pre register on Parks Connect for all events in 2025 on Park Connect While the night walk booking is only the first one - 11 April - we are not taking participant bookings until after 1 April for this event.

There is information on our website and on our facebook page, and we encourage you to become a financial member of the Friends of Braeside Park as well as Park Connect.

In the meantime, have a **happy and joyful Christmas season** and we look forward to your involvement in the Friends activities in 2025 and beyond.

Margaret Hunter

Secretary



About the BBQ

A Huge Thank you for donations from:

- Mark Dreyfus MP
- Bakers Delight Southland
- Sciclunas
- Woolworths Dingley Village
- Woolworths Mordialloc
- Woolworths Thrift Park
- The Imvrian Society of Melbourne
- Costco



Thank you to the onion slicing team who survived peeling 20kg of onions, before going through the commercial bulk slicing machine.

Thank you for the support from The Salvation Army Kingston City Corp in Dingley Village

- Allowed us to use their commercial onion slicing machine and bread slicing machine.
- Helped us even further, by allowing us to freeze 50kg of purchased sausages and 15kg of sliced onions at short notice.
- Loaned us their bain marie

Thank you to all the volunteers who put their hand up to volunteer during version 1, of the Keysborough Bunnings Sausage Sizzle fundraiser, on 9/11/2024, that unfortunately was cancelled by Bunnings. (Double booking)

Thank you to the volunteers who helped out during version 2, at Keysborough Bunnings Sausage Sizzle fundraiser, on 30/11/24. The rain didn't stop you.

Thank you to all the customers stopping to buy sausages in the rain and for the extra donations given. Thank you for your support.

Vicky Paraskevas

From the Rangers

The second Rabbit fencing day was held on Saturday 14th December and well attended by the Volunteer track ranger community and the friends of Braeside Park. Following our first day back in September which focused on learning how to construct the type of fencing rabbits cannot get through. This day really built on that, and we got approximately 100m of rabbit proof fencing installed as well as secured 2 of the 4 gates to secure the Friends community Nursery at Braeside Park.

I was so impressed with everyone collaborating and building knowledge in themselves and the team! Everyone gravitated to their Favorite tasks be it rolling the wire out, measuring, cutting, clipping rings, banging pins or solving more complex areas like the gates. Rabbits know how to use gates too surprisingly!!, so this is a real challenge to secure against this pest.

Learning new skills while collaborating as one team! Well, done everyone who helped. We have just one more side of the nursery to secure about 50m as well as 2 more gates.

Janelle Cadd

Ranger I Sandbelt Parklands



Bird Survey

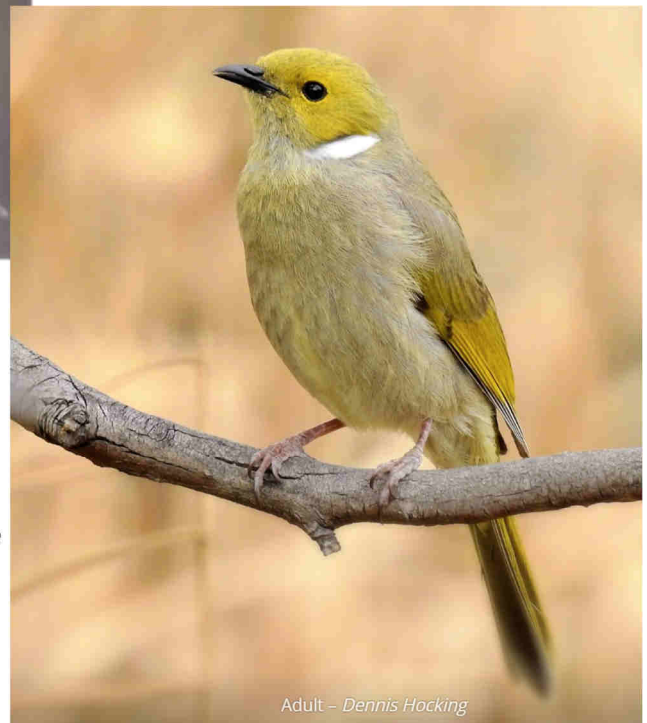
Nov 24

Four FOBP members conducted the bird survey on Friday 22nd November 2024. We surveyed Heathland zones 1, 2 & 3 and Woodland zone 4 and identified 29 species. Sightings of Brown Thornbills were higher than usual (x13), as were the Grey Shrike-Thrushes (x5). We spotted high numbers of Noisy Miners, Magpies and Little Ravens all with large young and high numbers of Superb Fairy-Wrens. The Shining Bronze, Horsfield's and Fan-tailed Cuckoos are no longer calling so are now difficult to spot. Some of the honeyeater species were not sighted but we observed (x4) White-plumed Honeyeaters. The Eastern Spinebills were elusive but there was some excitement when we spotted (x2) New Holland Honeyeaters.

