



THE FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK NEWSLETTER

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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.

President's Report

By Judith Sise

The Annual General Meeting was well attended, and brought to the attention of all the on-going concerns for the next Committee to tackle.

Firstly, the Mordialloc Freeway's construction.

Below is a quote from the Premier Daniel Andrews in April 2018:

"Construction will start in 2019, and be completed by the end of 2021.

Quote attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews:

"We'd all rather be home with friends and family than stuck in traffic – that's why we're getting things done in Melbourne's south-east, and building the Mordialloc Freeway."

Quote attributable to Minister for Roads and Road Safety Luke Donnellan:

"By building the Mordialloc Freeway we're giving drivers a continuous trip from Frankston to Clayton with no traffic lights, and taking ten minutes off the trip."

Quote attributable to Member for Mordialloc Tim Richardson:

"We've listened to locals who've told us they want this road as a four-lane freeway and we're getting it done. This vital project will give local roads back to local people."

Media Contact: Bob Neilson 0400 378 197 | bob.neilson@minstaff.vic.gov.au "

There are some obvious white lies! Firstly, "no traffic lights from Frankston to Clayton". Secondly, "we've listened to locals who've told us they want this road as a four-lane freeway". Thirdly, "construction will begin in 2019 and be completed by 2012."

So the farce of locals raising any objects to the construction. We still have not been given a business plan, or traffic modelling, or any alternatives - so listening to the locals was never pertinent. There is a State Election coming up at the end of the year. Some might say that this could be an election issue – if we, and the general community, were willing to be bothered.

Unfortunately, the Federal Government's latest coup has put all politicians on the nose and the public on the whole seems unwilling to participate in political discussions. I listened to two men in a service station queue dismissing all politicians as "ego-centric over-paid idiots". At the Annual General Meeting, both sides of the Mordialloc Freeway presented their case and I think this was the first time that members and friends of the Park became aware of these concerns and possible solutions. However, I still meet citizens who are totally unaware of the Freeway. The Dingley citizens against the re-zoning of the golf course in the center of Dingley Village have done a better job at informing the community of this pending development - maybe it is a case of in not in my back yard syndrome - but most Dingley residents are aware and have an opinion of this issue.

Secondly, Des Lucas, our wonderfully supportive Ranger Team Leader of the Sand Belt Parks, raised the concern of attracting the next generation of the Friends of Braeside Park. I am attending the National Landcare Conference in Brisbane in the first week of October, and will be looking for ideas in that area in particular.

President's Report (cont.)

Thirdly, our guest speaker, John Arnott, who leads the team of horticulturists at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Cranbourne Gardens at a challenging and exciting time in the history of the Gardens, explained the delicate balance he sees between the natural environment and the constructed native setting in an enclosed suburban landscape. There are definite similarities to Braeside Park. Parks Victoria are moving towards more activities to attract people into Parks and may have lost the real focus of Parks is to provide natural respite from the medium/high density urban environment. Ten minutes of immersion in a green natural space provides protection from mental depression is the latest quote I have heard on the ABC.

Fourthly, we have an opportunity to achieve a long term goal of restoring the Phar Lap Race Track with a Pick My Project funding application. My husband was roped into letter-boxing and I have placed posters wherever I could (it is amazing how many places have "community boards" that are NOT for community, Bunnings, Gyms, Schools etc.). I have also letter-boxed and attended the local Dingley Farmers' Market and written to the Dingley Dossier and appeared with a slightly dodgy article in the local paper. I trust that all members have done likewise! This is a project that has the backing of Parks Victoria and would be a great 30th Birthday gift by the Friends of Braeside Park to the community.

Finally, the Friends of Braeside Park, both Committee and Members, are vital in the preservation of this beautiful natural corner of South East Melbourne and make no mistake the battle for Braeside Park needs to be constantly fought for there are many who see this open space as a possible building or business estate, a dump for unwanted goods, an off-leash dog park, or worse a place for some very unsavory businesses.

Many past Friends' members are relying on the present and future members to maintain this area for preserving the biodiversity, enjoying peaceful recreation and maintaining physical well-being. I am hoping I can rely on all of you to take up this challenge as we celebrate next year, the 30th Birthday of the Friends' Group. Whee! It looks like a busy year 2018-2019 for the in-coming Committee.

Park Activities

By Margaret Hunter (Secretary)

Friend's Activities

The Friends of Braeside Park has a wide range of activities. In the next two months, there are four activities and the last **Night Walk** (14th September) for 2018.

