



## THE FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK

# NEWSLETTER

### Contents

Committee News	2
‘A Team’ Activities	3
Possum Encounters	4
Life Membership Awarded	4
Friends of Braeside Park AGM	5
New Display in Visitor Centre	6
Park Report	7
Bird Report	8
Activities Calendar	9

### Additions

- Invitation- 25 Year Anniversary Celebration
- Invitation - Mystery Bus Tour to Gippsland



### Braeside Park

Lower Dandenong Road, Braeside 3195

Melway Map 88 D8

Phone: 9265 7300

*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*

Following the AGM, a committee of seven members were elected. The new committee met at the Park on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August with the following committee roles allocated and plans for the 25 year celebrations of the Friends Group a major item of discussion.

President: Judith Sise  
Secretary: Margaret Hunter  
Assistant Secretary: Helen Russo  
Treasurer: Bev Bancroft  
Webmaster: Frank Russo  
Publicity Officer: Barry Lowe  
Newsletter Collator: Brian Pullen

The committee meets at **7.30 pm at the park on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month** and new members are always welcome. Please contact Margaret Hunter on 0417 323 46 if you are interested in joining the committee.



*A native orchid on display in the Heathland. Photo Des Lucas*

## **Newsletter Contributions**

Thank you to Des Lucas, Margaret Hunter, Ray Fox, Margaret and Ian Langdon and Steve McDonald for contributing to the September/October 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 November/December edition: 31st October 2014**

*Earlier submissions appreciated.*

## **Wednesdays with Ernie's 'A Team'**

*By Bev Bancroft, Treasurer*

### **HEATHLAND**

The "A" team has been out grubbing out Woolly weeds - mostly Acacia & Burgan laid in rows along track waiting for Dig & the chipper. ND AGAIN, AND AGAIN along the track some orchids were observed AND AGAIN.

### **VISITORS CENTRE**

One morning spent weeding around our plants & general tidy up. About 100 Themeda, Lomandra & Correa were planted. Another morning spent weeding, removal of tree guards & planting of 200 plants.

### **MULCHING**

Our favourite - around the Visitors' Centre.

### **COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Garden & paths weeded & mulched.

### **GRASSLANDS**

50 grasses planted. Some mowing, rabbit monitoring & more resurfacing on the Apian Way (C.G).

*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.*

## **Correction**

The photo at right appeared in the July/August newsletter and is of Chris Hardman (centre) from Parks Victoria not CEO Bill Jackson. Sincere apologies to Chris and Bill for the error.

Thank you to those who brought this to the editors attention.



## **Possum Encounters**

*By Des Lucas, Ranger in Charge*

One morning recently whilst opening the steel boom gate on the Cypress drive just before the bitumen access road I had an encounter as follows.

Firstly you must understand its dark and I'm carrying this action out with the aid of the vehicle headlights. I approached the gate, opened and removed the padlock. Whilst holding the gate I turned to swing it open. Directly in front of me about one metre apart where two ring tailed possums scurrying directly towards me. My mind raced and the hair on the back of neck went up – were they going to use me as a tree? Glory I'm in shorts – I'm sweating all of a sudden and my heart is thumping. The possums kept coming – do I jump over them or stay still – I chose the later – they scurry past onto the cypress tree. I sigh and proceed to open the gate. Most mornings I see these two possums but not like the above experience, they usually scurry around one of the trees. It's an experience I'll certainly remember for a while.

## **Life Membership to a Dedicated Volunteer**

*By Margaret Hunter, Secretary*

The Friends of Braeside Park at the AGM on 10<sup>th</sup> August recognised the contribution of long time Treasurer and Committee Member Bev Bancroft, by awarding her a life membership to the Friends of Braeside Park.



*Former President Margaret Hunter presenting Bev Bancroft life membership. Photo Des Lucas*



## Braeside Park Friends AGM 10<sup>th</sup> August 2014

By Margaret Hunter, Secretary



*Attendees at the AGM (above) and progress being made on one of the sheds by members of the Dingley Village Men's Shed (below). Photos Des Lucas*

There was a good attendance at the Friends of Braeside Park Annual General Meeting held at the visitor centre on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August. It was attended by many long-term and committed members to the Friends who had made many contributions to the Friends group over the last 25 years.

The committee was enlarged to seven from three members, which is promising for the long-term future of the friends following small committee numbers over the last two years. Councillor Rosemary West chaired the committee elections for 2014-2015, with a presentation from Graham Kilby, from the Dingley Village Men's Shed, followed by an informative tour by the group. The work being done by the members of the Men's Shed will benefit the profile of Braeside Park with a wide range of activities and 'classes' being planned for the future development of this group. Des Lucas spoke about plans for the upcoming 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the Friends group in September 2014, and encouraged everybody to attend to celebrate this important milestone in the friends history.

Following the meeting afternoon tea was enjoyed by the participants with the opportunity to talk about past and future involvement in park activities.



## **New Display in Visitor Centre**

*By Bev Bancroft, Treasurer*



*Little Penguin and Short-tailed Shearwater, part of the new beach display in the visitor centre. Photos Bev Bancroft*

Two new additions have arrived at the visitor centre. A Short-tailed Shearwater & a Little Penguin.