Breeding Groups The pond adjacent the Heathland has a variety of waterfowl. It was a pleasure to see



the large Purple Swamphen chick foraging on land with adults close by. We also spotted (x4) tiny Chestnut Teal ducklings on the pond. A pair of Eurasian Coots is raising a single chick on the second pond and its already diving and foraging for water plants. The (x3) Tawny Frogmouth families along the Heathland trail have left the nests and dispersed, so it's a challenge to spot them. The 3 breeding pairs produced (x6) young between them. All fledged which is a good outcome for the season.



Adult – Dennis Hocking

Rosemaree MacLean

Photos from internet

2024 Bird Surveys in Summary

(Heathland zones 1,2,3 and Woodland zone 4)

January 2024 – 26 species

High numbers of Noisy Miners, Rainbow Lorikeets, Red Wattlebirds and Superb Fairy Wrens, Grey Fantails and White-browed Scrubwrens. Observed a pair of Tawny Frogmouths with two young (second clutch). A pair of Dusky Moorhens is raising three new chicks.

Note: Sightings of Wedge-tailed Eagles in the wetlands.

February 2024 – 23 species

High numbers of Noisy Miners, Rainbow Lorikeets, Red Wattlebirds and Superb Fairy-wrens, Magpie Larks and Little Wattlebirds. Dusky Moorhens, Pacific Wood Ducks, Eurasian Coots and Purple Swampheens with new chicks.

March 2024 – 13 species

High numbers of Red Wattlebirds, Superb Fairy-wrens and Striated Pardalotes. However, we were stunned by the large number of Spotted Pardalotes (x36). One highlight was spotting (x2) New Holland Honeyeaters feeding on a flowering banksia in H3. We expect to see more of these beautiful birds now there is an abundant food source. Another highlight was spotting (x3) Brown Goshawks.

April 2024 – 34 species

High numbers of Little Wattlebirds (x17), Red Wattlebirds (x20), Noisy Miners (x17), Rainbow Lorikeets (x15) and Spotted Pardalotes (x22). Other sightings included the Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike, Striated Pardalote, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Laughing Kookaburra, Tawny Frogmouth, New Holland Honeyeater, Welcome Swallow, Australian White Ibis and a hybrid duck. Highlights included (x8) Brown Thornbills along the Dingley drain. Spotted (x1) Brown Goshawk.

May 2024 – 27 species

High numbers of Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrikes (x10) and Striated Pardalotes (x10). Also, a species we haven't spotted for a long time was the Grey Shrike-Thrush (x2). We also observed good numbers of Rainbow Lorikeets, Striated Pardalotes, Little Wattlebirds, and some New Holland Honeyeaters. A highlight was being circled several times by a large flock of Welcome Swallows (x13) along the Red Gum Trail, which was delightful. Apparently, when you see swallows swooping around in the air, they are feeding - catching mosquitos and other small flying insects.

June 2024 – 31 species

High numbers of Rainbow Lorikeets (x27), Spotted Pardalotes (x19) and Superb Fairy-wrens (x17). We also observed Grey Butcherbirds (x2), a Grey Shrike-thrush, a Wood Duck and some species that have eluded us lately, including the Golden Whistler, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, White-plumed Honeyeater, and an Eastern Spinebill. Another highlight was a Little Eagle flying low in zone H1.

July 2024 – 30 species

High numbers of Rainbow Lorikeets and Superb Fairy-Wrens throughout the Heathland. Highlights included an unusual sighting of a Crimson Rosella, Golden Whistlers (x5), White-plumed Honeyeaters (x5), Grey Shrike-Thrush (x1) and Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike (x1).

Golden Whistlers can be heard along the Heathland trail. Also, if you're visiting the wetlands the cuckoos are calling.

Note: Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos (x14) were spotted in the wetlands. Unfortunately, they didn't fly over to visit us on the survey!

