



## FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK



Healthy Parks  
Healthy People®



<b>'A Team' Activities</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Jewish National Fund Activity</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Spring Walk Report</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>National Tree Day Report</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Wedding Bush</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>New Sculptor—Art Work</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Park Report</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Portraits of Braeside Park</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Mystery Bus Tour</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Community Garden &amp;</b>	
<b>Nursery Open Day</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Environmental Monitoring</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Bird Report</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Activities Calendar</b>	<b>12</b>

**BRAESIDE PARK**  
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Braeside 3195

[www.braesideparkfriends.org.au](http://www.braesideparkfriends.org.au)

**Printed at Braeside Park, Parks Victoria's Office**

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are the authors' and do not necessarily reflect those of Parks Victoria or its staff.



## Wednesdays with Ernie's 'A Team'

By Bev Bancroft

Extra help is always needed for a variety of jobs: meet at the Park Office, Wednesdays 9 am - 12:00 noon with morning tea at 10.30 am (3 "C"s - Cuppa, Cake & Chat)

### GRASSLANDS

Work has recommenced - mowing with the ride on mower & other mowers and weeding. Lots of weeding along the edges of previous plantings - in preparation for new plantings of grasses, ie. Themeda, Poa & Dawthonias. Lots of Choc Lillies, Caesia & Burchardia are starting to show their faces.

### GUARDS/ FRAMES

Hundreds of guards & frames have been removed from plantings in the red gum track and car parks.

### MULCHING

Lots of mulch has been moved & raked over in most of the car parks. Looks great.

### VISITORS CENTRE

More mulch has been distributed around the Visitors Centre. Plantings in bare spots have made the V.C. area very attractive.

### HEATHLAND

A morning was spent removing woody weeds etc. This encourages the growth of understory plants.

### FENCING

A lot of fencing has been removed in preparation for the 2 million trees program. See report on 2 million tree program on page ??? This program will include direct seeding & the planting of 2,500 trees.

### J.N.F. PLANTINGS

We had a wonderful morning helping 250 children from Balik College plant trees in the federation picnic area. See page ??? For more details.

### SCHOOLS

Mentone Girls Grammar have continued to come & assisted with the pricking out of plants & general maintenance.

Help is needed for a variety of jobs - everyone is most welcome.

- meet at the Park Office, Wednesdays 9 am - 12 noon.

- morning tea provided

Wednesday afternoons are continuing 1 pm - 3 pm in the Friends Community Garden for anyone that is interested.

## Help Urgently Required:

**Are you interested in becoming the editor for the Friends Newsletter?**

**If so please call Margaret Hunter on the below number.**

#### **Friends of Braeside Park Inc.**

Lower Dandenong Rd. Braeside 3195 (Melway Map 88 D8)

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**Secretary:** John Burns, 0402 567 755

**Treasurer:** Bev Bancroft, 9551 4578

**Editor:** Des Lucas, 0418 173 228

**This Edition of the Newsletter will provide a further insight into some of the groups that use our parks.**

**Jewish National Fund Activity — Braeside Park**



On August 21st the annual Grade 5 Tree Planting Day took place where 260 students attended the beautiful Parks Victoria-Braeside Park and were involved in the planting 600 trees!

The students were involved in several group activities where they were able to explore and discover the natural surroundings and see

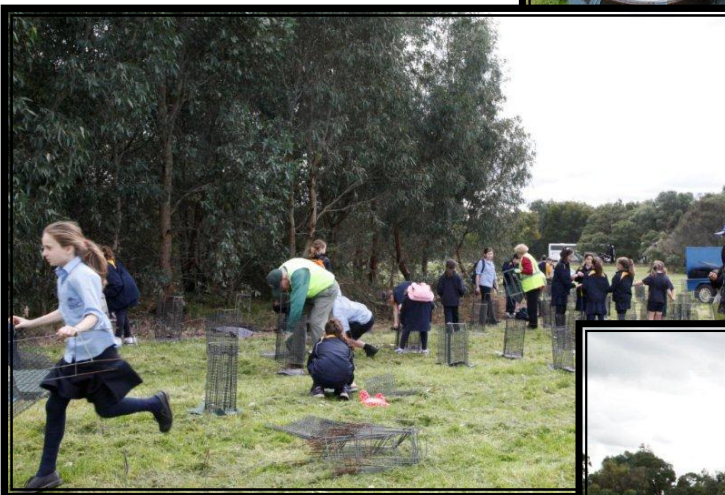
the parks interesting tree sculptures and mosaic artwork, then they went to the visitors centre where they were informed and were given many facts about the types of flora and fauna that were in the park.

