

## THE FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK

# NEWSLETTER



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**Braeside Park**  
470 Lower Dandenong Road,  
Braeside 3195  
Phone: 8427 2027

**Friends of Braeside Park**  
PO Box 196, Dingley Village,



Healthy Parks  
Healthy People®

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

## Park Updates

On Thursday 9th February, the FOBP Committee met with the new Parks Victoria Senior Ranger Adrian Howard (replaces Des Lucas).

Margaret Hunter summarized as follows:

*Adrian has been working as a permanent appointment to replace Des Lucas who retired from Parks Victoria after 27 and a half years in the role in April 2022. The contact ranger for the Friends of Braeside Park is Janelle Cadd. Contact details and working hours will be circulated by Margaret to all committee members and telephone numbers and other relevant information for issues that arise in the Park.*

*The current ranger hours for rostered times are 7.00 am to 7.00 pm, with a duty ranger rostered on at the weekends who patrols and assists Park visitors as required.*

*Adrian outlined his background experiences over many years with other organisations with Zoos Victoria, Melbourne Water, and most recently the challenging role of replacing Des Lucas in his current role, with the loss of over 100 years of ranger experience with Digger, Des, and Ernie as well. He commented that it has been a challenging time for rangers and the Friends with changes to policies, temporary rangers, and a number of issues. His plan for the first six months was to learn about the park environment and stakeholders, including consultation with the Mens Shed, and other groups. Following that to work with the park stakeholders to manage Braeside Park as a team with these groups, and their varying interests. He noted that ranger Kelly is returning from secondment to Mallacoota in May which will assist in working with ranger staff in Braeside Park.*

We put to Adrian a number of questions which he answered.

Number one question was about the Red Gum Toilet closure. He said that various options were being examined including sewage connection or repair to existing system. No re-opening date was provided.

The other major question was about communicating policies to the public through signage around the park in relation to no camping, no hunting, no pets, no drones. He stated that he was working on increasing the number and quality of signs.

The meeting was positive and supportive.

### **David MacLean**

Please do not book for the night walks until after 2 April 2023, as numbers are limited and there is a short time to the May walk for extra school holidays numbers. We require an email (if possible) and mobile phone number as a minimum and confirmation of booking 72 hours before. There will be more information on the planned booking arrangements in the next newsletter and on other platforms when available.

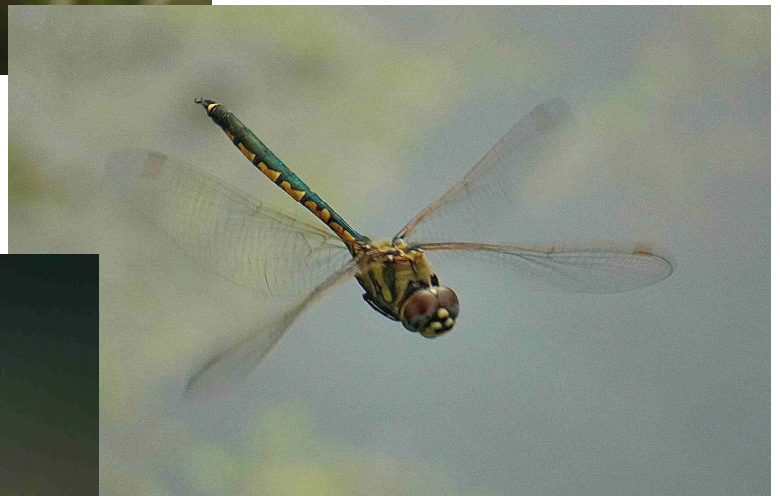
The Friends are always looking for volunteers to assist with our activities, with expressions of interest to Margaret Hunter, Secretary on [braesideparkfriends@gmail.com](mailto:braesideparkfriends@gmail.com) or on 0417 323 460 (text).

### **Margaret Hunter**

## Insects of the Park

Has anyone noticed the plethora of insects this summer at Braeside park?