August 2024 – 34 species

High numbers of Rainbow Lorikeets (x41) and Superb Fairy-Wrens (x20). Observed Little Ravens (x14) some gathering twigs and nest building. Wood Ducks were heard calling in the Heathland so will be nesting soon. Superb Fairy-Wrens, Grey Fantails and spotted Pardalotes were also active. We observed a Willy Wagtail for the first time in 2024 at the Dingley pond.

Orchids & Sundews: We discovered small, green hooded orchids along the H2 trail and near the H1 trail. We also spotted 3 species of Sundew which are carnivorous plants (Drosera). These incredible little plants are growing in the middle of the H2 trail!

Note: Sighting of an Australian Boobook Owl in Cypress Drive.

September 2024 – 36 species

The survey group consisted of 10 volunteers which was our highest attendance since the group re-formed after Covid. The date fell on a Public Holiday so some of our Committee members were able to attend and experience what we do firsthand. We spotted 8 tiny Chestnut Teal ducklings with their parents on the pond adjacent the Heathland. We also observed an adult Purple Swamphen building a high-rise nest above of the water level of the pond. Several Tawny Frogmouths can be observed on nests along the Heathland trail, we look forward to fluffy chicks soon!

There were no sightings of nectar feeding birds such as the New Holland Honeyeater or Eastern Spinebill and we only spotted x1 White-plumed Honeyeater and x1 Yellow-faced Honeyeater. Sightings of nectar feeding birds have been lower this year. A highlight was identifying the three species of cuckoos- Shining Bronze Cuckoo, Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo and Fan-tailed Cuckoo.

October 2024 – Cancelled due to heavy rain overnight and into early morning.

November 2024 – 29 species

High numbers of Brown Thornbills (x13), also for Grey Shrike-Thrush (x5), Noisy Miners, Magpies and Little Ravens all with large young (along the Heathland trail), and there were high numbers of Superb Fairy-Wrens in the Heathland. A highlight was spotting (x2) New Holland Honeyeaters in H3.

Breeding Groups: The pond adjacent the Heathland currently has a variety of waterfowl. It was a pleasure to see the Purple Swamphen chick (quite large now) foraging on land with adults close by. We also spotted (x4) tiny Chestnut Teal ducklings on the pond. A pair of Eurasian Coots is raising a single chick on the second pond, its already diving and foraging for water plants. The Tawny Frogmouth families have left their nests and dispersed so it's a challenge locating them! Three breeding pairs were monitored by the survey group over the breeding season (along the Heathland trail) and each pair produced two young which all fledged.

Rosemaree MacLean

Editorial

Another year comes gently to an end.

Depending on your circumstances, this could be a good thing or not. I hope that it is good.

As a group, we have achieved a very good year with:

- Improvements in our nursery,
 - New Heat Beds
 - Rabbit Proof fence (under way)



- Some great plantings around the park and near Bent Creek



- Some excellent walks
 - Autumn Discovery Walk,
 - Spring Discovery Walk,
 - Breakfast with the birds
 - Great night walks
- Another great calendar,
- A very successful BBQ at Bunnings,
- Another successful Clean Australia Day event,
- Consistent good numbers attending our Bird Surveys (both with and without feathers),
- An educational Frog Discovery Night,
- Our 35th Anniversary



2025 promises to be another great year. We have planned a number of events and are very excited about our planned projects.

The park is about nature and how we as humans can live with nature, enjoy nature and care for it. Over the last 35 years we have seen massive changes in the park. Parks Vic have provided a caring and guiding hand in the development of the park for all visitors as well as residents.

We see this continuing and the park developing further as an oasis of nature within the confines of suburbia.