The first is **Breakfast with the Birds** (from the Governor Road Car Park) Sunday 23 September at 7.00 am. The second is the **Seniors Walk** (bookings to Margaret Hunter) 9 October 9.00 am leaving from the Visitor Centre. The third is the **Spring Walk** on 14 October, also leaving from the Visitors' Centre. Lastly, the leaves from the Visitors' Centre at 7 pm on 5 October (twilight walk).

The Friends are always happy to recruit new volunteer committee members to help us run these activities. Any expressions of interest are always welcomed by the group to increase awareness and involvement of the community in Braeside Park. Other activities also need support including propagation, nursery activities, events and the Nocturnal Walk program.

If you would like to attend our Committee Meetings, held on the 2nd Thursday of the month from February to December, please contact the Friends on braesideparkfriends@gmail.com, or Margaret Hunter on 0417 323 460.

Seniors Walk 9 October 2018

As part of the Kingston Seniors Festival, and the State Seniors Month, the Friends are hosting a seniors' Walk to be led by Des Lucas, the Ranger Team Leader at Braeside Park, on Tuesday 9 October at 9.00am, finishing at 12.00 pm

We will be leaving from the Visitors' Centre with bookings to Margaret Hunter, on braesideparkfriends@gmail.com or to 0417 323 460. It is advisable to book early as this walk will book out early. Sturdy footwear is needed to walk on uneven ground. This is an opportunity to see parts of Braeside Park that are normally closed to the public. Morning tea will be provided after the walk.

Mordialloc Freeway Project

The Mordialloc Freeway Project is now managed by the Major Roads Project Authority, with a public engagement hub for the local community, in Boundary Road, opening in the near future. If you have an interest in following this project, and want further information from the Friends, please contact Margaret Hunter. The Environment Effects Statement is due for release and public comment in October 2018 on the Department of Land Water and Planning website (DELWP).

2018 Night Walk Program

Regular readers of our newsletter will have seen updates of this fantastic and well attended activity run by the Friends of Braeside Park. We have had amazing community support with over 200 people attending/booking to attend and good attendances at all walks. Several group walks have also been delivered including the Mentone Kindergarten, and the Aspendale Scouts, with several scout bookings for September and 2019

These walks have been run by a small group of volunteers, with the assistance of infra-red torches and very obliging nocturnal animals of Braeside Park including rabbits, possums, echidnas, foxes, birds, and micro bats among others spotted on these walks. The frogs on the waterway are always a pleasure to hear, as are the Sulphur Crested Cockatoos. A highlight for many is the many ducks and other birds at the duck pond. Members of the friends that have run these walks include, Margaret Hunter, Judith Sise, Frank Russo, David Maclean, Rosemaree MacLean, and David Boldiston. My thanks to you all for a job well done with enthusiasm, and passion and an interest in promoting Braeside Park. I am often asked why these walk are so popular and book out so quickly? They are a unique educational, social and family experience for members of the community to enjoy the natural environment, and hence numbers attending are limited to make the experience safe and enjoyable for all

If you are interested in becoming a guide in 2019, please contact the Friends group for further information.

ERNIE'S "A" TEAM - WEDNESDAYS

By Bev Bancroft

MULCHING/ GUARDS & FRAMES

Our favourite mulching and the removal of tree guards has continued in car parks and other 2 million tree sites.

Also removed hundreds from our Melbourne Water Vent site where the plants are doing very well.

GRASSLANDS

We have planted 600 grasses in areas designated by our Contractor.

Weeding and fence checks continues.

All the Chocolate Lillies and Pimelia are all in bud and some warm days will hasten flowering.

HEATHLAND

Two visits to look for and remove Acacia Longifolia and other feral plants.

PROPAGATION

Ernie was away last week so off we went to do general maintenance, weeding and other chores.

More Volunteers are needed.

Please come & join us.

Wednesdays 9 am - 12 noon

Meet at the lunch room - Park Office

Morning tea provided.

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.

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 Janelle Cadd 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.

