



THE FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK

NEWSLETTER



Braeside Park

Lower Dandenong Road,
Braeside 3195
Melway Map 88 D8

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Newsletter Editor Required

see pg 5 for details

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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Committee News

By Judith Sise, President

Members of the Friends of Braeside Park Committee provided activities for Nature Play Week on the last Sunday in March. It was a blustery, wet day which scared the booked parents from attending. However, a group of boys celebrating a birthday in the Park come and did the Water Watch activity. Thanks to Frank for preparing art activities. Frank and Helen did some lovely posters for this and up-coming events.

Planning for the Friends' Open Day in the last weekend of August is progressing. This year the theme is Wattle Day and the emphasis will be on the indigenous wattles growing in the Park and hopefully they will oblige by flowering at that time! The Committee is arranging a competition for school students on this theme hoping to attract families to the Park. It is hoped to engage a face painting artist to entice families to the Nursery where there will be planting activities and a BBQ. All members are invited to attend and bring your neighbours and friends. The Group needs to expand its membership and this event focuses on our core, the propagation of indigenous plants for the Park and community.

BirdLife's bird surveys of the Heathlands, Woodlands and Grasslands began Friday 24th April. Judith joined members of BirdLife to survey three areas in the Heathlands and one in the Woodlands. There are 10 areas and half will be regularly surveyed monthly on the forth Friday in the month. The surveys are concentrating on areas that have been revegetated in the last few years. There is bird surveys carried out regularly in the Park by others and their information sent to BirdLife is invaluable as it provides a past and an ongoing picture of the birds in our Parks.

A small but dedicated group attend the Nursery on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday of each month to propagate plants for sale to the community and for the Park. This is an important part of the Friends' Group and I encourage all members to come a long and join in when able. Running a Nursery that provides thousands of grasses and plants for Park is an on-going project and many hands do make the job easier for all.

Continued next page...

Newsletter Contributions

Thank you to Glen Oliphant, Judith Sise, Kevin O'Reilly, Margaret Hunter, Bev Bancroft, Des Lucas, Margaret and Ian Langdon and Steve McDonald for contributing to the May/June 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 July/August edition: 26th June 2015

Earlier submissions appreciated.

Committee News continued...

I have contributed an article to the local Dingley Dossier to keep the local community in touch with activities monthly and would appreciate any feedback on the value of this or any ideas for future articles.

It is noted by Des, the Ranger, and Robert, a member that the Park is increasing in popularity for walkers and runners in the wee hours of the morning –around 4 am! The community must indeed be time poor!

Thank you to the committee members who regularly attend meetings on the second Thursday of the month and remember any member is welcome to attend. Committee members welcome any suggestions to increase membership and to conserve our wonderful park.

Wednesdays with Ernie's 'A Team'

By Bev Bancroft, Treasurer

COMMUNITY GARDEN

General maintenance has been done including mulching and areas raked and tidied.

CAR PARK 6 - ROBIN

Tree guards & frames removed. Some plants pruned & the area mulched.

OLD RACECOURSE

Frames & guards removed from regeneration of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red) from the top end of the old racecourse. Most of the regeneration pruned, dead bits removed & tidied up.

PROPAGATION

Hundreds of boxes of grasses i.e. Themeda, Lomandra, Hemarthria etc. moved to the Green house area and lots from Green house area to Hardening off area in readiness for the June & July plantings. Some seeds were also sorted and stored.

*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.

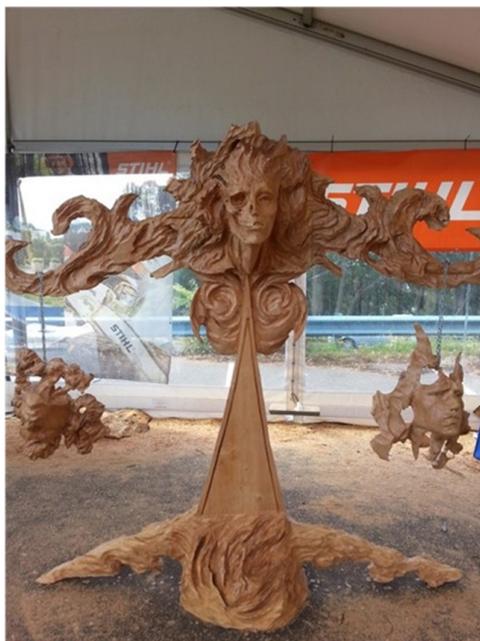
Rob Wins with a Dragonfly

Summarised by the editor with information provided by Des Lucas and the SkyHigh website

