



THE FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK NEWSLETTER

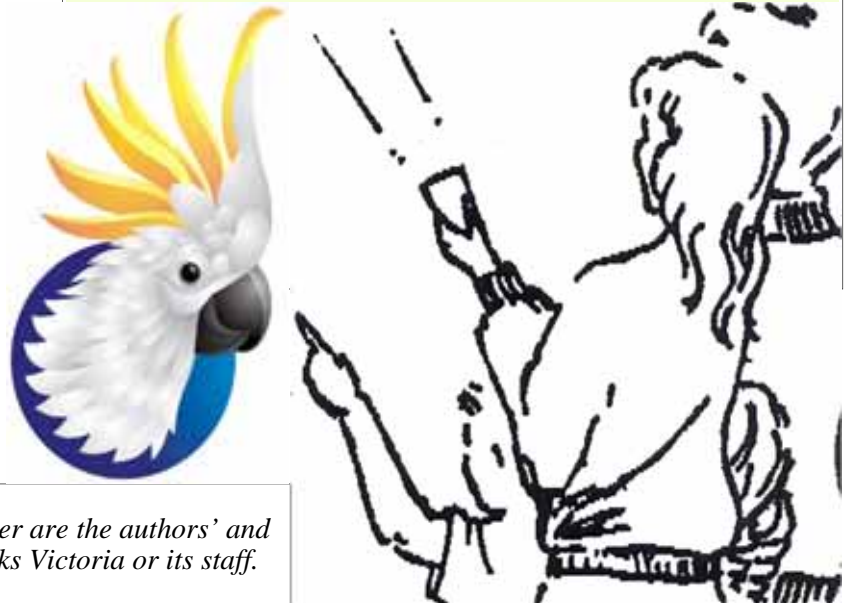
Contents

Presidents Report	2
Park Activities	3
Spring Walk	4
Twilight Photography Walk	6
Other News	7
Ernies 'A Team' Activities	8
Birds of Braeside Park	9
Activity Calendar	10



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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.

Happy New Year to all of the Friends of Braeside Park. The calendar for 2018 is already draw up and may we all work together to conserve and to improve the Park for the benefit of the creatures who live here and the humans who enjoy the tranquility, exercise and benefits the Park offers.

Thereby lies my first concern for 2018!

Some continue to feed the Sulphur Crested Cockatoos at Braeside Park. When approached by all the Rangers and by others and myself, they often get very defensive.

Recently, while walking down the road to the Ranger's Office, a Cockatoo flew straight at me and skimmed over me at the last minute. I stopped, having never seen a cockatoo behave like that. It perched just above me and as I walked on it flew beside me from tree to tree and was joined by other cockatoos. Then it twigged that these birds were waiting for food. In the distance, I could see a person walking towards me.

I greeted the person and said that birds were now waiting to be fed which was not necessarily a good habit. My words were dismissed and as I arrived at the bottom of the track where the path leads to the bird hide, I saw the seed scattered on the fence posts and the cockatoos feeding and unafraid of my close proximity.

Feeding wild birds can be a fun, rewarding and even soothing experience for the human being but is it good for the birds?

A job for Google.

The issue has split authorities. The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage has published an information document called 'Keep wildlife wild: please do not feed the animals'. In this document, they warn against welcoming native birds and conditioning them into regular feeding.

"When you feed native animals you're giving them the wildlife equivalent of junk food," the publication said. "Instead of eating a wide range of natural foods, they depend on processed seeds, bread and other foods that are not part of their natural diet. This can make them very sick."

"Animals that expect to be fed by people can become aggressive, harassing people for food when they are hungry."

Birdlife warns that birds will then return to the food source, potentially displacing other species and their migratory patterns.

Tony from Mount Keira said that even when he stopped feedings birds on his property, Sulphur Crested Cockatoos still returned occasionally to look for seeds.

"They get used to getting food and when they don't, they tear everything else apart and drive the other birds away."

The Office of Environment and Heritage said that by feeding birds, a moment's pleasure for you could turn into a junk food addiction for the bird.

