

THE FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK

NEWSLETTER



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 Braeside 3195
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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.

Propagation Members Visit to Greenlink Nursery

After propagation on the third Sunday in March, three Friends of Braeside Park (FOBP) , Simon, Vicki and myself, went to the Greenlink Nursery in Heatherton Road, Clayton. Ironically only three of their volunteers were at work too. Marg Seaton generously welcomed us with a cup of coffee and homemade Jaffa Cake. After which she took us on a tour of the nursery which is expanding to accommodate the demand for Council and Gold Course orders of indigenous plants, especially wetland plants. The need for FOBP's nursery to get the hot beds working was glaring as this is where the cuttings are placed with 98% success of all cuttings by Greenlink. The Shed full of seeds was impressive and equally how knowledgeable Marg is at seed identification as she spends most of January sorting the seed collected throughout the previous year into containers, and even Council areas. Then the seeds are yearly sorted on their viability, i.e. after 5 years some seeds are chucked! FOBP had just planted Eucalyptus seed 20 years old! Collecting seed is something we must get on to and that means identification of plants must be prioritised. Marg identified some seeds I had collected, even naming without hesitation, an indigenous creeper, a strangler so not for propagation! The Nursery has been in operation at this location for over 20 years and has and continues to improve the working structure but some basic steps the FOBP nursery could and will adopt are: spray bottle of 10% methylate spirits to sanitize secateurs and benches between species propagation; recording of seeds and cuttings and daily work book of jobs to do and done; purchase of Ezi-Root hormone gel and vermiculate for mixing with perlite (1 part to 3 parts) for cutting propagation; investigating building boxes to protect seeds from vermin who like large seeds such as Lomandra! Long term, FOBP could establish a fenced bay to store propagation mixture from SureGrow which is finer and probably more economical too. I noticed NO RABBIT holes which is also something to work towards with Parks Victoria. A huge thank you for Marg and the Greenlink team for sharing their workplace structure and daily practice. I am sure this visit will inspire change in FOBP nursery.

Judith Sise

President

Update from the Secretary

- It is pleasing to report that autumn has come to Braeside Park and the end of daylight saving. The night walk program began on 14 April with 13 participants and many sightings. We are leaving in 2023 from Car Park One, immediately inside the Lower Dandenong entry. Bookings are open for all walks on the first Friday of the month, with sturdy footwear, and warm clothing required, the walk is about one a half hours with small groups as required.

The Friends of Braeside Park have been running these walks, I believe since the 1990's, with ranger support, but now it is a Friends activity. We are planning electronic booking for walks after May, with limited numbers. So please book early and let us know if you have to cancel so that we can fill your spot.

- I would like to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of Peter Holt, a early member of the Friends, who passed away recently. Peter with his wife Jan Holt a Life Member of the group was instrumental in the difficult foundation years of the nursery, building one of the igloos and help as a tradie and handyman when regulations allowed it. He was also a regular participant on our mystery walks, is photographed at our 30th anniversary celebration in 2014, and was a constant source of support to the current and past friends committees. If our readers have other memories of Peter's contribution please let the secretary know or even write an article for this newsletter.

We send our thoughts to Jan Holt, and their family at this time

- The mystery walk on 24th May in our activities calendar is currently unconfirmed, as we are looking for a guide possibly Des Lucas that can run this walk. There will be an update on the website. At least one tree planting event is planned look at the website for further information as well

Margaret Hunter
Secretary

Bird Survey Group

In February, the bird survey occurred on a summer morning with only 13 species being identified. Group members reported the conditions as very warm and eerily quiet, so very low numbers compared with the average count. However, one of the species spotted was a wedge-tailed eagle. This species was also reported flying over the park the following weekend.

In March, the group surveyed the Heathland in autumn conditions. It was cloudy, and cool after recent rainfall and there was an abundance of birds in the Heathland. We observed 28 species with high numbers of rainbow lorikeets, wattlebirds, spotted and striated pardalotes and noisy miners.

