



# THE FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK

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### 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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Braeside Park

### Help Help Help

**The Friends AGM will occur in August this year. As a member of the Friends have you considered becoming a committee member helping to make decisions relating to the management of the Friends Group.**

**Committee Membership during 2015-16 is at an all time low. This means that if more members do not come on board for 2016-17 the Friends may not have an operational committee potentially forcing the group to fold.**

**Is that what you want? If its not then please take action to ensure the group survives and nominate into the committee at the August AGM.**

**If you want to know more about the committee and the functions then please send email to the following address [braesideparkfriends@gmail.com](mailto:braesideparkfriends@gmail.com)**

## Committee News

By Judith Sise, President

***“Victoria’s parks are highly valued by the community. They provide open space, stunning landscapes, habitats to protect flora and fauna and areas to conserve cultural heritage. While these values are undoubtedly important in their own right, our parks also play an often unrecognized role in providing benefits that flow beyond park boundaries to contribute to Victoria’s health, wellbeing, livability and economy.”***

This is an extract from Parks Victoria website and it is very true and relevant to Braeside Park. It is a worrying trend that the Friends’ active members and committee members are reducing year by year. Members are needed to run the nursery and to continue to support the Rangers improving the Park. The Friends also provide many activities throughout the year such as Nocturnal Walks (April to September), Spring Walks, World Environment Days, Tree Planting Days, Clean Up Australia, Mystery Walks, Wattle Day and Breakfast with the Birds. These are usually well attended but it is left to the few to organise.

There is also a worrying trend that the Rangers’ presence in the Park is diminishing. Parks Victoria policy development on Rangers’ numbers and presence in the Park needs to be analyzed and as members of the community we, all, can express our point of view.

The proposed development of the golf course in Dingley Village will mean more people searching for a little of the “health, wellbeing and livability” from Braeside Park so the goal for 2016 must be to increase the members in the Friends of Braeside Park and especially to increase the committee.

The Committee meets every second Thursday of the month at 7 pm in the Rangers’ Lunch Room and everyone is welcome. Come along and add your bit to keep this group viable.

### Newsletter Contributions

Thank you to Frank Russo, Judith Sise and park Staff for contributing to the March/April 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

**Deadline for May/June edition: 29th April 2016**

*Earlier submissions appreciated.*

## Clean Up Australia Day

We met at around 10am at the Visitor's Centre on Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup>. 65 volunteers registered and were then assigned into groups and given designated areas to look after. Most groups were asked to look after 2 car parks and then an area along the fence line of Lower Dandenong Road. There was quite a significant amount of rubbish collected during the 2 hour clean up especially in some car parks and along the fence line. Which was followed by a wonderful morning tea consisting of tea/coffee, water, cordial and orange juice along with cakes and biscuits and even some snakes for



There were some members of the local community but members of a variety of community groups turned up also on the day:-



Dingley Village Scouts

Friends of Greater Dandenong & Braeside Park





Bendigo Bank,  
Mentone East

Kingswood Primary School



Overall a very successful day with the Park now looking beautiful and clean and there were lots of people using the Park to walk, run, play, bird watch and even birthday parties. Life can't get any better, as long as everyone takes home their rubbish today otherwise all our hard work will be undone. A big thanks you to my wonderful helpers Helen Russo and Judith Sise who helped everyone sign in and then later made sure everyone had a drink and something to eat.

Frank Russo

Clean Up Australia Site Co-ordinator

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

## Wednesdays with Ernie's "A" Team

The A team had a break of 6 weeks over the December—January period returning early February. Work has focused on tidying up the Nursery, Community Garden and office plantings. These areas have been pruned, weeded and generally tidied up and now look as if they are loved again—some rain would help to reinvigorate the plants.

Ernie has been away for the last few weeks on leave so the group has managed its self during his absence.

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 Nursery & Community Garden.



