



## THE FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK

# NEWSLETTER

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### Braeside Park

Lower Dandenong Road,  
Braeside 3195  
Melway Map 88 D8

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## Committee News

By Judith Sise, President

The Friends of Braeside Park met for a Break Up walk of Karkarook Park and BBQ lunch at the Park Office. The Friends can be proud of completing a few projects in 2013-14 such as, the Possum and Pelican Art Stump, installation of the water tanks at the office and the nursery, some more taxidermy birds for displays and planting 26 *Cupressus macrocarpa* var. *auaea* along Cypress Drive. The Wednesday Group commonly called Ernie's A Team have been busy grubbing out Burgan and Acacia in the Heathland, mowing and weeding in the Grasslands, planting the last nine Cypress Trees and while Ernie was on holidays, were roped into digging holes for fences for Digger and Max. This group is small in number but big in achievements. They naturally are always looking for new people to join this happy crew and share the work load. If you want to join, just turn up Wednesday at 9am at the Braeside Park Office in sturdy shoes. Morning Tea is provided!

While the Friends are going into holiday mode, there is an interesting project coming up for those interested in birds (the feathered variety!). BirdLife Australia is keen to find some interested people who would like survey birds in the Woodlands and Heathlands in Braeside Park. BirdLife will provide a training day at Braeside Park, *so if you have an interest in birds or are a confirmed "twitcher"*, this is the program for you. The bird surveys timetable will be decided by the group. The date for the training session has yet to be decided but if there is anyone interested in becoming part of the Braeside Park "twitchers" group, please contact Ranger Des on 9265 7300.

The last of the Frog Watch surveys was held in November and will not resume until April but Rangers Des and Glen did a rabbit survey in early December. Earlier results in July and October found numbers were rising fast. In July there were 7 rabbits per spotlight kilometre and then 28 in early October. So as the rabbits produce their third litter of the season, December results were sure to be astronomical. A walk in the early morning or evenings shows many rabbits boldly feeding on green playing fields.

Summer in the Park escaping the hot summer sun or simply walking or riding along the dirt paths or picnicking with friends and family is both mentally and physically relaxing so why not contact one of the Rangers on 9265 7300 and join The Friends' Group keeping Braeside Park the local haven it is.

## Newsletter Contributions

Thank you to Judith Sise, Margaret Hunter, Bev Bancroft, Des Lucas, Margaret and Ian Langdon and Steve McDonald for contributing to the January/February 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 March/April edition: 27th February 2015**

*Earlier submissions appreciated.*

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

*By Bev Bancroft, Treasurer*

### **HEATHLAND**

Two mornings spent grubbing out Burgan and Acacia ready for the chipper.

### **DINGLEY WATERWAY**

Another 250 seedlings planted which completes the Melbourne Water Grant. Maintenance will continue. Previous plantings look great and are doing well.

### **VISITOR CENTRE**

Mulcing continued around the centre and the Cypress plantings.

### **COMMUNITY GARDEN**

A clean up of the garden! Looks really good with extra mulching. Also many boxes of Lomandra pricked out ready for 2015 plantings.

### **GRASSLANDS**

More mowing and more weeding.

**Wednesdays resume on 4th February 2015.**

*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.*

## **Des' Mystery Tour to West Gippsland**

*By Margaret Hunter, Secretary*

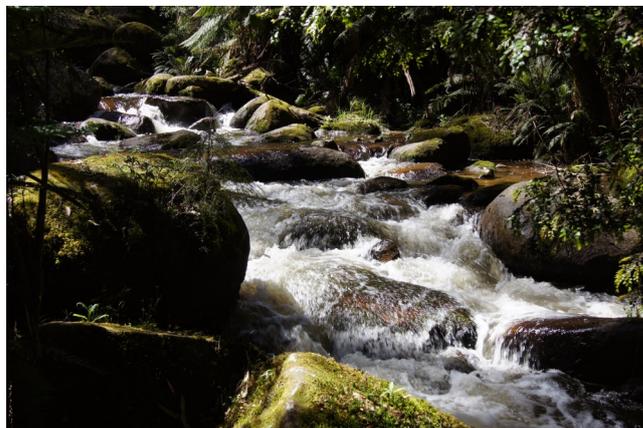
With our capable and experienced tour guides, Des, Kathryn and John at the wheel of our bus, 12-14 participants recently took part in a mystery tour to West Gippsland on 8 November 2014. We were once again well fed and watered by morning tea provided by Jan and Peter Holt, Kathryn and other members of our motley group.