We also heard a fan-tailed cuckoo calling near the Dingley drain. Also of interest, was a kestrel flying overhead. For me, the highlight of the day was observing 14 yellow-tailed black cockatoos as they defended their positions on a dead tree from one very upset sulphur-crested cockatoo. The chatter and the objections were loud, but the sulphur refused to budge!

Rosemaree MacLean
Assistant Secretary

The Wednesday A Team

The Wednesday A team have been busy doing important work at the Visitor Centre at Braeside Park recently.

The extensive animal displays require regular maintenance to ensure they stay in the best condition for years to come. The Friends enjoyed dusting the animals, as well as changing the displays to feature our new Koala. The Friends also did an amazing job keeping the gardens surrounding the Visitor centre looking their best.

In the photos are Helena, Vicky and Richard.

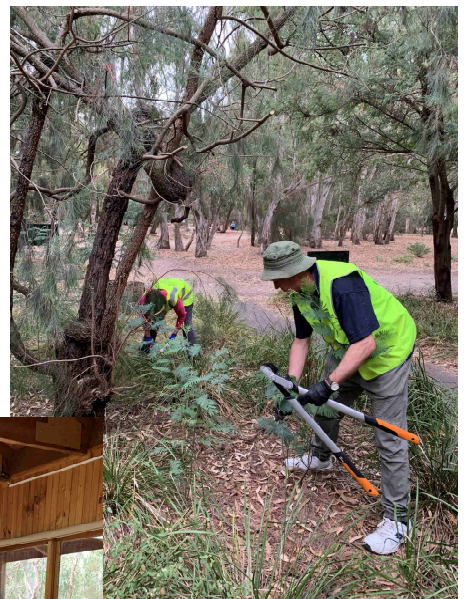
If you would like to join us, sign up on Park Connect.

<https://www.parkconnect.vic.gov.au/>

We meet regularly every Wednesday from 9am – 12pm.

Regards,

Janelle Cadd
Ranger | Sandbelt Parklands



Clean up Australia Day

Clean Up Australia Day @ Braeside Park 2023



We met at around 10am at the Visitor's Centre on Sunday March 5th. Around 60 volunteers mostly from Kingswood Primary School families as well as some local residents and some of the team from the Friends Group. Volunteers had to sign in either manually or using a QR Code directly on the Clean Up Australia website, they and were then given an OHS brief. Gloves of all sizes even for a littlest volunteers and Rubbish Bags along with High Vic Vests were available and then groups were then assigned designated areas to look after. Most groups were asked to look after a car park area 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. Most was found along the fence line which seems to be blown in from the road. Disappointingly there was a lot of empty cans and bottles as well as fast food containers and the usual napkins and tissues and now face masks. There were some unusual items, and a lot of large cardboard boxes and Styrofoam. The event was completed by a morning tea consisting of tea, coffee, cordial, water, biscuits, and some fresh fruit for the kids.

Overall it was a very successful day with the Park now looking pristine. There were lots of people using the Park to ride, walk, run and play later that afternoon on a perfect autumn day. The Park will remain in this condition as long as everyone continues to take home their rubbish, otherwise all our hard work will be undone. A big thank you to all the volunteers and special mention to David Boldiston and his trailer and 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

Promotions and Webmaster of www.braesideparkfriends.org.au

Photos on following page

Clean up Australia Day cont.



Kingswood Primary



Community Volunteers from the Greens



Frank and David with the rubbish collected in the Park



David and Frank with a trailer of rubbish from Lower Dandenong Road

Residents

Last month whilst enjoying a pleasant walk in the park my wife and I spotted a Latham's Snipe. As I only had my super compact camera in my pocket with me, I took a few shots, but they were not great.



Bird photography improves with both the size of the sensor and of the lens. My little camera has a 1/2.3-inch sensor which is very small, even though it has an effective 720mm lens.

The first two photos were taken with the super compact.

A couple of days later, we returned with a better camera. We did not expect the bird to still be around, but the opportunity to photograph one was too enticing not to have a go.