The 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 phone **0417 323 460**

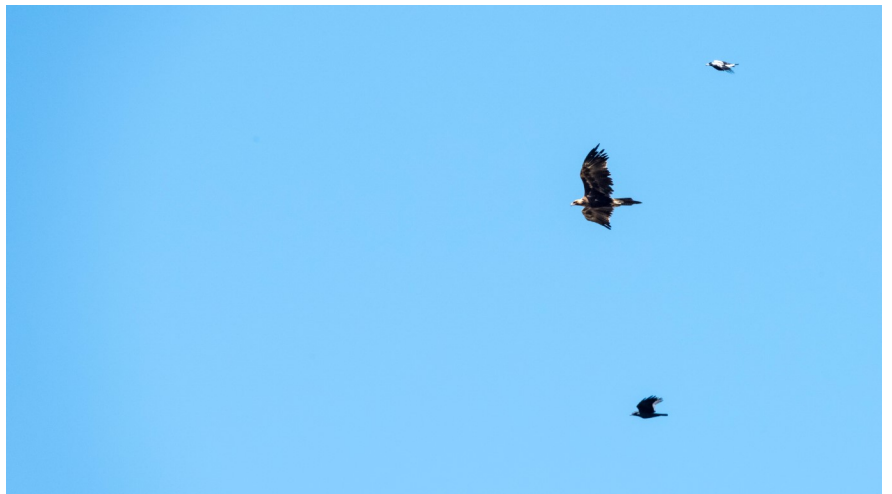
Community Nursery is Open on the Third Sunday of the Month

10:00 am to 12:00 noon – Seedlings \$2.00 each.

Residents of Braeside Park

Wedge tail eagle being escorted out of the park by angry residents.

David



Sulphur Crested Cockatoo
Who's There?

David



Tawny Love

Danny



Blue billed Duck Ain't I pretty?

Rosemaree

Newsletter Contributions

Thank you to Judith Sise, Margaret Hunter, Bev Bancroft, Frank Russo, Rosemaree MacLean, David MacLean & Park Staff for contributions to this edition.

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

Friends of Braeside Park Inc.

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Join us on Facebook

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

Current Facebook Members = 118

The Friends of Braeside Park

Invite you to a Twilight Photography Walk



**When: Friday 5th October 2018
7:00 - 8:30 pm**

**Meet at Visitor Centre Car Park after entering the
park from Lower Dandenong Road**

Melway Map Ref 88 - D8

**What to bring: Good camera, torch, patience, sturdy
footwear, etc.**

Limited numbers

**Contact David MacLean on 0438 888 601 or email
braesideparkfriends@gmail.com**

Friends of Braeside Park Activity Calendar 2018

Activity	Time/Day	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Committee Meeting	7pm - 9pm 2nd Thursday at the Park Office	X	8	8	12	10	14	12	9	13	11	8	13
Community Projects Weekday - "The A Team"	9am - 12pm Wednesday's at the Park Office	-	7 14 21 28	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12
Nursery open for plant sales	10am - 12pm 3rd Sunday	21	18	18	15	20	17	15	19	16	21	18	16
Plant Propagation Community Nursery	10am - 12pm 1st Saturday & 3rd Sunday	6 21	3 18	3 18	7 22	5 20	2 17	7 22	4 19	1 16	6 21	3 18	1 16
Plant Propagation Community Nursery	Wednesday's 1pm- 3pm Rev 9551 4578	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Water Quality Monitoring Meet at the Park Office	9am - 12pm 3rd Tuesday	16	20	20	17	15	19	17	21	18	16	20	18
Bird Observations	8am - 11am 4th Friday Park Office	26	*	23	*	25	*	27	*	28	*	26	*
Bird Observations	8am - 11am 4th Friday Robin Car Park	*	23	*	27	*	22	*	24	*	26	*	14
Nighthawks	From Visitor's Centre 7pm	<i>Nighthawks offered from April through to September. Gold Coin Donation per head Bookings Essential! 0417323400</i>											
Community Projects Weekends	9am - 12pm, follow the signs					Community Nursery Day 10am - 12pm Sunday 6th	World Environment Day Tree Planting Sunday 3rd	National Tree Planting Day Saturday 28th	AGM Sunday 12th 2pm-4pm	Breakfast with birds 23rd Meet at Red Gum Picnic Area 7am - 9:30am			
Special Activities are held throughout the year at various times				Clean Up Australia Day Sunday 4th Meet at Visitor Centre 10am - 12pm			Mystery Walk Sunday 17th 12:30 - 3:30 with afternoon tea			Spring Walk - Heathland & Grasslands Sunday 14th 1pm - 3:30pm			End of Year BBQ Wednesday 12th