Congratulations to Rob Bast who won first prize at the National Chainsaw Carving Competition held at SkyHigh in Mount Dandenong in January 2015. Rob's winning sculpture was of a dragonfly. Rob is well known at Braeside as the artist of our sculptures along Cypress Drive. Second prize went to Hikaru Kodama with his piece called "Last Judgment" and third prize was awarded to Tim Burgess with his carving called "Community". More information can be found at <http://www.skyhighmtdandenong.com.au/chainsaw-carving--january.aspx>



Dragonfly, Last Judgement and Community sculptures. Photos courtesy of the SkyHigh website



Nature Play Activity

By Margaret Hunter, Secretary

As part of the Nature Play activity, the Friends arranged for some childrens' activities on Sunday 19th April 2015. We arranged some bug hunting, with water samples and bugs in bowls with the invitation to comb through these with plastic spoons to find the bugs, and study them. The other planned activities the parent and children scavenger hunt in the playground, and the tile mosaic activity were not held due to inclement weather. Fourteen degrees and frequent hail! We were able to arrange for some children from a birthday party in the park to take part in the bug activity, until the birthday intervened. They enjoyed the visitor centre displays, and learnt about other park activities organised by the friends. This activity was attended by Judith Sise, Frank Russo and Margaret Hunter.

Park Tit Bits

By Glen Oliphant, Ranger

On the 18th April 2015 the second stage of the Field Naturalist survey was undertaken. The results were somewhat disappointing, but not unexpected, of the twelve sites only three revealed reptiles. At the wetlands sites a young Copperhead snake and a Delicate skink were discovered and one site in the Redgum grassy woodlands a Common skink and a Weasel skink were found. Also we unearthed a rather large black spider identified as *Baduma insignis* (Black House spider.) Overall results were down, but this may be due to the cool conditions.

ATTENTION

Newsletter Editor Required

Are you interested in being the editor for the Friends of Braeside Park Newsletter? If so I would like to hear from you!

Due to work-life commitments I am no longer able to continue as the editor for the Friends newsletter and this will be my last edition.

If you would be intresetd taking over the reins please contact me at
kylie_eklom@yahoo.com.au or
0403 174 731

Kylie Eklom, departing editor

First Night Walk for the Year

By Margaret Hunter, Secretary

The first night walk for 2015 was held on Friday 10th April at 7.00 pm at the Swallow Car Park for a 90 minute walk around Braeside Park. Fifteen people attending this event. The walk was delivered by Margaret Hunter, Frank Russo and Judith Sise.

With the aid of the infra- red light and other torches we explored the park in the area of the visitor centre, the car parks, near the duck pond, the heathland and the racecourse trail. We had sightings of foxes, multiple rabbits, some possums, a pigeon and a dove. The highlight of the night was a collection of Sulphur-crested Cockatoos perched high in a group of trees, that warned us of their nearby presence by screeching and calling out which was enjoyed by the many children in the group. It was school holidays, and the group enjoyed these sightings and the opportunity to visit the park and see the nocturnal animals.

We also saw a number of rabbits, that are common in the park, and also a number of foxes that were sitting around not expecting visitors at this hour. After this activity, we promoted the friends planned activities to the group and encouraged them to come on other walks and visit Braeside Park again.

The next night walk is in May, why not come along and see what other sightings we can make. They are being held in non-daylight months on a monthly basis until September. Information is on the friends website.

A Welcome Visitor

Note from the editor

Thank you to Kevin O'Reilly for sending in this photo of a Boobook Owl. Kevin backs onto the Kingswood Golf Course in Dingley Village and was lucky enough to have a visit from one of the areas local residents one day. Kevin reported that the owl flew into his backyard, perched near the house for around 30 minutes before flying off again. What a fantastic experience.