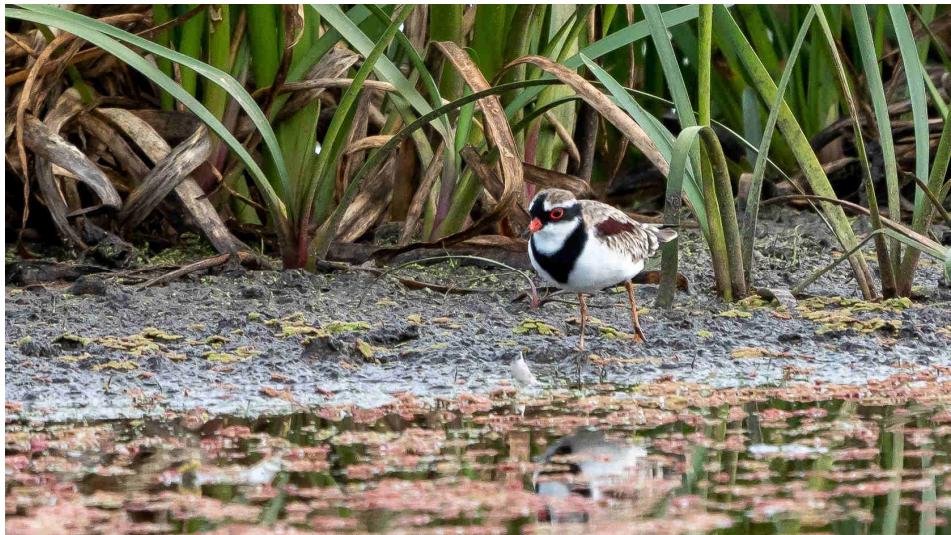
This time I brought a camera with a full size sensor and a high quality 600mm lens. I was ready.

After a bit of searching, my wife spotted the little beauty with her binoculars, then it was only a short matter of time before I had it in my viewfinder.

I have also included photos of a black-fronted dotterel and an Australasian Shoveler couple.



David & Rosemaree MacLean



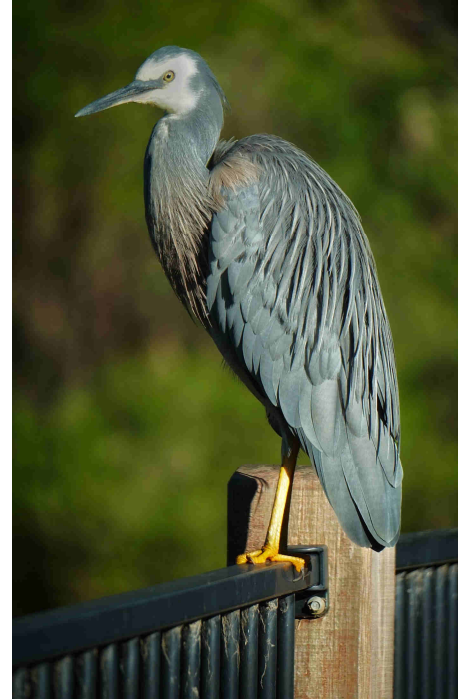
The Beautiful Birds of Braeside

On any given day, there is usually a large variety of birds to see at the park. The types of birds seen can change from day to day.

A few birds which you may or may not see include-



- Crested pigeons
- Australian Shoveler ducks
- Yellow crested cockatoo
- Pied cormorants
- Pacific black ducks
- Magpie geese
- Bronzewing pigeons
- Red rumped parrots
- Black shouldered kites
- Blue wren
- Pink ear ducks
- Black swan cygnets
- Dusky moorhen
- White faced heron
- Laughing kookaburras
- Tawny Frogmouths
- Rainbow lorikeets

