



# THE FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK

# NEWSLETTER

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### Braeside Park

470 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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## Presidents Report

By Judith Sise.

Daylight Saving has begun and many people are taking advantages of the extra daylight to enjoy the Park. The Wetlands are overflowing with water. The small calves are frolicking with their mums in the grassland enjoyed by many young visitors. Luckily the Park escaped the worst of the recent winds so the Park is looking good for the summer hot months. So Mother Nature is doing her best to protect the flora and fauna of the Park but are WE. The litters are still dropping off their rubbish in the Park and for some odd people have chopped down trees in the Park.

Parks Victoria has called for public comments on “Strengthen Victoria Parks”. The most obvious but seemingly the most obscure for the management of Parks Victoria to understand is that Rangers in the Parks is of the key to park management and for the enjoyment of all visitors. Secondly, the funding of the parks is also essential. Each year the Parks struggle to fund environmental management of feral animals (rabbits, foxes, cats) and to remove introduced weeds and to maintain infrastructure like tracks, BBQ and picnic areas and hides and yet each year the budget to Parks is either slashed or limited.

Now Parks Victoria may say that this is a State Government decision but while the bucket of funding given to the environment is of low priority to State Government (another concern for us all), the decision to spend that money is Parks Victorian managements and the maintenance of every Victorian Park is what we, the public, expect that the vast majority of that money will be used for.

Parks Victoria are the first to praise the volunteers who work, and I mean work, in the parks but they are now relying on the volunteers to pick up the extra activities that comes with reducing the number of rangers servicing the parks. At Braeside Park, each Wednesday 10-12 volunteers carry out a variety of **jobs** for three hours such as spreading mulch, mowing, weeding, planting, removing introduced trees etc. and now the volunteers have volunteered to open the Visitors’ Centre because the rangers have to patrol extra parks as well as Braeside Park. Many volunteers are working full



Photograph—Des Lucas— Friends Members Planting the Melbourne Water Dingley Waterway Grant

time or are retired but all are working extra hours to conserve and to allow access and enjoyment to a STATE PARK which should be our taxable right! The Park is a wonderful asset to our community and visitors are always expressing their pleasure at being able to walk and to picnic in the Park and that is the reason many volunteers keep working. However, if we all want to keep our Park looking good and providing a respite from our busy lives, we must start telling our State Government Members of Parliament and various Departmental Managers that the environment and our Parks need to be preserved and funded appropriately.

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### Presidents Report cont.....

And on a lighter note, November is BUGS and BAT month with two activities organised and funded by the volunteers (note the Rangers once did this sort of activity) open to the public to attend. The Entomological Society of Victoria will offer two activities for a gold coin donation to the Braeside Park Friends. They are between 3:30 – 5 pm looking for day insects and between 7:30 – 10 pm looking for night insects. This is a great opportunity to learn where the local bug hangs out. This will be on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November meeting at the Visitors Centre. On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November meeting at the Visitors Centre, John Harris, Zoologist of Wildlife Experiences Pty Ltd, will give a short presentation on Bats and nocturnal mammals at 8:15 pm and then head off on a spot-light walk to inspect the bat traps till around 10 pm. A gold coin donation to the Friends Group will be welcomed. Go to the Friends of Braeside Park for further information and come along and enjoy learning about nocturnal mammals in your Park.

## Breakfast With The Birds

By John Burns

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September commencing at 7.00am from the Red Gum Picnic Area, Des Lucas led seven people towards the main wetlands where 30 species of bird were sighted.

They consisted of Australian Pelican, Pied Cormorant, Cattle Egret, White-Faced Heron, Straw-Necked Ibis, Black Swan, Chestnut Teal, Pacific Black Duck, Australia Wood Duck, Blue-Billed Duck, Swamp Harrier, Dusky Moorhen, Purple Swamphen, Eurasian Coot, Silver Gull, Super Fairy-Wren, Willie-Wagtail, Common Myna, Magpie Lark, Crested Pigeon, Rainbow Lorikeet, Sulphur-Crested Cockatoo, Eastern Rosella, Red-Rump Parrot, Tawny Frogmouth, Black Bird, Little Wattle Bird, Starling, Australia Magpie and Little Raven.