We went on winding roads, with an unintended detour of ten kilometres – the road was closed – to visit the famous Ada Tree. With a walk along a rough track with some boards to the famous tree, it is well worth a visit. It is one of the oldest trees in Gippsland and a local attraction in the Noojee area. It is over 300 years old, 76 metres tall with a circumference of 15 metres.

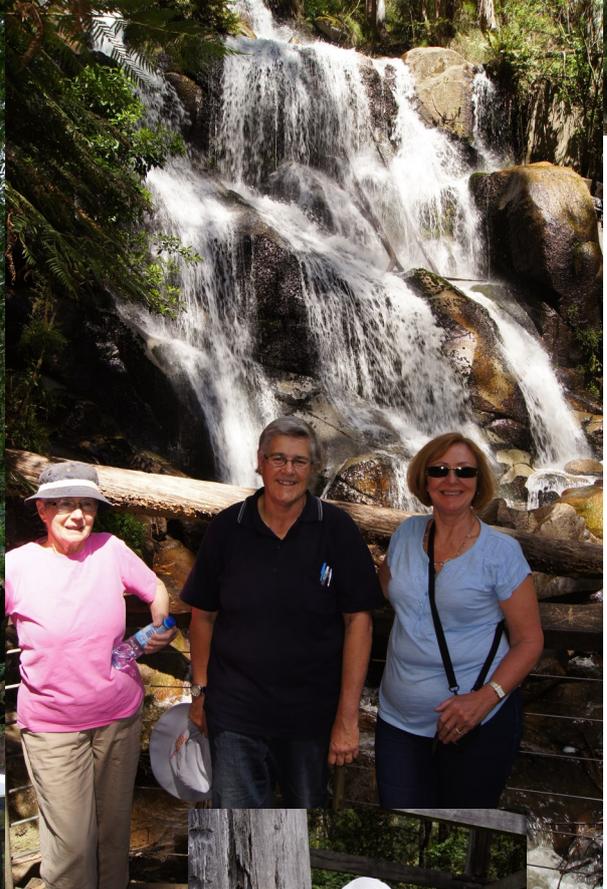
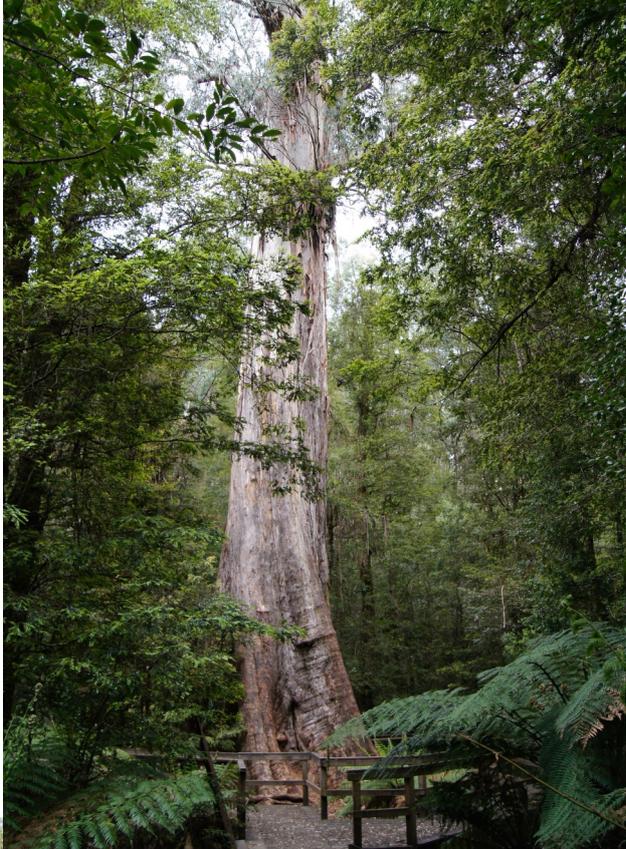
We then travelled to the famous Noojee Railway bridge for a scenic lunch spot and the opportunity to walk along the historic railway bridge. While the path was steep, the view was good and the work involved in building this bridge was an engineering marvel of its time given the isolation of the area and limited access except by rail. The line was opened in 1919 as a branch line from Waragul and closed in sections from 1954-1958. The trestle bridge at Noojee was destroyed by fire in 1939 (Black Friday), 1926 also and re-built. It is 102 metres long and 21 metres high, with 19 piles. There was goods and passengers carried from Flinders Street to Noojee, a journey of 143 kms which took 6 hours. It was built to support timber production in the area with 28 mills in the area in the 1920's. Services were cut in the 1930's and it became a goods only line in the 1940's. It is the tallest surviving trestle bridge in Victoria and has been part of a long-term project to restore railway facilities at Noojee with the support of the Noojee and District Historical Society. We eagerly await this trip.