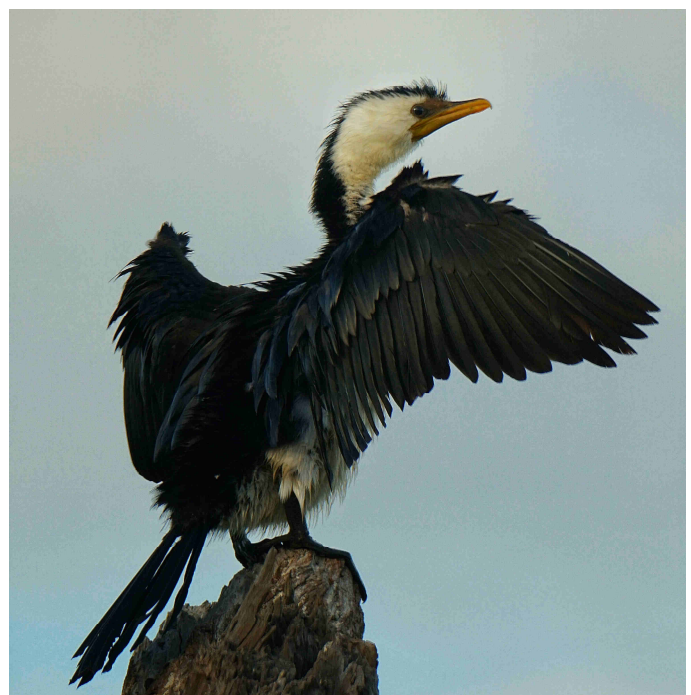


Did you know that some people have seen over 30 different species of birds within a few hours at the park?.. and that there is a regular bird survey done by members of the Friends Of Braeside Park group who observe and record species of birds ?

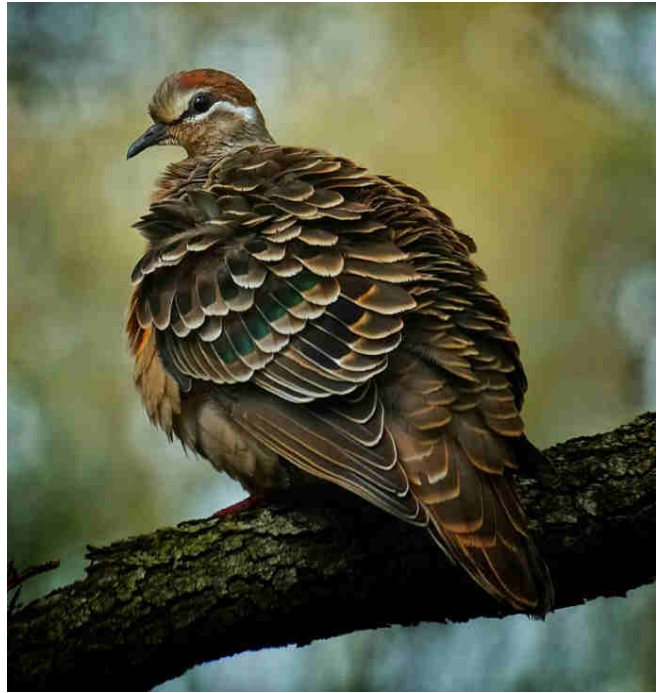
We really are lucky to have so much bird life to see at Braeside- enjoy !

And a reminder- if you find injured wildlife in the park please call Wildlife Victoria on [\(03\) 8400 7300](tel:0384007300).