There has been particularly large number of dragonflies and damselflies. If you don't know the difference between the two, the pictures below may help-the first two pictures are of an emerald dragonfly, and the pretty blue insect is a damselfly.

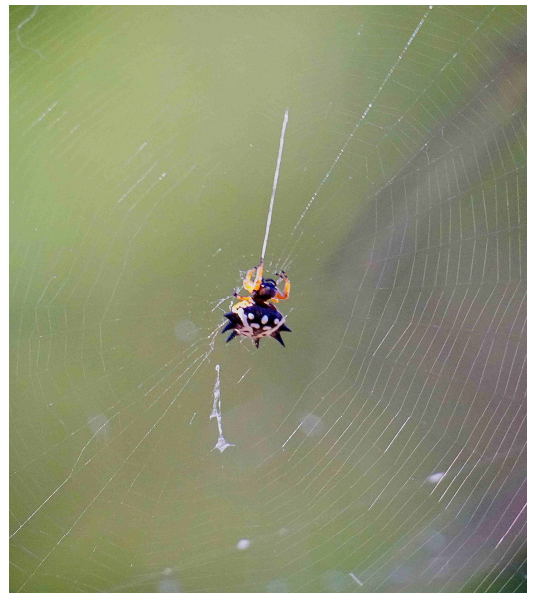




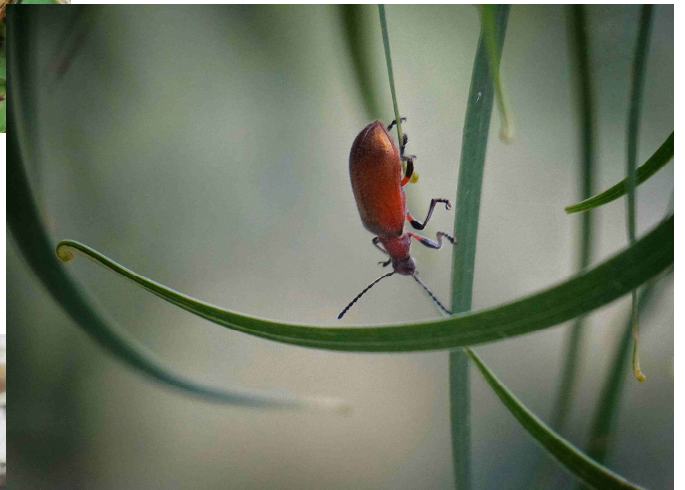
## Insects of the Park (cont.)

There has also been a lot of beautiful little jewel spiders in the park. These usually appear between December and March. People have been enjoying watching them spin their webs and capture small insects, along the walking paths.

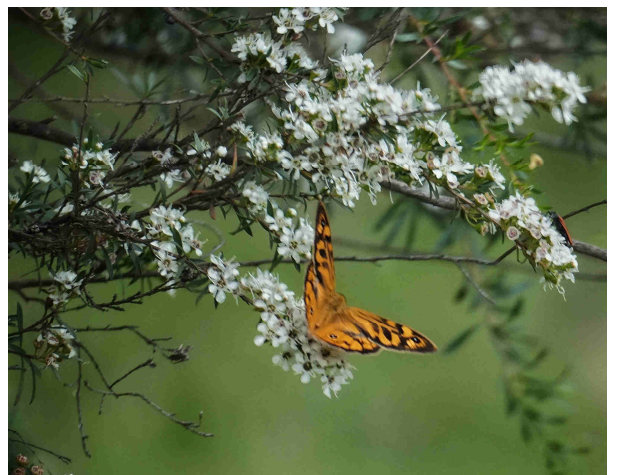
I love beetles. Unfortunately, there's been a decline in the population of Christmas beetles in Victoria due to habitat changes .



However we have several very interesting beetles at Braeside- Scarab beetle, Honey brown beetle and below we have the Darkling beetle.



