



THE FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK

NEWSLETTER

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Braeside Park

Lower Dandenong Road,
Braeside 3195
Melway Map 88 D8

**The Park Office Phone Number has
changed to 8427
2027**



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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Presidents Report

By Judith Sise.

In May, I attended the “Knowledge Banquet” at the MCG. It was billed as OUR **Region Environment Future**, the regional catchment strategy for Port Phillip and Western Port Region. It was explained that the idea for the title, Banquet, was that conversations with friends over a meal seemed to fit the passing of knowledge.

The opening of the Banquet was not by the Minister of Health, the Hon Liliansa (Lily) D'Ambrosio, but by the Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment, the Hon Anthony Carbines, who spoke for a short time and nothing of what he said stuck in my mind!

There were five 30 minute time slots with three speakers in each so choices had to be made.

As a Friends' Group with a declining aging membership I felt the first session by Tracey Ezard, a Thought Leader and Learning Intelligence, on “Interagency and Intergenerational Engagement and Collaboration” may be worthwhile. She was an engaging speaker and her ideas went down well with the audience. She highlighted the importance of TRUST within any group as the key to engaging across agencies and generations. Tracey emphasised the need for group's to have a collective collaborative goal. This means showing behaviour such as, listening with curiosity, mutual respect, having authentic conversations, and being willing to let go of your own beliefs and ego and ideas for the collective good. She stressed that keeping members means sharing consultation and having clarity of content discussed. While all of these may be obvious to many, it was good to revisit and for everyone to apply them in the Friends' Group.

The next session was by Chris Hardman, Regional Director, and Parks Victoria. In contrast to the previous speaker, Chris seemed very casual. He listed facts on why Parks are important, i.e. clean water, fish breeding, waste control, bees etc. He then itemized people partnerships – Living Links, Ramsar Protection Sites, Yarra 4 Life, Green Army, Refugee Groups, BMX Riders Association – and the benefits of each of these. He spoke of the difference between volunteers and management priorities but did mention that management should build to allow the volunteers to get their experience and enjoyment from working in the Park. This seemed an odd remark to me at the time I jotted it down! I did catch up with Chris at lunch and introduced myself and he seemed interested in what I had to say and gave me his card and was interested in being in-



Dr Jonathan Kingsley, from the School of Population & Global Health, University of Melbourne, was interesting if not enlightening. His focus was that the basic tenet is that health and wellbeing cannot be sustained in a resource depleted polluted socially unstable planet – don't think anyone would disagree with that! Jonathan spoke on the need to commit to trans-disciplinary research and to look at defining health from a different perspective. He felt that the top environmental problems result from greed, selfishness and apathy – again I think most would agree with this. Perhaps, I would also throw in lack of knowledge too. Jonathan felt that we need a spiritual and cultural transformation. This could link with what Chris Hardman was *alluding* to in his talk about valuing the Parks for the benefit to people's wellbeing.

The final two speakers were more on the lines of traditional environmental conference topics. Nigel Sharp, the founder/owner of the Mt Rothwell Biodiversity Interpretative Centre, outlined the development and achievements of re-vegetating and re-introducing indigenous fauna. However, it was all very soporific after a delicious lunch. The last speaker, Juliet Forsyth, a barrister, was very dry (as one would expect) and I could not help but think her talk emphasised the fact that winning a VACAT meant having a good barrister and finding the correct legal ruling to support your claim. She did not address many environmental issues but stuck to fairly broad cases.



World Environment Day Planting Activity, Federation Picnic Area, Photo Des Lucas

I did meet some interesting people from “not for profit” organisations doing some amazing things and there were many council and park rangers and Port Phillip and Western Park employees and a few volunteers present. Over a few conversations, I sensed the feeling that volunteer groups that had large memberships and were achieving “big” often had paid organisers.

I felt it was worthwhile and provided food for thought for the Friends' Group and my own career.

Judith Sise President



Dingley Waterway, Melbourne Water Grant Planting Site, Photo Des Lucas

Wednesdays with Ernie's 'A Team' *By Bev Bancroft, Treasurer*

GRASSLANDS

Fencing has been checked and improved with chicken wire to keep the Rabbits out.

HOORAY it has rained.

The area has been weeded and 450 grasses have been planted.

MELBOURNE WATER GRANTS

Nearly 500 trees (including Ovata, River Red and Acacia Viminaria) have been planted out adjacent to the Dingley Waterway.

Carex Plants - 150 have also been planted close to the waterway.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Community Garden has been tidied and plants moved to the hardening off area.

75 plants including Acacia Brownii, Hibbertia Species, Viola Hederace have been planted out - more to come.



Earlier submissions appreciated.

