



# THE FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK NEWSLETTER

**AGM Notification**  
**Sunday 12th August 2018**  
**2:00pm**  
**At the Braeside Park Visitor Centre**



**Braeside Park**  
470 Lower Dandenong Road,  
Braeside 3195  
Melway Map 88 D8  
Phone: 8427 2027

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*The opinions expressed in this newsletter are the authors' and do not necessarily reflect those of Parks Victoria or its staff.*

## President's Report

**By Judith Sise**

### May

Last night the Committee of the Friends of Braeside Park met at the Ranger's Lunch Room. It was a productive meeting with lots of laughs. I attend a fair amount of committee meetings. Some are serious, quiet autocratic sessions; some are messy with people talking over each other and no-one really listening to discussions and some are boisterous affairs dominated by the few. I like to think (being the President) that our Committee Meetings are a mixture of fun and serious and everyone gets their say. We follow an Agenda procedure which helps to keep us all grounded. I feel blessed to have a Committee of committed Members who are rarely absent; quick to volunteer to organise events and always contributing new ideas or observations.

I thought members so of the Friends of Braeside Park should be aware and appreciative of the eight Committee Members' dedication. The majority of the eight are still full-time workers so it seems that the old saying goes "if you want something done give it to a busy person." Mind you no one could be more productive than our Treasurer and Nursery Manager, Bev, who would never find time to do paid work in the course of her many days spent volunteering in the Park or completing grants etc. With the Annual General Meeting looming on the horizon (12<sup>th</sup> August), some members may want to throw their hats in and become Committee Members. Applications for committee places will be available in the next month.

The Nocturnal Night Walks are up and running thanks to the energetic organisation of the Secretary, Margret Hunter and guiding supporting by Committee Members, David B, David M and Rosemaree. The walks are always oversubscribed with Margaret having to arrange extra walks or place people on to the next month's walk. These are a great way of sharing the Park's delights as well as gaining new members.

The Calendar has a range of events coming up in May, June and July from National Tree Day and World Environment Day plantings to the Open Nursery Day and of course, Des' Mystery Walk which is intriguingly from 12:30 to 3:30 this year and involves a short car drive! Check out the Friends of Braeside Park website (maintained by another Committee Member, Frank) for more details.

Margaret and I have both been invited to join the Reference Group for the Mordialloc Freeway Environment Effects Review and we will do our best to represent the Park.

The Friends of Braeside Park turns 30 next year and thoughts are turning over on what have we achieved and how can we best celebrate this event.

### June

Half-way through the year and finally there has been *some* rain! I have just returned after a few weeks visiting the north-west USA and Canada. Of course, it was the beginning of their summer. Like us, the seasons are unsettled. Their spring was cool, and only now is the snow beginning to melt and the rivers to flood, which affected my travels on the Columbia River. That was an amazing river.

The Columbia drains an area of about 670,000 km<sup>2</sup> - nearly all of Idaho, British Columbia, Oregon, Washington, Montana (west of the Continental Divide) together with small portions of Wyoming, Utah, and Nevada. In the total area, that's the size of France. A *big river* is what the Native Americans called the Columbia. The geology and history of the river is fascinating, complex and romantic. For instance, oral tradition describes the formation and destruction of the Bridge of the Gods (just one of the bridges across the Columbia River), a land bridge that connected the Oregon and Washington sides of the river in the Columbia River Gorge.

## Presidents Report (cont.)

This bridge, which aligns with geological records of the Bonneville Slide (between 1060 and 1760 AD), was described as the result of a battle between gods, represented by Mount Adams and Mount Hood (both volcanoes) competing for the affection of a goddess, represented by Mount St. Helens (another volcano). BUT, By the turn of the 20th century, the difficulty of navigating the Columbia was seen as an impediment to economic development. The dredging and dam building that followed would permanently alter the river, disrupting its natural flow but also providing electricity, irrigation, navigation, and other benefits to the region. AND NOW, cynically, this river may have been shaped by God, or glaciers, or the remnants of the inland sea, or gravity or a combination of all of the above - but the Army Corps of Engineers controls it now.