It's always nice to see butterflies in the park. Some butterflies recently seen are- The common brown butterfly





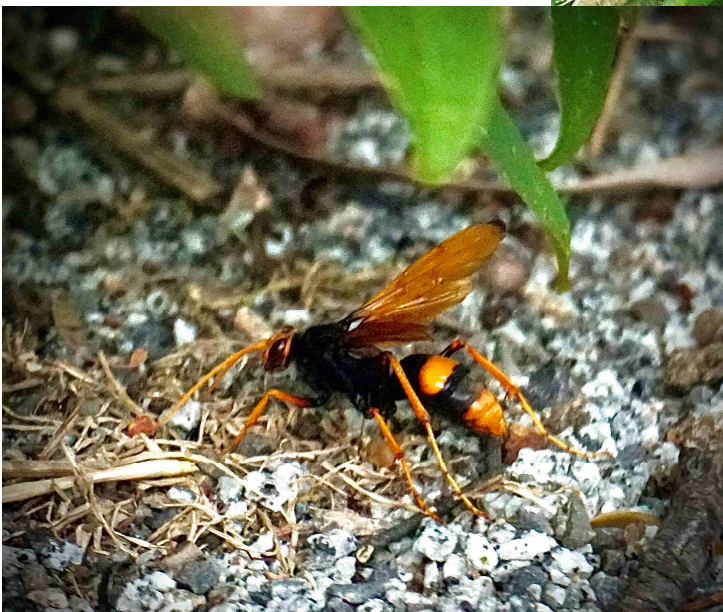
## Insects of the Park (cont.)

The ringed Xenica butterfly (NOT so common)

The Dashed Geometrid, which resembles a moth more than a butterfly. You can see its clever camouflage in this image- it looks like a nearby leaf!