***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.

Newsletter Contributions

Thank you to Margaret, Judith, Bev & park Staff for this months contributions

If you have an item to share in future editions or have any feedback in relation to the newsletter, please contact the editor at braesideparkfriends@gmail.com

Deadline for September/October edition: 1 September 2016

Eric William Mitchell (27.1.1928 - 18.6.2016)

Founding President Friends of Braeside Park



Eric Mitchell was a kind caring and generous man, and for the 16 year old that I was, when the Friends of Braeside Park was being formed, the most wonderful supporter and mentor a young girl interested in conservation could have. It was Eric who took me seriously and encouraged me to join the founding committee of the friends, and whilst he was always my biggest advocate, more importantly he was the biggest advocate for the newly opened Braeside Park. It was under Eric's presidency with the support of the then committee, that the foundations for many of the key projects that have since been undertaken were laid. He drove many successful grant applications which led to the development of the nursery and various works to improve the park's wetlands, including viewing platforms and extensive plantings. He won a Best Friends Award in 2006.

Eric loved serving the community well beyond the boundaries of his beloved Braeside Park. He worked as a teacher and a Principal; on advisory boards for Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria and was the Last Mayor of Springvale Council. He worked as the chair of school councils, was a guide at Melbourne Zoo, and an advocate at homes for aged and disabled people.

Eric was an amazing man, that bettered the lives of many people, animals and the environment. He will be missed.

Kylie Kidd (Bancroft), founding Committee member of the Friends of Braeside Park.

Fauna Monitoring—by Judith Sise

The Victorian Field Naturalist's Fauna Group have been monitoring reptiles for the past few years as part of a wider program to build a picture of reptiles across the southern eastern metropolitan parks and reserves. A small group of members survey the reptiles during winter and spring in Braeside Park. I have been able to participate in the survey and learnt from the very experienced and knowledgeable Fauna Group members. At the last survey, a grade 10 student from a local secondary college also joined the group as part of his work experience program. There are about 8 sites set up with the help of the Park Rangers to access the variety of environments within the Park. Luckily, Saturday turned into a lovely, even sunny, day so we set off with high expectations of what may be found beneath the tin sheets and cement tiles which were once laid out in a lovely grid of 16 tiles with tin sheets at each corner. Of course, there have been some tile movements and the grass has covered some tiles so lots of hunting was needed to find the tiles but eventually we located all the tiles and began to turn over the tiles carefully with our eyes focused for movement. We were rewarded with four different species of skinks, two spotted marsh frogs and numerous scorpions and some common house mice. The skinks species included the Garden spink, Delicate spink, Jezebel spink and the Bourganville spink, the latter, has not previously been found in any of the parks surveyed. The lovely part of the survey is walking in the Healthland and River Red Gum forest land and enjoying the company of passionate and knowledgeable community members. The reptile survey is one of many activities carried out by the members to monitoring indigenous fauna so that the Friends' Group can ensure the health of the Park.

Nightwalk Program

By Margaret Hunter

June Night Walk

Was held on 4 June with a reduced attendance due to mild but wet and drizzly weather. It was popular, as always with families and adults, and while we had relatively minimal siting's on the night, a good time was had by all. For many of the families, it was the first time that they has been in the park at night, so there was much excitement and expectation of good siting's, and even the possums obliged in some areas much to the delight of the children present.

It was also a timely reminder that weather proof jackets, and clothing are a good asset to have in your boot when required in Melbourne's winter weather.

Training activities for friends groups

By Margaret Hunter

Management groups in areas of activities covered by the Braeside Park Friends often provide free training some with catered meals for members of friends groups to get qualifications in specific areas including safety, water watch, first aid and activity planning. These are a good opportunity to update your skills base, and become involved in these activities at Braeside Park including night walks, waterwatch and other programs on the activity calendar.

I recently took the opportunity to undertake safety with DELWP and Waterwatch/quality monitoring program with catered lunches and morning teas from the venues. These included workbook materials and a practical assessment in collecting samples, monitoring quality control and assess them. These are recorded on the Melbourne Water/ waterwatch website, and are done as a programmed activity at Braeside Park and other venues. This measures the quality of the water using set samples, and measuring them for ph, nitrogen and phosphorus as well as it required turbidity. I enjoyed both of these sessions which will help me to further develop my role with the friends group in Braeside. If you would like to know about these please contact me on the email address braesideparkfriends@gmail.com or on 0417 323 460 They are worth attending and a good chance to network and make contact with other groups.

