



## THE FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK

# NEWSLETTER

### Contents

Committee News	2
Ä Team News with Ernie	4
Park Report	5
Message from the Editor	6
Spring Walk & Walhalla Trip	7
Activities Calendar 2015	8

### Newsflash

**Kylie Eklom our previous editor is now the proud mum of Max Herrod born on the evening of Friday 4th of September 2015.**

**Both mum and son are home and doing very well. We wish them all the best for the future.**



### Braeside Park

Lower Dandenong Road,  
Braeside 3195  
Melway Map 88 D8

*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

By Judith Sise, President

### **FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK PRESIDENT'S REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 9 AUGUST 2015**

2014-2015 has been a busy and productive year for the Friends of Braeside Park.

Firstly, there were 8 volunteers to form the friends committee which was a 75% increase on the 2013-2014 Committee. It was unfortunate that one member departed soon after for a job in the Northern Territory and another found that night meetings did not suit him so the committee was reduced to 6. Still the committee met at 7.00 pm every second Thursday of the month and worked hard to promote the Friends' group and to work with volunteers to support rangers to maintain the park.

The first job of the friends committee was planning the celebrations for 25 years of volunteering by the Friends of Braeside Park. The resulting luncheon on Sunday 21 September 2014, was a wonderful party honouring the many volunteers who contributed to revegetating, conserving and promoting the park.

It was extremely pleasing that Kingston Council recognised 25 years of volunteering by the Friends' Group by presenting the 2015 Community Group of the Year award to the Friends' of Braeside Park. Margaret and I as Secretary and President were honoured to accept the award on behalf of the group at a breakfast on Australia Day 2015. A small group of committee and Friends' members represented the group, and attended the breakfast.

The group has continued to run the nursery growing plants for the park and for sale to the community. Under the leadership of Bev Bancroft, a small band of volunteers meet at the nursery on the first Saturday, third Sunday and on Wednesday afternoon to sow seeds, prick out seedlings and take cuttings. Phillip Rouillon delivered a series of Sunday sessions to upgrade volunteers' knowledge of propagation methods.

The night walks have continued to attract up to 20 visitors on the first Friday of the month at 7.00 pm during April to September this year. Nocturnal walks supported guides, scouts, and cub groups to complete their environmental badges. Thanks to Frank and Margaret who

### **Newsletter Contributions**

Thank you to Judith Sise (President), Parks Staff, Bev Bancroft, 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

[harmonyfreya@gmail.com](mailto:harmonyfreya@gmail.com)

**Deadline for November/December edition: 23rd October 2015**

*Earlier submissions greatly appreciated.*

Cont.....

The groups Facebook page and website is maintained by Frank, and has been cited by many who attended night walks and clean up Australia activities as a source of information so thank you to Frank Russo.



*Acacia dealbata* Silver Wattle in flower—Photo Des Lucas

The group co-ordinated a clean-up Australia activity which was attended by 60 residents and we also participated in national nature play day. The latter was not well attended as it was one of those cold wet and windy afternoons when most of us wanted to be inside warm and dry. Thanks to Frank and Margaret who willingly turned up prepared to run activities with me. We did manage to entice a small group of children and their parents to participate in the activities.

The community garden group, a sub group of the friends, continued to meet on the third Sunday of the month, maintaining the indigenous community garden and welcomed residents who buy plants. This is busy planning an Open Day on 30 August to celebrate Wattle Day. In the search for new members, the group participated in the Dingley pop-Up shop in the Dingley Village and made some valuable contacts.

Spring Walk 19<sup>th</sup> October was delivered by Frank and Bev with afternoon tea afterwards. The seniors walk on 9 October was supported by Margaret and Jo Cody. These will both be part of the 2015-2016 program as they are very popular.

Birdlife has set up some sites for monitoring revegetated areas in the heathland and along one of the paths from the federation walk. This is happening on the fourth Friday of each month. Tania Preston from Water watch came for a visit to tell us some of the newest developments within Melbourne Water and how the group can review water watch activities in the park. Water watch has been going on in the park for over twenty years thanks to the many volunteers under the leadership of Bev Bancroft.

We acknowledge and thank Kylie Elksom, a summer ranger but now a full time ranger with Parks Victoria, for producing the group's newsletter. Kathryn Lucas, Des's better half has taken up the job of editor and we are very grateful to her willingness to step into to the job.

Continued page 5

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

*By Bev Bancroft, Treasurer*

### **INGLEY WATER WAY**

Thistles and weeds were removed. Over 500 Carex and Lomandra were planted out. A special area of Hemarthria as an experiment was included.

### **HEATHLAND & REDGUM WALK**

Burgan removal was done.

### **CAR PARK5 & 6**

Mulching & Pruning completed for now.

### **VISITORS' CENTRE**

Some weeding & pruning & then Lomandra planted in bare areas.

### **SETT'S TRACK**

A delightful morning spent removing THISTLES on areas adjacent to the track. Thank goodness for a break (morning tea).