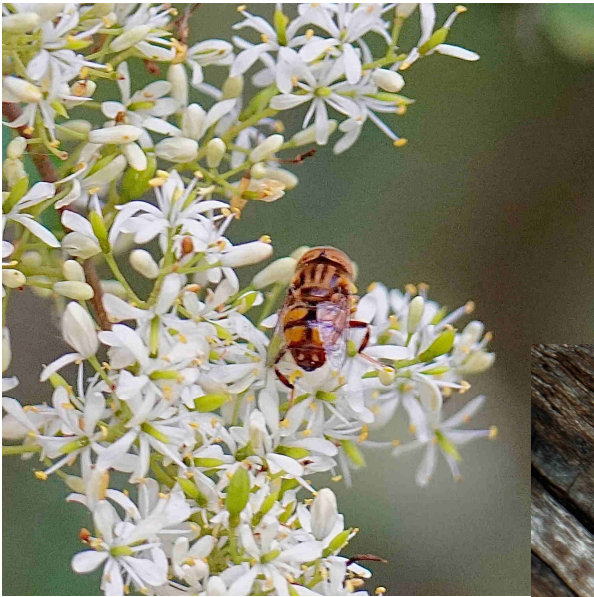
The Pieridae cabbage white butterfly



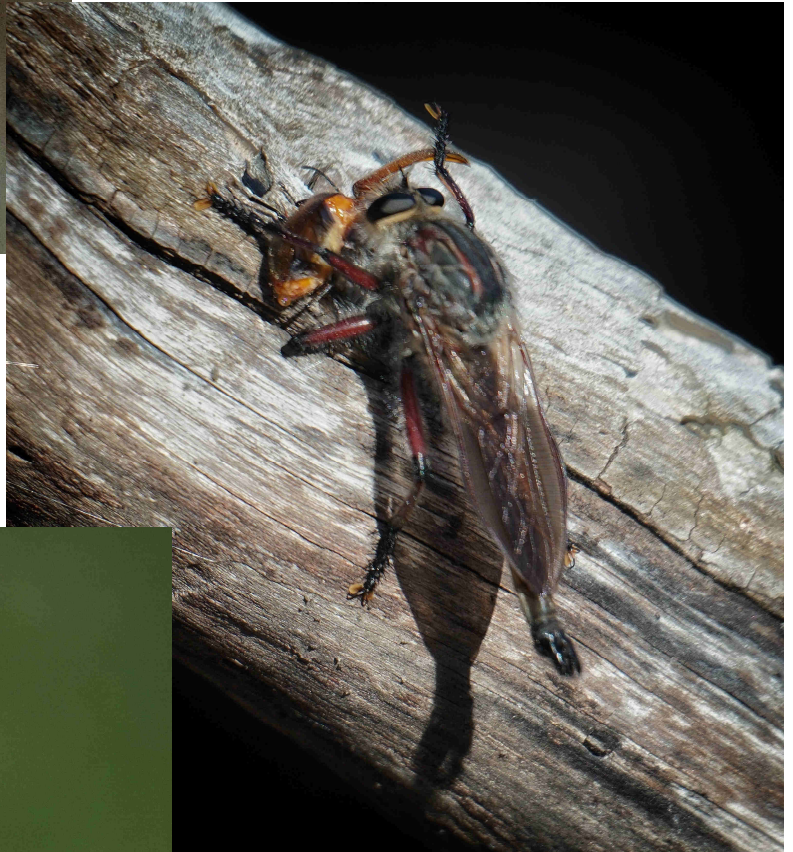
Of course, we see spider wasps occasionally too (yes- they eat spiders!)



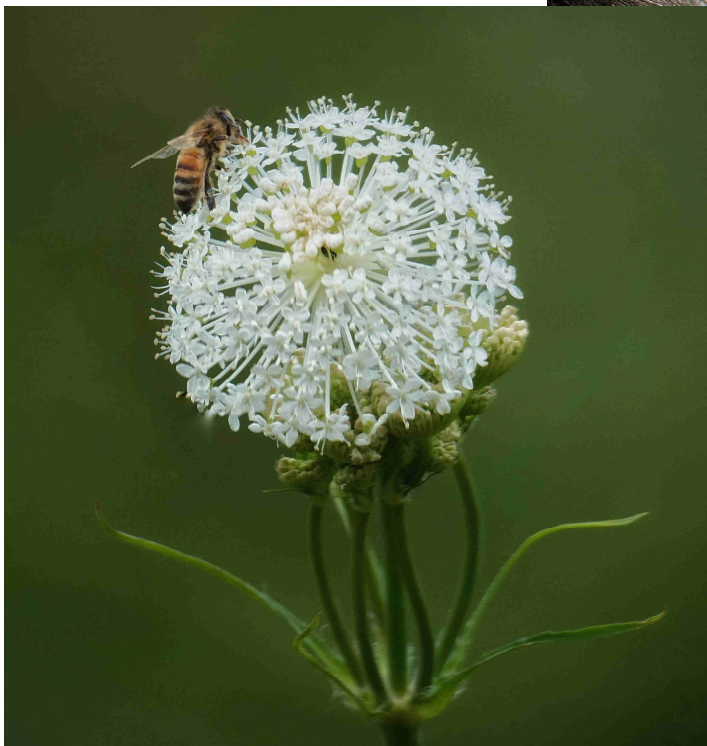
## Insects of the Park (cont.)



And drone flies



I also recently came across a cicada feasting on freshly caught prey.



Last, but certainly not least, honey bees are always nice to see buzzing around the foliage at Braeside.

So, next time you are strolling through the park, keep a lookout for our six legged friends crawling and flying around. They are fascinating.

**Heather Markland**



## Bird Survey Group

### Bird Survey 20/01/2023

Today we spotted 30 species of birds. Highlights included Eastern Yellow Robins, Golden Whistlers, New Holland Honeyeaters, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Kookaburras, Tawny Frogmouths and countless Superb Fairy-Wrens. There was a bit of excitement when a Swamp Harrier hovered overhead. We managed to work out the songs of the Yellow Robin and the Golden Whistler. Nice work. It's evident we are developing our skills in bird identification by sharing our knowledge. A fun way to learn. We also had an encounter with a hungry Echidna, and observed a beautiful native orchid.

I would also like to thank members for their enthusiasm and good humour.