They were also given some paint and brushes and were able to create



some artwork of the environment.

The teachers and students had a fabulous morning with Park staff and the Friends of Braeside Park.



The Schools that participated included Mount Scopus College, Bialik College, King David School and Leibler – Yavneh College.

Many thanks to everyone who participated.





### Spring Walk—By John Burns

On Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2013 commencing at 2:00pm from The Visitors Centre.

Ernie De Marchi led fifteen people into the Heathland to see the Wedding Bush in flower.

He identified many species, gave an informative talk about each and offered several plants for smelling or tasting such as Wild Parsnip. We meander around for about 90 minutes, stopping for Ernie to relate some stories about Ducks and Sulphur Crested Cockatoos much to the amusement of the party.

Now it was time to head back to the Visitors Centre for afternoon tea and a chat. Margaret Hunter thanked Ernie, and those present applauded him in appreciation of a wonderful adventure through the Heathland.



Ernie & Spring Walk group in the Heathland

### National Tree Planting Day—By John Burns

On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2013, commencing at 9:00a.m. in the Kookaburra car park.

Des Lucas & Ernie de Marchi assisted 30 volunteers, consisting of members of The Friends of Braeside Park, Mens Shed and Cubs.

We worked diligently, planting lower storey shrubs and grasses such as:-

Goodenia, Isolepis, Lomandra, Kangaroo Grass and Patersonia.

At approximately 10:30a.m. we enjoyed a sumptuous morning tea.

It was well deserved, and appreciated. Then it was back to work.

When the work was completed at noon there was 1050 shrubs and grasses planted.

Then all participated in a delightful BBQ.



#### Native Animals

This Photo taken by Bev Bancroft showing a copper head snake eating a frog.



## WEDDING BUSH—by Joanne Cody

Did you know that the floral emblem for the Friends of Braeside park is the Wedding Bush *Ricinocarpus pinifolius* ? I have been a friend for many years, and a current committee member and was not aware of this until I received correspondence on the friends letterhead. And behold there was the wedding bush in floral illustration as the emblem watermark. So I decided to do some research amongst old copies of Friends newsletters and committee meeting minutes on its origins. It was very interesting browsing of our history which will celebrate its 25 years anniversary next year. A Mrs Evelyn O'Neil did do a logo that was used on our first newsletter of red gums, ducks flying over the wetlands and a family with torches during a night walk. This artwork image design has been retained with improved modern technology over the years on our current newsletter. The minutes of May 1990 do make mention of an initial letterhead but I do not know if it contained any artwork !

It was not until Norm Cornwell wrote an article on the Heath Land plants which included the Wedding Bush in March 1991 that he included a comment that perhaps this plant should be the floral emblem for the park. However it was not until a committee meeting in November 1994 that Norm put this proposal forward as a motion “that the Wedding bush be the emblem of the Friends of Braeside Park.” The initial artwork was done by ranger Glen on the computer, which was then modified by Barry Williams and approved at the June 1995 meeting. Since then this design has been used on Friends correspondence but I could find no mention of this in any of the newsletters telling friends that it was our new emblem.

Family: Euphorbiaceae

Botanical name: *Ricinocarpus pinifolius*

Common name: Wedding Bush -This name comes from the fact that the flowers were worn in bridal veils of early white settlers at weddings in outback Australia. And in the book “Australian Bush Flower Healing “, its author Ian White says that aboriginal men and women in one tribe in south west of new South Wales who wanted to be wed , would exchange white Wedding Bush flowers between themselves.



Ricinocarpus: from the Latin *retortus* meaning castor oil plant and Greek *carpos* meaning fruit. The fruit resembles that of the castor oil plant- *Ricinus*.

Pinifolius: from the Latin *pinus* meaning pine and *folium* means leaf.

Wedding Bush is a shrub that can grow up to 2-3 metres high and is a common heath plant in sandy dry coastal areas. It is one of the parks major tea tree habitat heath land plants and is in full white bloom that can be enjoyed on our annual Spring heath land walk . The foliage or leaves are mostly opposite, narrow, dull green colour to 40mm long with margins rolled under. The flowers are unisexual which occur in group clusters of male flowers around a cone –like female flower, which swells to form a round fruit. The flowers occur from September to November in masses of fragrant white blossoms. It is a very difficult plant to propagate from scarified seed or cuttings. My personal experience for Wedding Bush has been as one of the Australian Bush Flower essences to help people who have difficulty in making commitments to their relationships, their job, the family or to personal goals. So not surprising that these beautiful white blossoms are associated with the marriage ceremony and vows.