### **GRASSLANDS**

Weeding continues. The first site of Choc Lillies & Sun Orchids appearing. Planted 600+ grasses in very dry areas & the rains came Woo Hoo!

*Photo: Ernie explain-  
Grassland Grant and*



*ing the History of the  
what we are achieving.*

*Join in the activities with Parks Victoria rangers every Wednesday  
Meet at the Park Office - Lunch Room from 9 am - 12 noon  
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.*

## **AGM report cont.....**

The friends of Braeside Park group is now a regular item in the Dingley Dossier's round up of the local clubs.

Des Lucas, one of our park rangers, organised again an annual surprise outing. With John at the wheel of the bus, the friend's members were flabbergasted to be hailed down by a koala burden with cakes and biscuit tins – which turned out to be Kathryn! The outing was terrific too – once we got over the hitchhiking koala.

I have been pleased to nominate Margaret Hunter, our secretary, and the group for the Victorian Landcare awards and am crossing my fingers that the year ends on a high with either the group or Margaret or both winning these prestige awards.

I want to thank all the committee members who have worked tirelessly to encourage members to maintain the park by attending meetings, working in the nursery, by running nocturnal walks, by organising community events such as clean up Australia and wattle days and by exploring further cultural and natural events for the park. I would also like to thank the rangers for their invaluable support and encouragement.

I encourage all to think about becoming a committee member in 2015-2016 so that our friends group continues to conserve and to expand this lovely urban park.

## ***Judith Sise President 2014-2015 AGM Report***

## **Park Report**

*As reported by Des Lucas, Ranger Team Leader*

This session of Green Army will come to a close on the 17th of September 2015. A graduation activity is being held to thank the participants and we certainly wish everyone good luck in gaining employment in the future.

One of these tasks undertaken by the group has been the removal of tree guard and wire frames throughout the whole park. The recycling of the frames and guards means that the parks stocks have been bolstered although a number needed to be thrown away as they could not be used again.

A further project has been to assist with the revegetation program. This has required the group to learn about seed collection, sowing seeds, cuttings and details about native plants of the park. The first of the plants have been pricked out in preparation for planting.

The group have also undertaken general fencing and rabbit proof fencing along the eastern boundary of the park through the Heathland. Add in the weed control throughout the Heathland and the assistance with spreading mulch through the picnic areas of the park one gets the picture that they have assisted the park enormously during their 20 week stay.

I extend my sincere thanks to everyone on the team and to Mel the Conservation Volunteers Australia supervisor who has lead the team.



## Message from the Editor

*By Kathryn Lucas*

Any contributions or special notes you would like to add for future Friends of Braeside Park News letters, can be emailed to me at [harmonyfeya@gmail.com](mailto:harmonyfeya@gmail.com). Please note the cut off date for any articles you would like placed in the next newsletter must be received no later than the 23rd October, 2015.

*Photo: Taken by Des Lucas*

## The Environment

The stars shone in the night sky  
The moon was sitting bright and high  
The sun shone in the morning sky  
The birds were flying really high

The rubbish sways in the cool breeze  
So take your litter home please  
We keep the forest neat and clean  
so there is no pollution to be seen

The tall grass is spiky and green  
when the wind blows it is clearly seen  
Upon the mountain the trees sway

# Coming Activities

## Spring Walk

**From the Visitor Centre on 18th October 2015**

**Bookings via the Park office on 9265 7300**

**1:00 to 3:30**

**Bring along a drink, sturdy footwear,  
binoculars, camera etc.**

## Overnight Walhalla Trip

**When: 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2015**

**Time: Departing 8:00am on 21<sup>st</sup> November  
Returning 5:00 pm on 22<sup>nd</sup> November**

**Details: Saturday - Train Ride, explore Walhalla town, Long Tunnel  
Gold Mine Tour, Accommodation at Rawson Caravan Park,  
Dinner at the stockyard Bar & Bistro**

**Sunday - Breakfast at Stockyard Bar and Bistro - Supplied  
with Accommodation visit to Thompson Dam, an additional  
item to be added and yet to be determined.  
Return to Braeside @ 5:00 pm**



**Please Bring: BYO lunch Saturday, water bottle, snacks, binoculars, camera & sturdy footwear.**

**Cost: \$150 pp plus funds for Saturday Dinner & Sunday Lunch**

**Bookings are essential limited & payment required by Monday 12th October Please phone the park office on 9265 7300 to secure your place.**

**Or SMS Des on 0418 173 228 with your name & number attending**

**Photo from the Walhalla town association**

## Activity Calendar 2015

### 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 7.00 pm at the Park Office.  
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.

### 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 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month from 8:00 am alternating between the following starting locations.

Park Office – September - November

Robin Car Park - October – December

### Friends of Braeside Park Inc.

**President:** Judith Sise

**Secretary:** Margaret Hunter, **Assistant Secretary:** currently vacant

**Treasurer:** Bev Bancroft **Newsletter Editor:** Kathryn Lucas **Webmaster:** Frank Russo

**Publicity Officer:** Currently vacant

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