David MacLean

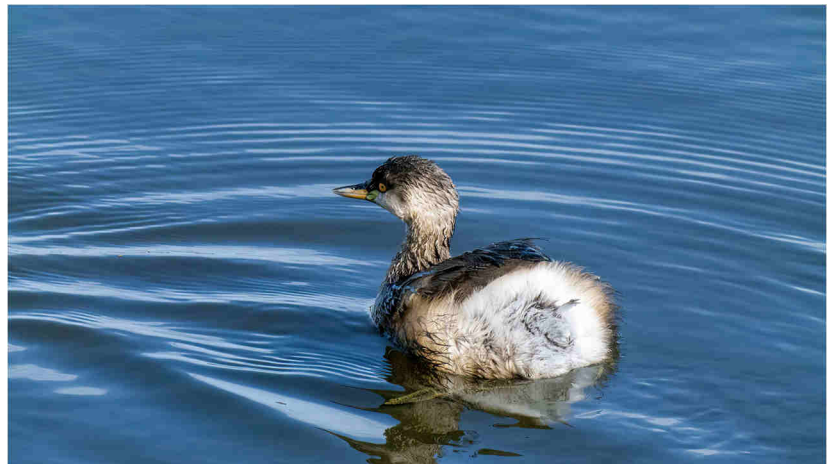
Editor

Common Birds of the Park

Continuing from the last edition, following are another six of the more common birds found at the park.

Australasian Grebe

The Australasian Grebe is a small waterbird found across Australia, New Zealand, and nearby islands. These birds are known for their striking appearance, with a glossy black head, bright yellow eyes, and a distinctive white patch on their cheeks during the breeding season. Their plumage is generally dark brown with a lighter underbelly.



Australasian Grebes are excellent swimmers and divers, often seen gliding smoothly on the water's surface or diving underwater to catch small fish, insects, and crustaceans. They prefer freshwater habitats such as lakes, ponds, and slow-moving rivers, where they can find plenty of food and build their floating nests among the reeds.

Pink-eared Duck

The Pink-eared Duck is a unique and fascinating waterbird native to Australia. It gets its name from the small, pink patch of feathers located just behind its eyes. These ducks have a distinctive appearance with their brown and white striped bodies, a large spatula-shaped bill, and a striking black and white face pattern.



They have a specialized feeding technique called "filter-feeding," where they use their bill to strain food particles from the water.

Grey Butcher Bird

The adult grey butcherbird has a black head, top and sides; and a white chin and throat through to the lower hindneck. The upperbody is mostly dark grey with streaks of narrow white bands that extends across the uppertail-coverts at the base of the tail.

Both the male and female grey butcherbirds are similar in appearance, but the female is slightly smaller in size.

All members of a group contribute to their group song, a loud and rollicking song with both musical and harsh elements. The song can be sung by only one member, but more often it is sung in duet or as a group. Some duets are antiphonal where it is not obvious that two or more birds are singing. These songs consist of different group members singing different phases sequentially, but sometimes there are some overlap. Some songs have been known to last up to 15 minutes.



White Faced Heron

The white-faced heron, also known as the white-fronted heron, is a common sight across Australia. These elegant birds are easily recognizable by their slender build, grey-blue plumage, and distinctive white face and throat. They are often seen wading through shallow waters in search of food, which includes fish, insects, and small crustaceans.

White-faced herons are highly adaptable and can be found in a variety of habitats, including wetlands, estuaries, and even urban areas. They are known for their graceful hunting technique, often standing still for long periods before striking quickly to catch their prey.

These herons are also quite social and can often be seen in pairs or small groups. During the breeding season, they build large, messy nests in trees or shrubs, where they lay their eggs and raise their young.



Red Rumped Parrot

The Red-rumped Parrot is a vibrant and colorful bird native to southeastern Australia. These parrots are easily recognizable by their bright green plumage, with males displaying a striking red patch on their lower back, or "rump," which gives them their name. Females, on the other hand, have more subdued colors, with olive-green and yellowish tones.

Red-rumped Parrots are often found in open woodlands, grasslands, and urban parks, where they feed on seeds, fruits, and insects. They are known for their cheerful and melodious calls, which can often be heard as they fly in small flocks or pairs.

During the breeding season, these parrots nest in tree hollows or other cavities, where they lay their eggs and raise their young. They are quite adaptable and can thrive in a variety of environments, making them a common sight in many parts of their range.



Australian Pelican

Pelicans are large, distinctive waterbirds known for their long beaks and large throat pouches, which they use to catch and drain water from their prey before swallowing.

Australian Pelicans are easily recognizable by their white and black plumage, with a pale pink bill and a large, expandable throat pouch. They are often found in coastal and inland waters, including lakes, rivers, estuaries, and even urban areas.



These birds are highly social and often seen in large flocks. They are excellent fliers and can travel long distances in search of food. Pelicans primarily feed on fish, but they also eat crustaceans, amphibians, and occasionally small birds.