It was a delight to see the Wedding Bushes in bloom today in the Braeside heath land. I would love to have them in my house and garden to enjoy longer and wonder if anyone has been able to grow them at home ?



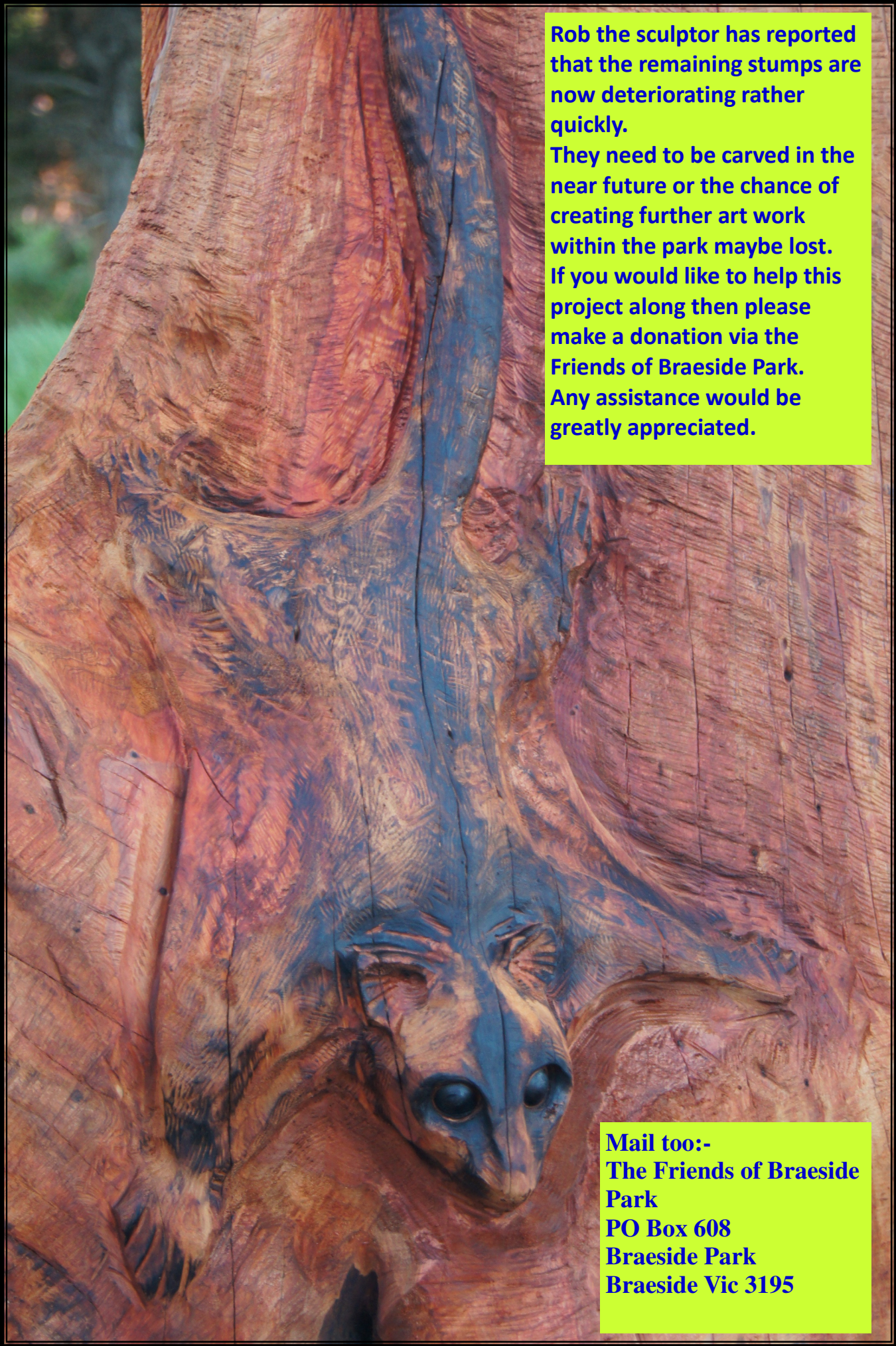
# Newsletter No 5—September / October 2013

## New Sculptors—Art Work

Rob Bast has again been at the Park and the Third Cypress Stump has now been carved into a series of possums.







Rob the sculptor has reported that the remaining stumps are now deteriorating rather quickly.