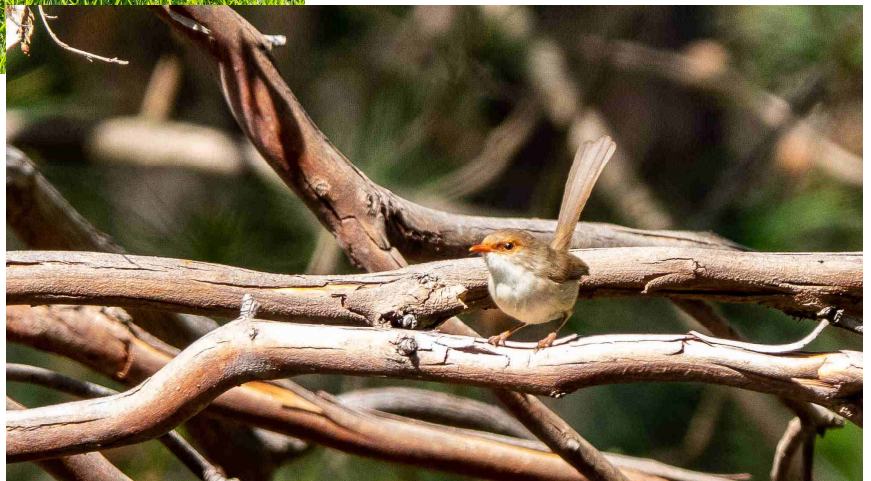
**Rosemaree MacLean**



**Ian Morehouse**



**David MacLean**



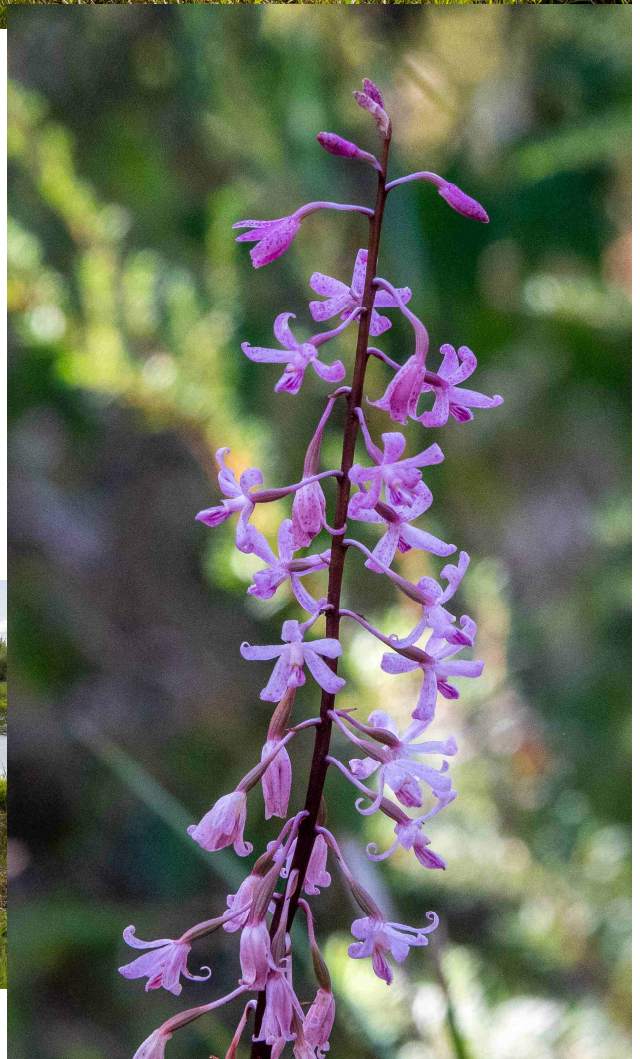
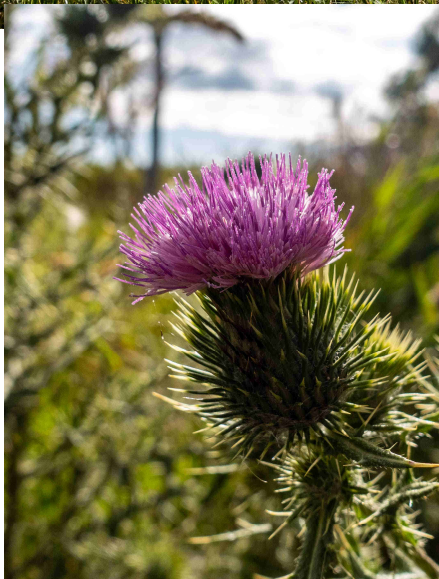
**David MacLean**