The rear of the wetland could not be covered by this walk as the winter and spring rains had ensured the wetland was full and the trail behind the wetland impassable in a few locations due to water.

We approached and entered the Bird Hide where 4 Blue-Billed Ducks were sighted. Des advised that this species was not commonly sighted in Braeside Park.

As it was now 8:00am, the decision was made to return to the Red Gum Picnic Area, collect our vehicles and drive to the Ranger's lunchroom via the SETS track for a BBQ breakfast, this sumptuous meal was prepared by Des Lucas.

All in attendance warmly thanked Des for his informative narration on the sights we saw during our casual walk.

It must be noted that the rain held off till 9:20am, then it was very light!

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

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

### GRASSLANDS

Rain and more rain –Grasslands blooming with Choc Lillies, Burchardia, Lomandra Filiformis & a Flowering grass tree. Themeda is flowering really well.

We have weeded & planted over 1,200 assorted grasses which brings this years total to 2,618. Purple Diuris total up to 120.

Fence checks, mowing & brush cutting continue.

### VISITORS CENTRE

Areas adjacent to the Visitors Centre have been planted with over 600 mostly Acacia & Lomandra. Also the area has been weeded, pruned & mulched – looks good.

**Deadline for January/February 2017 edition: 24 December 2016**

*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.*



Many thanks again & again.

Photographs Des Lucas, Planting at the Robin Car Park and some of the thousands of seedlings produced by the Friends, volunteers and the Green Army Teams.

## Newsletter Contributions

Thank you to Margaret Hunter, Judith Sise, Bev Bancroft, John Burns  
& 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](mailto:braesideparkfriends@gmail.com)

## SPRING WALK



Photo - Des Lucas - Small Grass Tree

The weather report was for rain and wind but between 1 pm and 3:30 pm the weather was overcast and warm. It was a typical spring weather in other words and perfectly good for looking for orchids, lilies and the wedding bush. Eight Friends' members set off to the Heathlands to explore and found some **Donkey Orchids** quickly. This is the common name for *Diuris Orientis* a tuberous ground growing orchid with yellow petal, with reddish brown on the labellum and dorsal sepal. The large lateral petals stick up like ears. The flowers are about 2.5 cm across and grow in clusters. It has two or three narrow grass like leaves growing about 20 cm long and flowering is in spring from August to October. The **chocolate lily**, *Arthropodium strictum*, is a slender, grass-like tufted perennial herb, growing up to 1 metre tall, with narrow, grass-like leaves and purple flowers on slender, drooping stalks. The flowers smell of chocolate when crushed. We found it in abundance in a couple of places. Along the path there was a steady display of **Showy Bossiaea**, which is a spreading ornamental shrub with yellow & brown flowers flowering in spring. It tolerates drought, shade & coastal exposure but requires good drainage. Its scientific name is *Bossiaea cinerea*. The **Burgan**, *Kunzea ericoides*, has become a bit of a weed in the heathland and there has been some serious work trying to remove it and where the Burgan has gone, the **Parsnip trachymene** is an early coloniser. Along the edges of path, Guinea-flower flourished. There were big clumps of the wedding bush, *ricinocarpos pinifolius*, in the heathland. One sighting of Early Nancy, *wurmbea dioicia*, was found. After a couple of hours wandering the paths, we headed back for a cuppa and some scones.