We next visited the famous Toorong Falls with a very steep walk after lunch. This tested most of the group, with many stops on the way up to admire the view. The many photographers also lugged their photographic gear up the slope without effort. When we reached the half-way point, we discovered that some of the group had found the less steep albeit longer route to reach the top of the falls. But all other than Des, declined his invitation for a further steep climb. When I got home the view was on the internet, so we were not disappointed. We also had quizzes and games with Kathryn, which we all enjoyed. We arrived at Braeside Park 30 minutes late due to the unknown detour, with a scenic drive enjoyed by all. Thank you to Des for organising another fabulous mystery tour, Kathryn for her games and quizzes and also her delicious sausage rolls and other treats and John for driving us. It was considered even better than the last tour!

The next mystery tour is planned for Walhalla in 2015 and should be a popular trip.



*Photo by Des Lucas*



Gippsland Mystery Tour. Photos by Des Lucas

## **The Famous Elsie's Apple Slice**

*By Judith Sise, President*

Most of the Friends of Braeside Park will remember our past Secretary, Elsie, and her delicious apple slice which seemed to feature at the AGM annually. She generously gave me the recipe and I would like to share it with all. Elsie called it "Apple Slice" but I have always called it "Elsie's Apple Slice."

### Ingredients:

Vanilla Cake Mix; 1 cup of desiccated coconut; 125 grams of melted butter; 1 tin of apple pie filling (or slice and stew 3 Granny Smith apples); 300ml light sour cream; cinnamon

### Method:

Mix cake mix, coconut and melted butter.

Pour into a slice tray lined with baking paper or greased.

Bake in moderate oven (180 degrees) for 20 minutes.

Remove from oven and pour over the slice the apple slices and then top with sour cream.

Sprinkle with cinnamon and bake in oven for a further 20 minutes.

Cool completely before slicing.

This slice works well with cherries, rhubarb or any soft cooked fruit. It also works with Gluten Free Vanilla Cake mixes. It is a winner! Thanks Elsie.

## **Visit to the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne**

*By Margaret Hunter, Secretary*

As part of the Kingston Council Our Place, Environmental Education and Awareness program, there was a free bus trip to the Australian Garden at Cranbourne on 12 December 2014. This was attended by Margaret Hunter and Jan and Peter Holt, with our garden guide Marj Seaton. Marj's knowledge of the gardens, the plants and different types of gardening, highlighted by the scenic vistas of the gardens was the highlight of the tour. We had an extended walk of over one hour around the area, with some aspects of the visitor experience not available due to a power blackout. Sadly this valued program, run by the City of Kingston, may not be funded in the future, as this was part of other workshops held in 2014.

Given the value of this program to environmental awareness and education in Kingston, it was fully booked out with a waiting list which indicated the strong support for this program. We plan to return to see the magnificent gardens at different seasons of the year. Thanks to Marj for her wonderful tour of this venue, we all enjoyed ourselves immensely and learnt so much as well about gardens and other areas.

## Park Report

As reported by Des Lucas, Ranger in Charge

### STAFF MANAGEMENT

Kylie Eklom commenced her summer ranger duties on December 1st and will be with us until just after Easter.

### PEST ANIMALS

Rabbit numbers are on the rise as breeding season is now producing the fourth or fifth litter. Myxomatosis has been observed throughout the park.

### PARK MAINTENANCE

The Cypress Drive link road will be progressively mulched with the assistance of the Men's Shed. The Men's shed will also be assisting with re-staining the sculptures.

### FOB BREAKUP

Members of the Friends of Braeside were thanked in December for their hard work and dedication to the park with a BBQ.

## Bird Monitoring Program

Are you interested in birds? Why not join BirdLife Australia with a new bird monitoring program at Braeside Park. Full training will be provided and this is a suitable activity for all age groups.

So grab your binoculars, camera and favourite field guide and head down to Braeside Park!