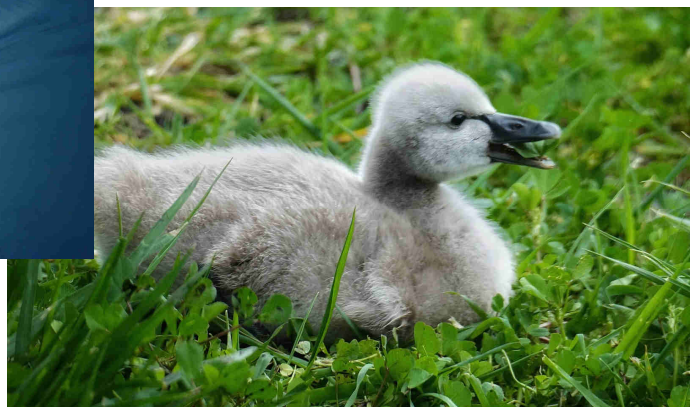
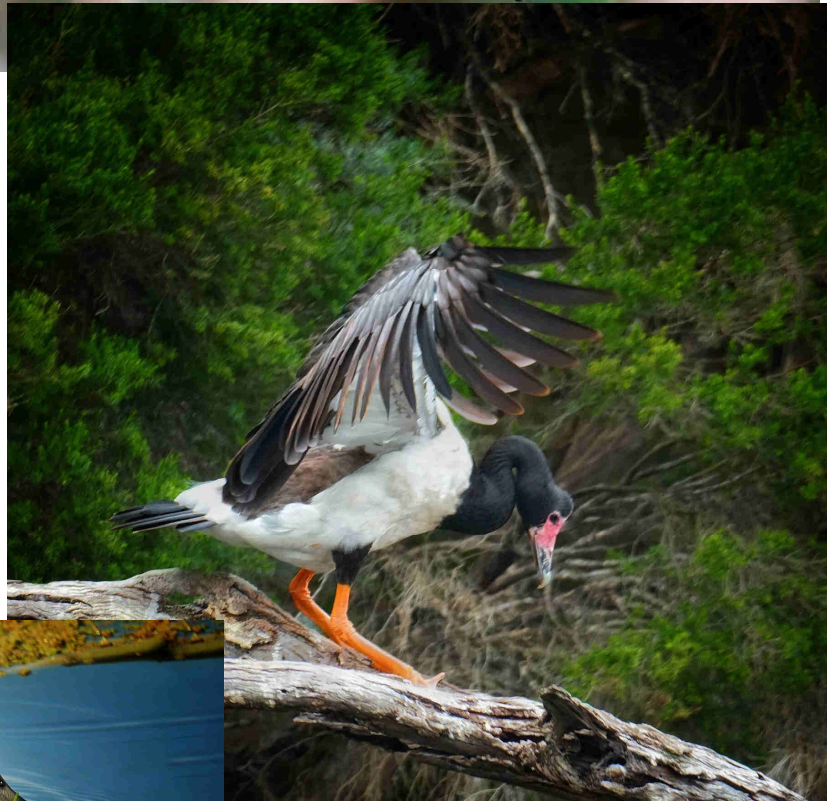
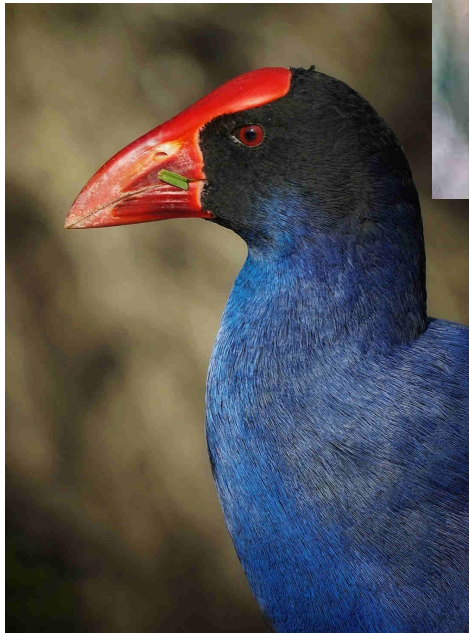
Heather Markland



Photos by Heather Markland



Photos by Heather Markland



Photos by Heather Markland



FOBP Committee

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

Friends of Braeside Park Inc.

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

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Email: braesideparkfriends@gmail.com

Web: www.braesideparkfriends.org.au

ABN: 72 959 503 118 INC NO A002420278

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

Newsletter Contributions

Thank you to Judith Sise, Margaret Hunter, Frank Russo, Heather Markland, Rosemaree MacLean, Janelle Cadd 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
or 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

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

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 14th April, 5th May, 2nd June,
7th July, 4th August & 1st 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

or contact Margaret Hunter on 0417323460

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	*	*	*	*	*	National Tree Day/Planting Sunday 4th 9am-12pm	World Environment Day/Planting Saturday 3rd 9am-12pm	*	*	*	*	*
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	*	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

Email 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.