David MacLean

Photos - D MacLean



FOBP Committee

Rear - David Boldiston, Simon Flemming, Frank Russo, Margaret Hunter, David MacLean

Front - Heather Markland, Rosemaree MacLean, Sofie Mills, Judith Sise, Vicky Paraskevas

Friends of Braeside Park Inc.

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| President: | Judith Sise |
| Vice President: | Frank Russo |
| Secretary: | Margaret Hunter |
| Assistant Secretary: | Rosemaree MacLean |
| Treasurer: | |
| Newsletter Editor: | David MacLean |
| Committee members: | David Boldiston, Simon Flemming, Heather Markland , Sophie Mills |

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Web: www.braesideparkfriends.org.au
ABN: 72 959 503 118 INC NO A002420278

Join us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/327955807288240/#>

Newsletter Contributions

Thank you to all you wonderful people who have contributed to this newsletter during 2024.

Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Your articles are treated with respect and not changed in content or grammar unless authorised by you or required by law. Some format changes are usually required to fit with the look and feel of this newsletter.

This newsletter is produced bi-monthly for all financial, honorary and Life members of the Friends group who have provided an email address.

Memberships are due on 1st July each year.

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

Friends of Braeside Park

ABN 72 959 503 118 INC NO A00242027B

Membership Application/Renewal Form:

* Indicates required field

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Name * | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Address | <input type="text"/> | |
| Phone Number * | <input type="text"/> | |
| Email * | <input type="text"/> | |

Tick appropriate box(es): *

New Member

☐

Renewing Membership

☐

Donation

☐

Annual Subscription: *

\$10

☐

\$15

☐

\$5

☐

\$20

☐

\$15

☐

\$5

☐

Ordinary Member

Family Membership

Student Member

Corporate Membership

Organisation Member

Pensioner / Concession

Payment can be made directly into our Bendigo Bank account:

BSB: 633 000

Account: 155348246

And email completed form to: *

braesideparkfriends@gmail.com

Or mail to:

The Treasurer

Friends of Braeside Park

P.O. Box 196,

Dingley Village, Vic 3172

Further information on the Friends' activities is available on our website and Facebook page.

<http://www.braesideparkfriends.org.au>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/327955807288240>

Secretary contact number 0417 323 460

Friends of Braeside Park Activity Calendar 2025

| Activity | Time/Day | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--|---|---|---------|---|---------|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| Committee Meeting | 7pm - 9pm 2nd Thursday at the Visitors Centre | * | 13 | 13 | 10 | 8 | 12 | 10 | 14 | 11 | 9 | 13 | 11 |
| Plant Propagation Community Nursery | 10am - 12pm 1st Saturday & 3rd Sunday | * | 1 16 | 1 16 | 5 20 | 3 18 | 7 22 | 5 20 | 2 17 | 6 21 | 4 19 | 1 16 | 6 21 |
| Bird Survey | 8am - 11am 4th Friday Park Office | 24 | 28 | 28 | 25 | 23 | 27 | 25 | 22 | 26 | 24 | 28 | * |
| Nightwalks | From Visitors Centre 7pm | Nightwalks offered from April through to September. Gift Coin Donation per head. Bookings Essential 0417525460 | | | | 11 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 5 | Nightwalks offered from April through to September. Gift Coin Donation per head. Bookings Essential 0417525460 | |
| Community Projects Weekends | 9am - 12pm, follow the signs | * | * | * | * | * | World Environment Planting Day/ Sunday 1st 9am-12pm | National Tree Planting Day/ Saturday 25th | * | * | * | * | * |
| Special Friends Group Activities are held throughout the year at various times. You must register on Park Connect for these activities. | | * | * | Clean Up Australia Day Sunday 2nd. Meet at Visitors Centre 10am - 12pm | | Autumn Discovery Walk Sunday 18th May 12:30 - 3:30 with afternoon tea | * | * | AGM Sunday 10th 2pm-4pm with afternoon tea | Spring Discovery Walk Sunday 14th September 2pm-4pm with afternoon tea | Breakfast with the birds Sunday 12th Nursery 7am - 9:30am | Frog Discovery Night 15th Nov 7pm-9pm Visitors Centre | End of Year Breakup Thursday 7pm, 11th Dec Visitors Centre |

Website www.braesideparkfriends.org.au

Email braesideparkfriends@gmail.com