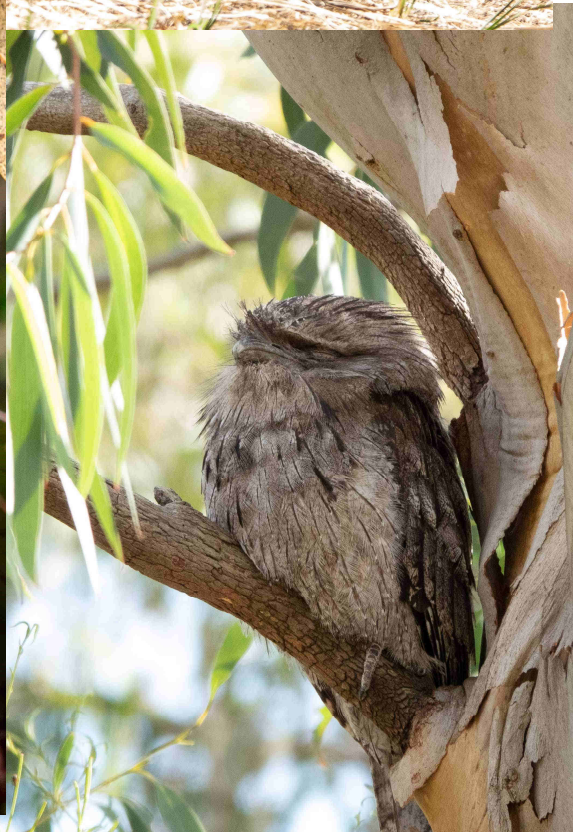
## Residents

The following photos were taken over the last 6 weeks by David and Rosemaree MacLean whilst walking through the park or during a Bird Survey.

The first few photos show how well the park has recovered from the hot summer. As highlighted in Heather's article, insects have been prevalent during the past few months. I don't remember seeing so many dragonflies or beetles before. It is truly a feast for the eyes.









## From the Editor:

A new year starts with some of the most unusual weather that we have experienced on record. The Bureau of Meteorology blames another consecutive "La Nina", but there have been times in the past that La Nina or El Nino have lasted many years. It was surmised by an archaeologist that in our long past, El Nino lasted for over 100 years and was the cause of Babylon falling.

Interesting, but the rains before Xmas have given the park some well deserved water and today it looks beautiful. Some ponds have dried out, but these same ponds have experienced water for the first time since 2011. Not bad.

Please enjoy this Newsletter and if you have something to say, write it up, send it in to [de\\_edfobp@iinet.net.au](mailto:de_edfobp@iinet.net.au) and it may get published.

Happy New Year 2023 to all.

**David MacLean**

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**Phone:** 0417 323 460

**Email:** [braesideparkfriends@gmail.com](mailto:braesideparkfriends@gmail.com)

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

**ABN:** 72 959 503 118 INC NO A002420278



**FOBP Committee**

David MacLean, Simon Flemming, Frank Russo, David Boldiston, Margaret Hunter, Vicky Paraskevas, Judith Sise, Rosemaree MacLean

## Friends of Braeside Park Inc.

<b>President:</b>	Judith Sise
<b>Secretary:</b>	Margaret Hunter
<b>Assistant Secretary:</b>	Rosemaree MacLean
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Vicky Paraskevas
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	David MacLean
<b>Communications and Promotions Officer:</b>	Frank Russo
<b>Committee members:</b>	David Boldiston, Simon Flemming, Heather Markland and Emily Daniels

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

### Newsletter Contributions

Thank you to Heather Markland, Rosemaree MacLean, Ian Morehouse and David MacLean for their contributions to this edition.