Notice for The Friends of Braeside Park

Inc No A0024027B

2016 Annual General Meeting Everyone Welcome

When: 14th August 2016

Times: Registration at 2:00

AGM Meeting at 2:10

Talk—Presentation at 2:40 by Tim Curmi, Freshwater Ecologist & President of Native Fish Australia about the Ecology of & restoration of Endangered native fish

**Afternoon Tea & Socialising from 3:15
Everyone welcome & concludes at 4:00**

The watermark on this paper depicts the emblem of the Friends Group - The Wedding Bush (Ricinocarpus pinifolius)

National Tree Day

The Friends of Braeside Park

are appealing for your help with a revegetation planting day to coincide with National Tree Day.

When: 9:00 till 12:00 noon.

Saturday 30th July 2016

Look for the directional signs when entering the park from Lower Dandenong Road Braeside – Dingley. Melway 88 – C8.

Tools are supplied but please bring gloves, a drink and wear sturdy footwear. No previous experience is necessary.

For further information call the Parks Office on 8427 2027

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Wattle Day – Braeside Park

The Friends of Braeside Park invite the community to visit and experience Wattle Day at the Community Garden and Nursery Facility.

Take the opportunity to attend and learn about local native plants or about protecting and enhancing our environment or other interesting information about the park.

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

Date: Sunday 28th August 2016

Time: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Venue: Braeside Park

Follow the signs after entering the Park from Lower Dandenong Road Braeside (Melway 88 D8)

[Wattle Day Activity Schedule](#)

Free bbq from 11:00 am

Face Painting 11:30 – 1:00

Park Walk 12:30 – 2:00 Gold Coin Donation Required

Ongoing activities include colouring competition, plant sales, pricking out seedling plants, friends information displays, mounted native animal display.

Become a Friends Member on the day and receive 2 local native plants for your garden while they last.

Park Report

As reported by Des Lucas, Ranger Team Leader.



The Green Army at Braeside Park by the Green Army Team

The third and final (for now!) Green Army team is currently working at Braeside Park. Working with Parks Victoria staff, the team aims to improve the biodiversity and habitat values at the park, with a focus on revegetation. The current team consists of David, Emily, Jess, Joon, Miller, Ruby, Sean, Tim and Mel (supervisor), who come from a wide variety of backgrounds and experience.

The Green Army is a federal government program, where teams of young people (17-24) work with a supervisor on specific environmental projects. Along with gaining practical experience, the young people in the program receive a first aid certificate and industry-based training, which will assist in their future career prospects.

Previous Green Army teams have propagated in excess of 15,000 plants, so the focus for the Stage 3 team is getting these plants in the ground throughout the park, as well as continuing work on weed control, fencing and propagation. In order to meet our targets and deadlines, planting began earlier than usual for the park, utilising planting gel on the advice of Dale from Suregro.

To encapsulate our experiences here, the team have written a short poem:

*Here we are at Braeside Park
Working hard 'mongst trees and bark
Weeding, mulching, planting trees
Don't forget to dodge the bees
Rain and hail, wind and sun
The Green Army's here to get the job done*



Bird Report

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

Margaret and Ian Langdon have completed two surveys of the wetland. The May survey observed 37 species with 459 birds counted. The June survey observed 49 species with 906 birds counted. The reason for the increase in bird numbers can be attributed to the increase in water level within the wetland thanks to the great rainfall that has occurred over the last few months.

A few of the significant birds observed by Steve McDonald over the last few months include, White Bellied Sea Eagle, Freckled Duck, Australian Bittern, Little Eagle, Pink Eared Duck, Nankeen Kestrel and 4 x Cape Barren Geese as fly overs.

The nine photos below have been taken by Steve McDonald



Bird Monitoring Program

Are you interested in birds?

Why not join the Bird Life Australia group on the 4th Friday of each month
See the activity calendar on the rear page for details.

So grab you 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 **8427 2027**

Friends of Braeside Park—Activity Calendar

Weekday Community Project-The A Team:

Every Wednesday with Ranger staff commencing at 9:00 - 12:00 from the Park Office.
Activities can include weeding, mowing weeds, mulching, planting, fencing etc.

Community Garden:

3rd Sunday, monthly from 9:30 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 7:00 to 9:00pm at the Park Office.
The Committee meets to make decisions about the running of the group.

Water Quality Monitoring:

3rd Tuesday, monthly 9:00 to 12:00 noon 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 (03) **8427 2027** 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 4th Friday of each month from 8:00 am alternating between the
following starting locations.

Park Office January, March, May, July, September, November
Robin Car Park February, April, June, August, October, December

Special Activities:

Night walks are offered from April through to September. Gold Coin Donation. For details and
bookings contact the park office on **8427 2027**

**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:** Currently vacant

Treasurer: Bev Bancroft **Newsletter Editor:** Vacant **Webmaster:** Frank Russo

Publicity Officer: Vacant

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ACN: A 002 4027 B

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