For further information and a copy of the monitoring sheets  
please contact the park office on 9265 7300



*Parks Victoria's John Goodman recently returned from a fire deployment and captured this shot of the Braeside Park wetlands when flying back to Moorabbin Airport.*

## Bird Report

As reported by Margaret & Ian Langdon, Steve McDonald and park staff.

The flowering of the River Red Gums attracted a very large number of Lorikeets over November and December and it's no wonder given the forest smelt so sweet! Most were Rainbow and Musk and a very small number of Purple Crowned and Scaly-breasted were seen or heard by those with a keen eye and ear. Latham's Snipe were also back in the park and there have been many family groups of Tawny Frogmouth spotted in the trees along the tracks.



*Australasian Darter. Photo Ray Fox.*

Australian Pelican	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	White-plumed Honeyeater
Black Swan	Royal Spoonbill	New Holland Honeyeater
Australasian Darter	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Grey Shrike-thrush
Little Pied Cormorant	Latham's Snipe	Willie Wagtail
Great Cormorant	Masked Lapwing	Grey Fantail
Little Black Cormorant	Black-winged Stilt	Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike
Hoary-headed Grebe	Silver Gull	Magpie-lark
Australasian Grebe	Whiskered Tern	Grey Butcherbird
Australian Shelduck	Black-shouldered Kite	Australian Magpie
Pacific Black Duck	Whistling Kite	Little Raven
Grey Teal	Swamp Harrier	Welcome Swallow
Chestnut Teal	Common Bronzewing	Eastern Skylark
Australian Shoveler	Crested Pigeon	Australian Reed-Warbler
Pink-eared Duck	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Golden-headed Cisticola
Hardhead	Rainbow Lorikeet	Little Grassbird
Blue-billed Duck	Eastern Rosella	Red-browed Finch
Buff-banded Rail	Musk Lorikeet	Silvereve
Dusky Moorhen	Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	European Goldfinch
Purple Swamphen	Purple-Crowned Lorikeet	European Green Finch
Eurasian Coot	Red-rump Parrot	Common Blackbird
White-necked Heron	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Common Starling
White-faced Heron	Tawny Frogmouth	Common Starling
Cattle Egret	Superb Fairy-wren	Common Myna
Great Egret	Striated Pardalote	Rock Dove
Little Egret	Brown Thornbill	Spotted Turtle-Dove
Australian White Ibis	Red Wattlebird	
Straw-necked Ibis	Noisy Miner	

## 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 7.30 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.

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Join us on Facebook 

## Friends of Braeside Park Activity Calendar 2015

Activity	Time/Day	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Committee Meeting	7:30 - 9:30 2nd Thursday at the Park Office		12	12	9	14	11	9	13	10	8	12	10
Community Garden	9:30 - 12:00 3rd Sun of the month at nursery	18	15	15	19	17	21	19	16	20	18	15	20
Community Projects Weekday - "The A Team"	9:00 - 12:00 noon Wednesday at the Park Office	-	4 11 18 25	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16
Nursery open for plant sales	10:00 - 12:00 3rd Sun of the month	18	15	15	19	17	21	19	16	20	18	15	20
Plant Propagation Community Nursery	10:00 - 12:00 noon 1st Sat & 3rd Sun	3 18	7 15	7 15	4 19	2 17	6 21	4 19	1 16	5 20	3 18	1 15	5 20
Plant Propagation Community Nursery	Wednesdays 13:00 - 15:00 Bev 9551 4578	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Water Quality Monitoring Meet at the Park Office	9:00 - 12:00 noon 3rd Tue	20	17	17	21	19	16	21	18	15	20	17	15
Bird Observations	Glen Oliphant 9265 7300	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nightwalks	From Swallow Car Park at 7:00 PM	Nightwalks offered from April through to September. Gold Coin Donation per head Bookings Essential on 9265 7300											
Community Projects Weekends	9:00 - 12:00 noon, follow the signs						World Environment Day Tree Planting Sun 7th	National Tree Planting Day Sat 25th	Introduction to Waite Day Community Nursery Open Day 30th Aug 10:00 to 2:00 Guided Walks, Propagation, Tours of Nursery, Free Barbecue, Plant Sales etc				
Special Activities are held throughout the year at various times						Mystery Walk Sunday 17th 12:30 - 3:30 with afternoon tea			AGM 9th 2:00 - 4:00	Breakfast with birds 13th Meet at Ridd Gum Picnic Area 7:00 - 9:30	Spring Walk - Heathland & Grasslands Sunday 18th 1:00 - 3:30		End of Year BBQ Wed 16th

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

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

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