



THE FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK NEWSLETTER



Braeside Park
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Park Office

8427 2027



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Presidents Report

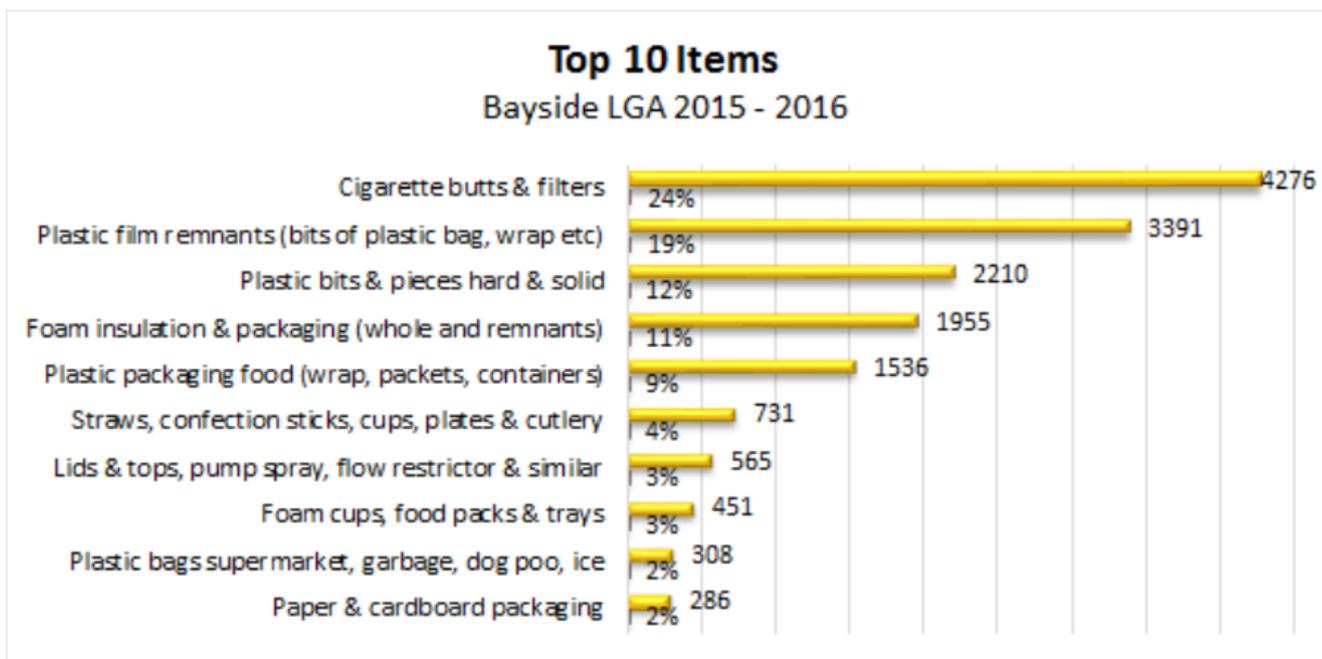
By Judith Sise.

I went to an interesting, and at the time, inspiring presentation by Tangaroa Blue Foundation called Source Reduction Plan Workshop. Their email promoting the workshop was "If all we do is clean up, that's all we will ever do!" And having just picked up my usual two bags of litter from the Park, the workshop sounded the answer to our Park Litter Problems. The venue was a bay surf lifesaving club and while the parking was horrendous, the setting was relaxingly magnificent. It was a calm sunny day and believe it or not the local school students were doing Clean Up Australia, right beside us! The presenters were confident and all they said reinforced the targeted audience's perceptions. Having just done Clean Up Australia in 2017 and for the last 10 years, there were certain facts which stood out! **Plastic breaks up not down** was the first. The idea of breaking down suggests that the plastic is disappearing when in fact it is just the opposite! As the plastic breaks DOWN, into smaller pieces it becomes more dangerous to all. It becomes part of the very sand, the basic fabric of the marine environment. Added to that was the second fact that **75% of marine litter is plastic and the majority is coming from local sources**. The workshop had a clear plan to devise a plan of collecting data and analysing this to answer what is the major item; where is it found; who is responsible; when does it enter the environment and why is it here. From here a plan can be devised for most situations. There were and are good reasons for trying to solve the litter problem.