### Message from Margaret Hunter

#### First night walk for April

The first night walk is being held in April. Details are on page 11 of the newsletter and on the Friends website along with booking arrangements.

Just a reminder that bookings are required through the email [braesideparkfriends@gmail.com](mailto:braesideparkfriends@gmail.com) with further information to me on

## Message from the Editor

*By Kathryn Lucas*

Welcome to our second edition for 2016. Activities for the last two months after Christmas have been quiet. However things are starting to pick up and it looks like we are heading for a great year with many activities being held at the park coming up.

Any contributions or special notes you would like to add for future Friends of Braeside Park News letters, can be emailed to me at [harmonyfreya@gmail.com](mailto:harmonyfreya@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 29th April 2016.

## 1st 14th Brighton Sea Scouts—Karkarook Park Activities

A great day at Karkarook Park to take part in the sailing day 1st -14th Brighton Sea Scouts held with the KIDS Foundation supported by Rotary and Parks Victoria.

Over 200 young people attended. What a terrific day.



## **Bird Monitoring Program**

Are you interested in birds?  
Why not join Bird Life Australia group on the 4th Friday of each month  
See that activity calendar for details.

So grab you binoculars, camera & favourite field guide & head down to Braeside Park!

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

**Following is a series of photographs taken by Steve McDonald—the birds have not been named, can you name them?**



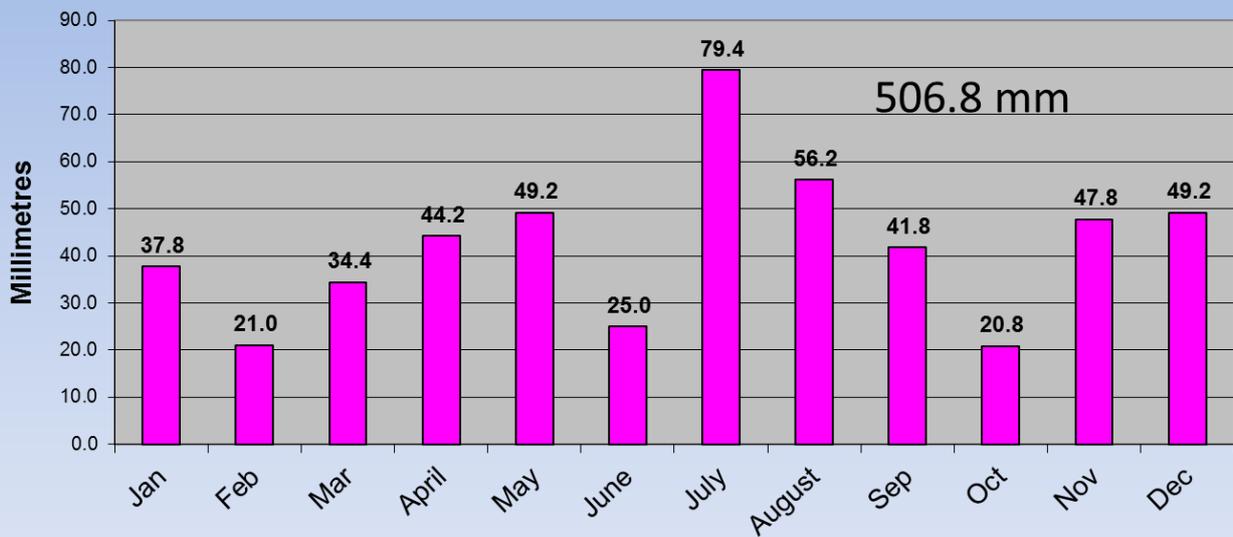




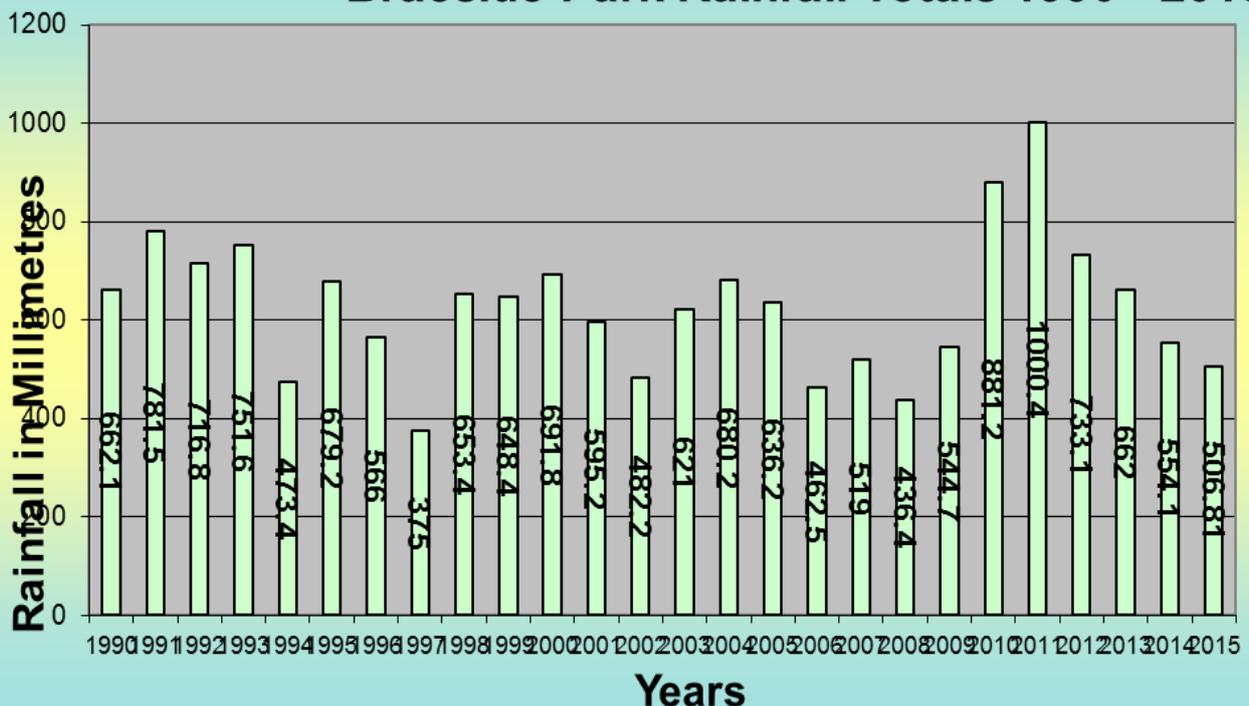