The Columbia rises and falls, not by the dictates of tide or rainfall, but by a computer-activated, legally-arbitrated, federally-allocated schedule that changes only when significant litigation is concluded, or a United States Senator nears election. In that sense, it is reliable. (*Timothy Egan, In the Good Rain*) but the salmon run is all but finished. There are salmon ladders and much scientific research and pontification about maintaining the biodiversity and restoring the environment but this is the USA where the all-important dollar reigns.

I followed in the footsteps of the American explorers, Merriweather Lewis and William Clark who produced detailed maps of the area – with considerable help from the Native Americans who eventually lost all by assisting these two men establish a route to the Pacific Ocean. There were other British and Spanish explorers mapping along the Columbia River and its tributaries too but I was in USA!

I also visited Yellowstone National Park where considerably effort is being made to re-cycle. I was impressed with the bins in the Snow Lodge where I stayed. There were three bins – compost, landfill and re-cycle. There were also very impressive Park Centers – each featured a different aspect of the Park – geology, biodiversity, history and volcanism. There were many informative Rangers but with the presence of “dangerous” animals such as bison, bears and moose on the loose and lots of “dangerous” features such as bubbling mud, geysers, fumaroles and boiling ponds I guess controlling the human population is the priority!

I did see bears – black and grizzly – but from a very safe distance. I did not see Moose. This was my third venture into the land of the Moose, so I was disappointed. Especially as there seems to be a definite danger around these animals. It is said that a car accident with a moose sees the Moose walk away but not the humans!

I spent some days in the Yukon (Canada next to Alaska) which, once past Whitehorse, was wonderfully wild and empty. Dawson City was restored goldrush ghost town. Geologically, geographically and historically, Dawson City is worth a visit. I wish I had more time to hire a car to explore more of the Yukon. It may be soon lost from tourism to development although “the First Nations” people seem to command some respect and have some legal sway in Canada - especially the Yukon.

There are three aspects that stood out for me in all my limited travels in Canada and the USA. First was the lack of graffiti! I asked about this of various guides and locals. Their answers were: it is rapidly removed; or people respect the environment!

The second was the friendliness of Americans and Canadians. Now I know that Australians pride themselves on their “friendliness” but every time I go to the USA I am impressed with the manners, helpfulness and interest of locals. Must admit I avoid their cities.

Thirdly was the “exhibits” and park facilities. The National Park centers are excellent with hand sanitizers or towels and sparkly toilets that work! Nowhere in Australia do we do “exhibits” like the Americans. Why? It comes back to the saying that to protect something you have to know something. Maybe that is the Australian Government’s policy to enable it to develop whatever where-ever and to save money on the environment! Keeping Australians ignorant of the uniqueness of their land.

As a Friend of Braeside Park, I feel re-invigorated by my travels to expand our efforts to educate the local community of the beauty of our small park.

## Editor's Note

With winter firmly in place the park has started its annual transformation. The ponds are now filled with water, the grass looks greener and mushrooms abound. Amongst all of these, Rosemaree, our Assistant



Secretary using a very keen eye spotted a rare ghost fungi. This was a very exciting addition to her fungi collection.

This picture was taken at night using a 30 second exposure and some (unfortunately) moonlight. If you look carefully you can see the green glow in the darker parts of the picture.

## Park Activities

### Parks Victoria Park Connect portal – invitation to join

Parks Victoria, are using in 2018 an on-line portal (website) to register Friends events and activities throughout Victoria with on-line registration to access events (<https://www.parkconnect.vic.gov.au>). This includes offers of volunteer involvement and activities in all Parks Victoria groups throughout Victoria. Including Ballarat, Mornington Peninsula, Gippsland and south-east Melbourne. Once registered with friends of Braeside park site (free) you can see all our activities in our activity calendar, book into them and learn about Braeside Park and its unique environment.