We all know them: Wildlife and habitat protection; Local amenity; Economic value;

Possible recycling opportunities and Human health. I am pretty sure most of the litterers know them too but they don't see themselves as the problem. One fact that stuck in my mind as I left was the definition of plastic breakdown. *Degradable products break-up through chemical reactions into smaller pieces of plastic until they become plastic powder. The amount of plastic does not change.*

Biodegradable products break up into their base components through naturally occurring micro-organisms. Depending on the base components these products may also be harmful to the environment. Compostable products take it a step further and break-up into water, CO2 and natural minerals that provide nutrients to plants within one year. No harmful residues are left behind. I am sure the Top 10 Items for Bayside would match the items picked up in Braeside Park This Clean Up Australia Day. They certainly matched the area I cleaned up in Dandenong. How we tackle our litter problems may be improved by applying the methodology suggested by this workshop. It is certainly worth a try!



On a more optimistic note, Des Lucas, Park Ranger, met with Peter Marret, Victorian Entomology Society, last week and he presented the Park with a colourful brochure of the moths photographed by the group in November 2016 in the Heathlands. Peter is keen to complete more moth surveys in the Heathland as he says it is possibly the only remaining remanent of its kind left in the South East Melbourne area. He says there are many more, possibly hundreds of moths to be found there, and then there is the River Red Gum and Wetlands areas to be surveyed. And then there are butterflies and beetles etc. WOW! Sometimes I forget why I am part of the Friends of Braeside Park Group and then along comes persons like Peter full of quiet passion about the wonder of the natural world right at my feet and re-ignites my enthusiasm and sense of awe for our wonderful Park's biodiversity. Litter will always be with us but the insects may not so we need to enjoy and to learn while we can.

Judith Sise President.



Office Works — carried out Clean up Australia Day activities at both Braeside and Karkarook Parks and is the second year. A special thanks to everyone to participated as both parks look really good after the litter has been removed.

Come on Friends Membership your Help Help Help is required - See below

The Friends are seeking help with the committee.

If you are interested in helping with the direction the Friends head into the future & the decisions focusing on projects & activities then please consider joining the committee.

The committee meeting is held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Park Office.

Time 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Any help with the committee would be greatly appreciated.

If you require further information then please email the friends on braesideparkfriends@gmail.com

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

A New Year and the "A" team is ready for action but we have lost a couple of our long time volunteers in Bill & Tom. Many thanks for their great contributions.

We have had quite a bit of interest from younger people, interested in Braeside. Also thanks for effort & hard work that has been generated over the years by our volunteers

VISITORS' CENTRE

A couple of mornings spreading mulch with team work – some filling wheelbarrows, others moving or raking the mulch. Good Job.

GRASSLANDS

Visits out to the Grasslands have included some weeding & for the fit, removal of tree guards & frames at the nearby 2 million trees site

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Two TFB (Total Fire Ban) Days have kept us close to safety. Time well spent pruning, cutting, weeding, raking & our "favourite" mulching.

*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.*

Everyone Most Welcome

Newsletter Contributions

Thank you to Margaret Hunter, Judith Sise, Bev Bancroft, Jessica Scott-Smith & 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

Clean Up Australia Day @ Braeside Park 2017

By Frank Russo

We met at around 10am at the Visitor's Centre on Sunday March 5th. Twenty nine volunteers from Kingswood Primary, Bendigo Bank Mentone East Branch and some local residents registered and were then assigned designated areas to look after. Most groups were asked to look after the car parks and an area along the fence line of Lower Dandenong Road.

There was quite a significant amount of rubbish collected during the clean up especially along the fence line. The usual suspects of napkins, lolly wrappers, chip packets, coffee cups, empty cans and bottles were found but also some boxes and 2 car tyres. This was followed by a wonderful morning tea consisting of tea/coffee, cordial, biscuits and even some fairy bread for the kids.

Overall a very successful day with the Park now looking green and clean and there were lots of people using the Park to ride, walk, run, play and bird watch. Life can't get any better, as long as everyone takes home their rubbish otherwise all our hard work will be undone. A big thanks you to my wonderful helper Helen Russo who helped everyone sign in and out 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