New Fence for the Bird Hide

By Kylie Eklom, Editor

If you've recently been down to the wetlands bird hide you will have noticed some small changes. Members of the Dingley Village Men's shed have been hard at work over the past month removing and erecting the fallen fence. With the help of park staff a new turn around area for emergency vehicles and park operations was also completed. The below before and after photos show just how much of an improvement these works has made to the aesthetics of the bird hide area.

The next major park project for the Men's Shed will involve building and installing benches and picnic tables around the park using reclaimed timber from the old Mordialloc pier.



Park Report

As reported by Des Lucas, Ranger in Charge

PEST ANIMALS

Following the Safety Alert staff have been progressively checking throughout the park for wasp nests and then treating them. The nests are marked through the day and then treated when its dark. There have now been over 41 nests located and treated.

Some interesting information on European Wasps from the Australian Museum:

Life cycle European Wasp colonies are started in spring by a single fertilised queen, which lays an egg in a number of cells in the nest. These hatch into grub-like larvae and are tended by the queen for a number of weeks. They become the first batch of workers that take over nest construction and rearing of the larvae while the queen concentrates on laying eggs. The nest grows throughout the summer until a batch of males and new queens are hatched in the autumn. These mate and fly off to start new nests. In Europe the nest then disintegrates, but in Australia's warm climate the nest can continue to grow over a number of seasons. This results in giant and potentially dangerous nests of over 100,000 wasps.

See more at: <http://australianmuseum.net.au>

DINGLEY VILLAGE MEN'S SHED

There are now over 100 members.

STAFF MOVEMENTS

Kylie Eklom finished her Summer Ranger role over Easter. Kylie has continued working in another area of Parks Victoria a day a week out of the Braeside office.

NATIVE FAUNA

Ten transects for the monthly bird survey in different habitats of Braeside Park have now been set up and bird monitoring will take place on the 4th Friday of each month.

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 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 9265 7300

Bird Report

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

The past few months have seen some very welcome rain and not so welcome cold weather. They have also produced some fantastic bird sightings around the park including Wedge-tailed Eagle (x2), Mistletoe Bird, Flame Robin, Red-kneed Dotterel, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Little Eagle, Australasian Bittern and Eastern Spinebill. If you're an old hand or new to bird watching be sure to join the monthly bird monitoring group (psst you even get to go to some of the off-limits areas of the park away from the main trails!)



European Gold Finch, photo by Steve McDonald

Australian Pelican	Red-kneed Dotterel	Grey Shrike-thrush
Black Swan	Black-fronted Dotterel	Willie Wagtail
Australasian Darter	Black-shouldered Kite	Grey Fantail
Little Pied Cormorant	Whistling Kite	Magpie-lark
Great Cormorant	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Grey Butcherbird
Little Black Cormorant	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Australian Magpie
Australasian Grebe	Little Eagle	Little Raven
Hoary-headed Grebe	Brown Falcon	Welcome Swallow
Pacific Black Duck	Common Bronzewing	Eurasian Skylark
Grey Teal	Galah	Golden-headed Cisticola
Australian Wood Duck	Crested Pigeon	Red-browed Finch
Chestnut Teal	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Mistletoe Bird
Australian Shoveler	Rainbow Lorikeet	European Goldfinch
Hardhead	Eastern Rosella	Common Blackbird
Buff-banded Rail	Red-rump Parrot	Common Starling
Dusky Moorhen	Tawny Frogmouth	Common Myna
Purple Swamphen	Laughing Kookaburra	Rock Dove
Eurasian Coot	Superb Fairy-wren	Spotted Turtle-Dove
White-necked Heron	Spotted Pardalote	
White-faced Heron	White-browed Scrub-wren	
Cattle Egret	Brown Thornbill	
Great Egret	Red Wattlebird	
Australasian Bittern	Noisy Miner	
Australian White Ibis	White-plumed Honeyeater	
Straw-necked Ibis	New Holland Honeyeater	
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Eastern Spinebill	
Masked Lapwing	Flame Robin	

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 

The Friends of Braeside Park Night Activity Program

**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 in 2015
on the 10th April, 8th May, 5th June,
3rd July, 7th August & 4th September**

**Meet at Car Park No. 1 (Swallow)
Braeside Park, Lower Dandenong Rd, Braeside
Melways Map 88 Reference D8**

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

Call: 9265 7300 Park Office

www.braesideparkfriends.org.au for more info