The Friends when they hold special activities are able to notify all members about what we are running, including Moth nights, Mystery walks, and other activities. While these are also on our website, all events will be recorded on this site by the group leader, Margaret Hunter so these are marketed to the wider community.

I would encourage you to join this site and become a Park Connect member to partake in all activities including camp ground hosts, Sherpa walks, weeding at devils Bend, plover watching, and other activities. This assists the friends to market and promote our programs on-line to a wider audience and give more community members the opportunities to take part in these activities, and perhaps become more involved in the Friends in the future.

If you require more information, please contact Margaret Hunter on the contact details in this newsletter.

*Margaret Hunter*

## Park Activities (cont.)

### Waterwatch News

By *Lachlan McLennan*

The Friends enjoyed key success this month in delivering our community-driven project of water quality sampling at Braeside Park. Thanks to the hard work of the Committee and of Parks Victoria Rangers, we have been awarded state of the art equipment by Melbourne Water in order to contribute to their city wide program of Waterwatch.

We met on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> of May with our region's Melbourne Water representative, Richard Akers, who presented us with the new equipment and guided us through our first round of sampling with the new gear. The Friends would like to thank Richard and Melbourne Water for their support and vote of confidence in our ability to provide quality sampling of water quality at Braeside Park.

It is a pleasure to announce that the sampling program is up and running again with our next meet scheduled for May 28<sup>th</sup> with subsequent events taking place monthly. To get involved contact Lachlan McLennan on 0432 575 237 or at [lachlan.j.mclennan@gmail.com](mailto:lachlan.j.mclennan@gmail.com). It is a privilege to continue the long history of community-driven management of natural resources at Braeside Park and I look forward to the exciting year ahead.



### The 'famous' Friends of Braeside Park night walks

By *Margaret Hunter*

The Night walks are provided by the Friends free of charge to the community. Participants meet at the Visitors Centre Car park at 7.00 pm sharp. They run on the first Friday of the month from 7.00 pm to around 8.30 pm, with an attendance of over 250 people in 2017. It is important to book early as numbers are restricted to 20 per walk.

Bookings are available in several formats:

- on-line Park Connect (Parks Victoria volunteer/event portal for 2018,
  - email to Friends email in this newsletter,
- by phone/text to Margaret Hunter on 0417 323 460).

We always book out quickly, with late bookings put on a waiting list for the next walk, large groups are often accommodated with special bookings eg cubs, scouts, guides and other groups. We use Red Light torches to spot the animals of the park, that come out after twilight and include Sulphur crested cockatoos, foxes, possums, rabbits, bats, eels, purple swamp hens, ducks and other nocturnal animals of Braeside Park.

If you are interested you can book ahead for future months, with many frequent return attendees, who come back each year as they enjoy it so much. Sightings are reported to DELWP for monitoring and research purposes and to Parks Victoria on Park Connect.

We are also always looking for guides, with training provided with further information from Margaret on the contact details above.

## Park Activities (cont.)

### The 'famous' Friends of Braeside Park night walks (cont.)

By *Margaret Hunter*

I look forward to a successful night program once again in 2018 and welcome you to book into this in the ways described.

Currently spots are available for a small number of bookings for July with two walks planned for the school holidays on 6/7 and 13/7.

## 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.

### 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 phone **0417 323 460**

**Community Nursery is Open on the Third Sunday of the Month  
10:00 am to 12:00 noon – Seedlings \$2.00 each.**

## 2018 Annual General Meeting

**AGN on Sunday 12th August at 2:00pm at the Visitors Centre, Braeside Park**

## Birds of Braeside Park

Photos by Adam Kraska



*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 - 2:30 pm in the Nursery & Community Garden.  
Everyone Most Welcome*

## Newsletter Contributions

Thank you to Judith Sise, Margaret Hunter, Bev Bancroft, Frank Russo, Rosemaree MacLean, David MacLean & Park Staff for contributions to this edition.