FIELD NATURALIST AUSTRALIAN DAY SUMMER SURVEY

By Judith Sise

The Victorian Field Naturalist conducted a number of surveys in Braeside Park over the Australian Day weekend. I joined the members on Thursday and Friday and on Sunday morning. There were around 10 volunteers on each day. The group put out Elliot Traps and dug Pit Traps on Thursday in the Heathland at three different sites. These were checked late afternoon and early in the morning (7 am). They also put up Harp Nets in the Heathland to conduct bat surveys on Thursday and Friday nights. The Little Forest Bat and The Lesser Eared Bat were the micro-bats caught on both nights. Nocturnal surveys were also conducted on three nights and many Brush Tailed and Ring Tailed Possums were spotted but Sugar Gliders and Tawny Frog Mouth were sited only on one night. There was a hope that the traps might catch an Antechinus. However, a couple of black rats, a variety of skinks, spotted swamp frogs and many Jacky Dragons were noted in the traps over the course of the three days. The reptile tiles, laid out a year ago, were also checked on Saturday and a few more skinks and a Blue Tongue Lizards were uncovered. The Field Naturalists have a wealth of knowledge of the natural world and their report will add to the understanding of Braeside Park's biodiversity. On Friday morning, we met up with the BirdLife monitors in the Heathland and compared notes on the birds calling and spotted. The Victorian Field Naturalists will give a detailed report on the surveys completed over the weekend. This group's work and the meeting with the Bird Life monitors made me aware of just how much information is constantly being gathered by many groups within the Park. Our own Rangers monitor visitor numbers, rainfall volumes, frog calls, rabbit and fox numbers, animal sightings and



unfortunately vandal attacks; Bev and Glen monitor water quality monthly and collect seeds, thus surveying the flora community; other members regularly record birds in the various habitats and all this data helps to give a picture of the biodiversity and health of Braeside Park. Sometimes we, volunteers and Rangers, forget what a good job we are doing caring for Braeside Park so thank you Victorian Field Naturalists members for coming to our Park and completing numerous surveys and I hoped you enjoyed the time spent in the Park and thank you to all the other volunteers who complete surveys daily, weekly and monthly.

WATER WATCH NETWORK MEETINGS

By Judith Sise

Bev and I attended the recent Melbourne Water Network Meeting at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary. The meeting was to assist Water Watchers to come to grips with the new and still developing Water Watch Data Base. Tiana and Richard did their best to run through the data base and answer questions. There were over twenty volunteers attending to learn how to access and best use the system. There was also a talk by one of the members of the Yarra River Keepers. This group monitors the Yarra River and submits reports to State Government on the five issues facing the health of the river. The natural corridor of the Yarra is vital to Melbourne's amenity and liveability. It provides some of the most popular green open spaces for recreating and enjoying a natural setting, and hence is vital to community well-being. It is also rich habitat for native plants and animals, and for many species the continuity and vegetation of the river corridor are vital for their survival. But the green environs of the Yarra continue to shrink from the pressure of urban growth and encroaching development. In the Lower Yarra the erection of huge apartment buildings is the most obvious problem, but just as damaging is the cumulative impact of many developments on single home sites. In the upper reaches of the river, the problem is that indigenous vegetation is being cleared to make way for expanding suburbia, infrastructure, new golf courses and the like. The health and values of the Yarra are closely linked to its water flows – both the quantity and the pattern of flows. The native plants and animals that live in and by the river have evolved in sympathy with its flows.

WATER WATCH NETWORK MEETINGS — continued



As widely acknowledged, the ecological and social values of the Yarra are dependent on it being pollution-free.



The environmental and social values of the Yarra are related to it being home for a wide variety of plants and animals, especially indigenous species. The community values the Yarra in ways beyond those described above. These social values include its rich human heritage (both aboriginal and post-European settlement); the many forms of recreation beside and on the river; its inspiration to artists, photographers, authors and poets; the personal stories and associations with it; and the role the Yarra plays in civic and cultural events and celebrations. I could not help but think what a great job this group does but what about the Dandenong Creek. Who is looking after it?

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, delivery of Friends group grants etc.

Community Garden:

This activity has now been cancelled.

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 Janelle Cadd 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.
The 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

Postal Address: PO Box 608 Braeside, Vic. 3195 **Phone:** (03) **8427 2027**

Email: braesideparkfriends@gmail.com **Web:** www.braesideparkfriends.org.au

ACN: A 002 4027 B

Join us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/327955807288240/#>

Current Facebook Members = 114

Open Day

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

Take the opportunity to learn about the activities the Friends of Braeside Park are involved in or about local native plants or 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: Saturday 6th May 2017

Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Venue: Braeside Park

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

[Activity Schedule](#)

Free bbq from 11:00 am

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

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

World

Environment Day

The Friends of Braeside Park

are appealing for your help with a revegetation planting day to coincide with World Environment Day.

When: 9:00 till 12:00 noon.

Sunday 4th June 2017

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.

RSVP numbers attending to 8427 2027

**For further information call the
Parks Office 8427 2027**

The watermark on this paper depicts the emblem of the Friends Group - The Wedding Bush (Rhinocarpos 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 29th July 2017

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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