## Park Report As reported by Des Lucas, Ranger Team Leader.

A quick look at the rainfall chart for 2015 show that rainfall was just over 500mm. This is 120mm below the annual rainfall average. It also shows that only two months managed above 50mm and that generally every month was dry except for July. The rainfall totals graph also shows a decline of rainfall each year since 2011. The difference between 2011 and 2015 is almost 500mm. Many of the plants throughout the park are suffering from the dry period from August threwo to today of some seven odd months. Hopefully the rainfall increases to provide excellent planting conditions for the coming winter period.

### Braeside Park Rainfall 2015



### Braeside Park Rainfall Totals 1990 - 2015



## The Friends of Braeside Park Night Activity Program 2016

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



**On Friday Nights at 7pm  
April thru to September  
Dates 8<sup>th</sup> April, 6<sup>th</sup> May, 3<sup>rd</sup> June,  
1<sup>st</sup> July, 5<sup>th</sup> August & 2<sup>nd</sup> September**

**Meet at Visitor Centre  
Braeside Park, Lower Dandenong Rd, Braeside  
Melways Map 88 Reference D8**

**Cost: Gold Coin Donation per person  
Numbers Limited - Bookings Essential**

**Via email**

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

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

## 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) 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 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 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:** Currently vacant

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

**Publicity Officer:** Currently vacant

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