We are also lucky to have a new specimen (a Pelican) in the freezer waiting to be transported to the Taxidermist.



## **Final Night Walk**

The night walks for 2014 have been a very popular event, the August session attracted 27 participants while numerous other interested parties had to be deferred to the September walk. Spaces are filling very quickly so be sure to secure your place on the final night walk.

***Friday 19th September 2014***

***7pm meeting at Swallow 24hr car park.***

Bookings are essential by calling the park office on 9265 7300



## **Park Report**

*As reported by Des Lucas, Ranger in Charge*

### **DINGLEY VILLAGE MEN'S SHED**

The group have moved into the Workshop shed and are continually setting this up. Work has commenced on the Amenity building with the rear wall being replaced and a new concrete floor installed. Fitting out of the toilet area has commenced. Electrical work has now been completed and the kitchen will be installed once the lining has been completed on the north wall.

### **PEST ANIMALS**

This year will be a reduced program due to reduced funding. Fumigation of rabbit warrens was completed in August in the area that was treated with ripped and implosion works.

### **REVEGETATION**

Follow-up planting is required for the 2 million tree site in 2015 but there will be a focus on shrubs rather than trees. Lower storey planting throughout the picnic area, car parks and Visitor Centre will continue in the coming months. Dingley Waterway planting is now complete, with thanks to a Melbourne Water Grant. Grasslands planting will occur on Wednesdays as required, with funding from a CMA Grant. In 2013/14 from July to June 6890 plants were planted. So far in 2014, 3168 plants have been or are about to be planted.

### **FAUNA MONITORING**

Frog surveys have recommenced. The next surveys will be in October and November at locations and across four sites. If interested in participating in frog surveys, please phone the park office.

### **TRAINING**

The Indigenous plant propagation course has been an extremely popular activity. There will be no propagation training in September, although training will continue in October the 3rd Sunday of the month, see the attached flyer for further details.



*New season calves at Braeside Park. Photo Des Lucas*

## Bird Report

*As reported by Margaret and Ian Langdon, Steve McDonald and Parks Victoria Rangers*

New Holland Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Striated Pardalote, Golden Whistler, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Crimson Rosella, Australasian Bittern, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Buff-banded Rail and Flame Robin were some of the highlights of birds noted during surveys and wanderings around Braeside Park during July and August. Below is a complete list of birds seen during the regular wetland bird surveys.



*Royal Spoonbill and Great Egret at the wetlands. Photo Ray Fox*

Australian Pelican	Great Egret	Noisy Miner
Black Swan	Australasian Bittern	White-plumed Honeyeater
Australasian Darter	Australian White Ibis	New Holland Honeyeater
Pied Cormorant	Masked Lapwing	Flame Robin
Little Pied Cormorant	Silver Gull	Grey Shrike-thrush
Great Cormorant	Whistling Kite	Golden Whistler
Little Black Cormorant	Brown Goshawk	Willie Wagtail
Hoary-headed Grebe	Swamp Harrier	Grey Fantail
Australasian Grebe	Brown Falcon	Magpie-lark
Pacific Black Duck	Crested Pigeon	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Grey Teal	Little Corella	Grey Butcherbird
Chestnut Teal	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Australian Magpie
Australian Shoveler	Rainbow Lorikeet	Little Raven
Hardhead	Eastern Rosella	Welcome Swallow
Australian Wood Duck	Red-rump Parrot	Golden-headed Cisticola
Blue-billed Duck	Tawny Frogmouth	Red-browed Finch
Dusky Moorhen	Superb Fairy-wren	Common Blackbird
Purple Swamphen	Spotted Pardalote	Common Starling
Eurasian Coot	Striated Pardalote	Common Myna
White-faced Heron	Brown Thornbill	Rock Dove
Cattle Egret	Red Wattlebird	Spotted Turtle-Dove



## 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:

2nd Thursday, monthly at 7.30 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 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, **Newsletter Collator:** Brian Pullen.

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**ACN:** A 002 4027 B

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# **Friends of Braeside Park**

## **25 Years Celebration**

**The Friends invite you to attend a series of events as they  
celebrate the groups 25 years**

**Sunday 21st September 2014**

- |                      |                                      |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>7:00 – 9:00</b>   | <b>Breakfast with the Birds</b>      |
| <b>10:00 – 11:30</b> | <b>Plant Propagation Training</b>    |
| <b>12:00 – 1:00</b>  | <b>Lunch (\$5 donation)</b>          |
| <b>1:00 – 3:00</b>   | <b>Formal Celebration Slide Show</b> |

**Bus tours from the Visitor Centre at:**

**9:30am, 11:30am and 2:30pm**

**Bookings for Lunch are essential, please phone the  
park office to secure your place**

**RSVP 11th September**

**Ph: 9265 7300**

# **Friends of Braeside Park**

## **Mystery Bus Tour**

**The Friends invite you to attend a mystery day tour to  
Gippsland, including at least three walks**

**Saturday 9th November 2014**

**Commencing at the Park Office  
Meet at 8:00 am for an 8:30 sharp departure  
BYO lunch, morning tea etc.  
Return at 5:00 pm**

**Cost per person yet to be determined**

**Bookings are essential, please phone the park office  
to secure your place and confirm cost  
Ph: 9265 7300**