They need to be carved in the near future or the chance of creating further art work within the park maybe lost. If you would like to help this project along then please make a donation via the Friends of Braeside Park. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Mail too:-  
The Friends of Braeside  
Park  
PO Box 608  
Braeside Park  
Braeside Vic 3195



## Park Report:

On November the 9th The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be assisting park staff with community based activity. This work will focus delivering the following Staining of playground balustrade, Spreading of mulch, Staining of picnic tables – approx 20 and formation of trail to the playground.

This activity commences at 9:00 am with a break around 10:30 and lunch at 12:30 pm. It proposed that the group will be provided a guided walk through the park from 1:30. This will require a series of smaller groups to be formed. At this stage there will be 3 rangers present on the day but all Friends members are invited to attend if they wish too. There could be up to 300 people assisting consisting of family groups.

### Dingley Village Men's Shed:

An activity is planned for this Friday October 4th to clean up around and inside the two sheds to be used by the men's shed group. A 11 cubic metre bin has been ordered for the day.

Des Lucas, Ranger in Charge.

## Portraits of Braeside Park—Poems by Jill Dawson:

### The Plough

I'm a stump-jump plough  
with no future now  
so I sit by the fields  
that once used to yield  
truckloads of peas and potato.

The ridges I made  
with my wheels and blade  
are still here today  
in much the same way,  
but no sign of the peas and potato.

Market gardens have gone  
as time's moved along,  
now I feel out of place  
with my rusty old face  
for the fields have been fallow.





## **The Friends of Braeside Park**

are offering a mystery bus tour to the Dandenong's.

When: 8:30am till 5:00pm on  
Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2013

Meet at the Park Office at 8:15am for a departure at 8:30am sharp.

Cost \$20.00 per head paid in advance and by Monday 21st October 2013.

What to bring:

Drinks, food, camera, suitable clothing, sturdy footwear etc.

Please be aware this tour involves some walking on steep slopes.

**For Bookings, RSVP to the Park Office on 9265 7300.**

**Payment to the park office by 21st October 2013 if you have not payed your not confirmed.**

# Open Day 20th October 2013

## Community Garden & Nursery

### Braeside Park

Visit the Community Garden and Nursery Facility and experience this environmentally friendly site. Undertake a guided tour and learn how to grow local native seedlings which are great for your home garden or about protecting and enhancing our environment.

Light refreshments including tea, coffee, soft drinks and a free sausage sizzle.

Local native plants for sale.

Free plant to anyone who joins the Community Garden – Friends Group on the day.

**Date:** Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2013

**Time:** 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

**Venue:** Braeside Park

Lower Dandenong Road Braeside (Melway 88 D8) follow the signs after entering the park

**Cost:** Free entry and activities





## Environmental Monitoring Program update no 4:

Reptiles:

The monitoring stations for reptiles are currently being placed through out the park. This consists of 16 roof tiles and two sheets of iron at 12 locations throughout the park. Its proposed to allow these sites to settle in for a few months before any monitoring is to be undertaken.

Further to the above the second round of Frog monitoring will commence in early October with a session planted for Thursday 3rd October commencing at the park office at 6:30 pm.

Finally there has been a new set of monitoring cameras placed throughout the park. It will be interesting to see what is observed.



Photographer George Leeman

### Bird Report:

Steve McDonald has reporting observing the following interesting bird species male and female olive backed oriole in the Heathland, Dusky Wood Swallow, Satin Fly Catcher, Australasian Bittern, Latham's Snipe, Baillon's Crake, Freckled Duck, Crimson Rosella and Caspian Tern.

Margaret and Ian Langdon have completed a survey of the Wetlands recording 64 species and 935 birds.

## Activity Calendar 2013

### 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 9:30 am to 12:00 Noon.  
A short meeting followed by various garden and nursery activities.

### Nursery—Plant Propagation:

1st Saturday, 1st Monday and 3rd Sunday from 10:00 am to 12:00 Noon.  
Undertaking a variety of propagation activities. To confirm your attendance call 9551 4578.

### Committee Meeting

The 4th Monday, monthly at 1:00 pm at the Visitor Centre.  
The Committee meets to make decisions about the running of the group.

### Water Quality Monitoring:

The 3rd Tuesday, monthly at 9:00 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 park of this program.

### Special Activities:

Nightwalks are offered from April through to September. Gold Coin Donation. For details and bookings please call 9551 4578.

**Community Nursery is Open on the Third Sunday of the Month  
10:00 to 12:00 noon – Seedlings \$2.00 each.**

Join us on Facebook



Newsletter contributions from, Bev Bancroft, John Burns, Joanne Cody, Margaret and Ian Langdon, Steve McDonald and Park Staff

Contact us via email on [information@braesideparkfriends.org.au](mailto:information@braesideparkfriends.org.au)

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