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

## Friends of Braeside Park Inc.

**President:** Judith Sise **Secretary:** Margaret Hunter  
**Assistant Secretary:** Rosemaree MacLean **Treasurer:** Bev Bancroft  
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Join us on Facebook

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

Current Facebook Members = 118

# **Friends of Braeside Park**

## **Mystery Tour**

**The Friends of Braeside Park invite you to a  
Mystery Tour of Braeside Park.**

**Ranger Staff will be leading a tour of Braeside Park.  
Come and discover the park whilst learning about  
hidden secrets and changes within the park.**

**When: Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

**Where: Melway Reference = 88 – D8  
Enter the Park from Lower Dandenong Road  
Then park follow the signs to the  
meeting location.**

**Time: 12:30 pm till 3:30**

**Please Bring: Water bottle, snacks, binoculars, camera,  
sturdy footwear, clothing to suit weather  
conditions of the day & insect repellent.**

**Cost: Free – Afternoon Tea Provided**

**Bookings are limited and essential, so please  
call 0418 173 228 to secure your place.**

*The watermark on this paper depicts the emblem of the Friends Group - The Wedding Bush (Ricinocarpos 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 28<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

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**

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

# Night Walks for 2018



Friends of  
Braeside Park

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

**On Friday Nights at 7pm**

**from April thru to September in 2018**

**on the 6<sup>th</sup> April, 4<sup>th</sup> May, 1<sup>st</sup> June,  
6<sup>th</sup> July, 3<sup>rd</sup> August & 7<sup>th</sup> September**

**Meet at Visitors 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)  
or contact Margaret Hunter on 0417323460**

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

### Friends of Braeside Park Activity Calendar 2018

Activity	Time/Day	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Committee Meeting	7pm - 8pm 2nd Thursday at the Park Office	X	8	8	12	10	14	12	9	13	11	8	13	
Community Projects Weekday - "The A Team"	9am - 12pm Wednesday's at the Park Office	-	7 14 21 28	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12	
Nursery open for plant sales	10am - 12pm 3rd Sunday	21	18	18	15	20	17	15	19	16	21	18	16	
Plant Propagation Community Nursery	10am - 12pm 1st Saturday & 3rd Sunday	6 21	3 18	3 18	7 22	5 20	2 17	7 22	4 19	1 16	6 21	3 18	1 16	
Plant Propagation Community Nursery	Wednesday's 1pm- 3pm Rev 9551 4578	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Water Quality Monitoring Meet at the Park Office	9am - 12pm 3rd Tuesday	16	20	20	17	15	19	17	21	18	16	20	18	
Bird Observations	8am - 11am 4th Friday Park Office	26	*	23	*	25	*	27	*	28	*	26	*	
Bird Observations	8am - 11am 4th Friday Robin Car Park	*	23	*	27	*	22	*	24	*	26	*	14	
Nightwalks	From Visitor's Centre 7pm	Nightwalks offered from April through to September. Gold Coin Donation per head Bookings Essential 0417323400												
Community Projects Weekends	9am - 12pm, follow the signs					Community Nursery Day 10am - 12pm Sunday 6th	World Environment Day Tree Planting Sunday 3rd	National Tree Planting Day Saturday 28th						
Special Activities are held throughout the year at various times				Clean Up Australia Day Sunday 4th Meet at Visitor Centre 10am - 12pm			Mystery Walk Sunday 17th 12:30 - 3:30 with afternoon tea		AGM Sunday 12th 2pm-4pm	Breakfast with birds 23rd Meet at Red Gum Plonic Area 7am - 9:30am			Spring Walk - Heathland & Grasslands Sunday 14th 1pm - 3:30pm	End of Year BBQ Wednesday 12th