If you have an item to share in future editions or have any feedback in relation to this newsletter, please contact the editor at

[de\\_edfobp@iinet.net.au](mailto:de_edfobp@iinet.net.au)  
or [braesideparkfriends@gmail.com](mailto:braesideparkfriends@gmail.com)



# Friends of Braeside Park

ABN 72 959 503 118 INC NO A00242027B

## Membership Application/Renewal Form:

*\* Indicates required field*

Name \*

Address \*

Phone Number \*

Email \*

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: \*

[membership.fobp@outlook.com.au](mailto:membership.fobp@outlook.com.au)

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



# Clean Up Australia Day @ Braeside Park



Because when the rubbish is gone,  
nature can carry on.



SUNDAY MARCH 5th



Major partners



Partners



Suppliers



*10am till 12pm, Meet at Visitors Centre  
Everything Supplied & Morning Tea*

## Community Night Walks for 2023



Friends of  
Braeside Park

**The Friends of Braeside Park invite  
you to attend a night walk to view  
the nocturnal animals of the park**

**On Friday Nights at 7pm**

**from April thru to September**

**on the 14<sup>th</sup> April, 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2<sup>nd</sup> June,  
7<sup>th</sup> July, 4<sup>th</sup> August & 1<sup>st</sup> September**

**Meet at the Visitors Centre**

**Braeside Park, enter @ Lower Dandenong Rd, Braeside**

**Cost: Gold Coin Donation per person**

**Numbers Limited - Bookings Are Essential**


**Via email: [braesideparkfriends@gmail.com](mailto:braesideparkfriends@gmail.com)**

**or contact Margaret Hunter on 0417323460**

**[www.braesideparkfriends.org.au](http://www.braesideparkfriends.org.au) for more info**



The Friends of Braeside Park Activity Calendar for 2023

Activity	Time/Day	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec					
Committee Meeting	7pm - 9pm 2nd Thursday at the Visitor's Centre	*	9	9	13	11	8	13	10	14	12	9	14					
Community Projects Weekday - "The A Team"	9am - 12pm Wednesdays at the Park Office	*	1 8 15 22	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27					
Nursery open for plant sales	10am - 12pm 3rd Sunday	*	19	19	16	21	18	16	20	17	15	19	17					
Plant Propagation Community Nursery	10am - 12pm 1st Saturday & 3rd Sunday	*	4 19	4 19	1 18	6 21	3 18	1 16	5 20	2 17	7 22	4 19	2 17					
Community Waterwatch Program	9:30am - 12pm 2nd Saturday Visitors Centre	*	11	11	8	13	10	8	12	9	14	11	9					
Bird Observations	8am - 11am 4th Friday Red Gum Car Park	27	24	24	28	26	23	28	25	22	27	24	22					
Nightwalks	From Visitor's Centre 7pm	Nightwalks offered from April through to September. Good Cash Donation per head! Bookings Essential! 0417323400																
Community Projects Weekends	9am - 12pm, follow the signs	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*					
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 5th Meet at Visitor Centre 10am - 12pm	*	Mystery Walk Saturday 24th 2pm - 4pm with afternoon tea	*	National Tree Day Planting Sunday 4th 9am - 12pm	*	World Environment Day Saturday 3rd 9am - 12pm	*	AGM Sunday 5th 2pm - 4pm with afternoon tea	*	Spring Walk Sunday 10th 2pm - 4pm with afternoon tea	*	Breakfast with birds Sunday 15th Red Gum Picnic Area 7am - 9:30am	*	End of Year Breakfast Thursday 14th @ Visitors Centre 7pm

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

Email [braesideparkfriends@gmail.com](mailto:braesideparkfriends@gmail.com)

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