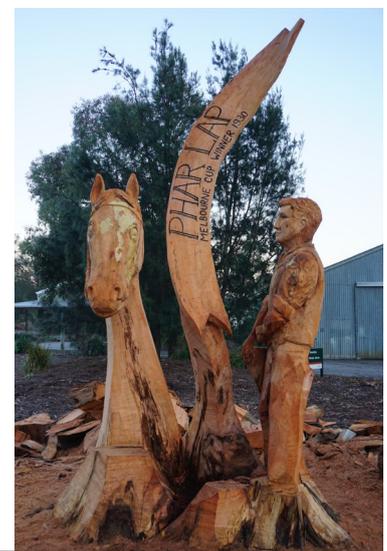
Judith Sise

## Friends Major Project: Stump Art

Parks Victoria has now posted on facebook a short story on this project - go to Facebook web page and type in Parks Victoria and scroll down to the article.

## Friends Major Project: Interpreting Phar Lap

Since 2006 the Friends have had a project which has been sitting idle until recently - preliminary text was drafted in 2006 to interpret Phar Laps life and the 30's era and also the agricultural use of the park by utilising the footprint of the old horse training track. This year the trail system around the track will be completed and this project will gain momentum and become a focal point for everyone visiting the park.



### New Polo tops for the Friends, by Maragret Hunter

The Friends of Braeside Park were fortunate to receive a community grant from the City of Kingston in September 2015 for polo tops to promote the work of the friends in the community and to provide a marketing tool for the friends work in the community.

These incorporated a new design of the park emblem – the sulphur crested cockatoo, and were in navy with a white trim on the sleeve. The feedback so far has been very positive, on both the design and colour, and they are having a major impact on the work of the friends group in the community, and in the park.

These are available in a large range of sizes from small to 3XL, and are free to members of the friends group. If you would like one of these, please contact the secretary, Margaret Hunter on the following contact details:- 9588 0867, mobile 0417 323 460 or by email to [braesideparkfriends@gmail.com](mailto:braesideparkfriends@gmail.com). Please state size (generous) and collection method

Further information from Margaret Hunter on the contact details above.

### Visit to Braeside Park by the Friends of Plenty River Gorge, by Margaret Hunter



On the 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2016, a busload of members of the Friends of Plenty River Gorge were given a guided tour of the park by Margaret Hunter, using the bus to access the heathland, birdhide, and race-course area of Braeside Park.

A highlight of the tour was the heathland in luxurious bloom with the wedding bush, and range of other plants in full bloom and the sighting of many birds in this area. They were enthralled by the heritage buildings and historic features around the

park office, as well as the bird life at the bird hide with many birds including ducks, swans and cygnets, and pelicans. They appreciated the opportunity to visit a range of other parks including Braeside in an area away from the environment of northern Melbourne and enjoyed the tour provided by the friends group.

### Seniors Walk 6 October 2016

The Friends group as part of the Kingston Seniors Festival with the assistance of Des Lucas, arranged a walk around the heathland and nearby areas, with morning tea provided following this. Due to the recent high rainfall, we were unable to go to the wetlands areas for safety reasons, but the group enjoyed the heathland experience, as many of the group had not been into the heathland area before. The animals of the park obliged with many highlights and delighted faces, as well as the usual experience in spring in the heathland with the wedding bush and other plants out in flower .

We also discussed the legendary Phar Lap and the development of the racecourse trail in the future, and a wide range of issues on Braeside Park with many questions from an interested group.

Thanks to Des Lucas for being the guide for this activity once again, which was enjoyed by all, most of whom will return to Braeside Park to learn more in the future.



**"Bats and Nocturnal Animals Night"  
Gold Coin Donation Appreciated**

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2016  
At Braeside Park**

**Meet at the Visitor Centre**

8:15 Presentation on Bats and nocturnal mammals

9:00 Head off on spotlight walk, checking bat traps around 10pm, then pack up nets.



**"Bugs, butterflies and other Insects"  
Gold Coin Donation Appreciated**

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2016 – Braeside Park**

**Meet at the Visitor Centre**

3:30 – 5 pm What insects are found during the day?

7:30 – 10 pm What insects are found during the night?



**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 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) **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.  
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 **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

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**ACN:** A 002 4027 B

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