President's Report (cont.)

Other authorities suggested that feeding birds could help them survive and increase in numbers. The food offered by caring humans is simply a snack food with birds foraging for the majority of their food and provided that the excess food is disposed of and does not attract rats etc. If the feeding places are kept clean then it is not a problem.

Certainly most authorities agree that attracting natural wildlife by planting trees, such as hakeas, acacias, casuarinas and eucalyptus, all which all provide natural food for visiting birds, is a better alternative to feeding them.

It is important to remember that wildlife can carry many diseases that readily spread to people, pets, livestock and their own species, especially when gathering in large numbers.

These diseases include Australian Bat Lyssavirus, Hendra virus, salmonellosis, Psittacosis, avian influenza and leptospirosis.

The Sulphur Crested Cockatoo is our Group's emblem and it is a regular visitor to the Park.

So what is Parks Victoria's stand on feeding birds in the Park?

I contacted Chris Mercier, Parks Victoria, to find out if there is clear regulations. Of course, there is not a rule that says, "No feeding of the wildlife". However, Chris says feeding of wildlife (birds) is to be discouraged and is implicate in regulations to protect wildlife and not to harass and interfere in the lifecycle of wildlife. I discussed with Chris the possibility of using signage to educate the public on this topic.

Judith Sise

Park Activities

Parks Connect – Parks Victoria training for friends members

Parks Victoria will be using a new volunteer registration system in 2018 which is on-line and requires registration from committee members and friends members. It is free, and does not involve a subscription fee as current membership. We will effectively have two categories of Friends membership – financial and Park Connect.

Members of the wider community have the option of involvement in the friends group(s) with a range of groups covered in the rollout, of taking park in friends activities by joining these on-line to replace the current flyer system and phone contact. This system is working ok, but is time consuming for Margaret on the night walk bookings. For example, if 20 people were booked in, numbers over this would not be able to be booked in and would not be accepted.

I envisage that in 2018 bookings for night walks will be taken on-line except for group walks eg kinder and scouts, guides, U3a etc.

Activities are reported to Parks Victoria on-line within two weeks of the completion of the activity by Margaret as was the photographic walk.

Margaret Hunter

Spring Walk (Sunday 15th Oct)

A large number gathered on a beautifully perfect day for the spring walk. The groups were led by Bev and Judith.

Following is a list of flora discovered by both groups:

- * HOP GOODENIA (*Goodenia ovata*)
- * AUSTRAL BRACKEN (*Pteridium esculentum*)
- * PARSNIP TRACHYMENE (*Trachymene* composite)
- * HOP GUINEA FLOWERS (*Goodenia ovata*)
- * STALKED GUINEA FLOWER (*Hibbertia fasciculata*)
- * COMMON APPLEBERRY (*Billardiera scandens*)
- * LOVE CREEPER (*Comesperma volubile*)
- * PINK FINGERS ORCHID (*Caladenia carnea*)
- * MILKMAIDS (*Burchardia umbrellata*)
- * WEDDING BUSH (*Ricinocarpos pinifolis*)
- * HEATH PARROT PEA (*Dillwynia gladerrima*)
- * RED FRUITED SAW-SEDGE (*Gahniasieberiana*)
- * COASTAL SAW SEDGE (*Lepidosperma gladiatum*)
- * CUMBUNGI or BULLRUSH (*Typha domingensis*)
- * SPINY HEADED MAT RUSHES (*Lomandra longifolio*)
- * WATER RIBBONS (*Triglochin procerum*)
- * HEATH WATTLE (*Acacia brownii*)
- * COMMON CORREA (*Correa reflexa*)
- * COMMON HEATH (*Epacris impressa*)
- * HEATH TEA TREES (*Leptospermum myrsinoides*)
- * PRICKLY TEA TREE (*Leptospermum continentale*)
- * BURGAN (*Kunzea erioides*)
- * HEDGE WATTLE (*acacia paradoxa*)
- * COASTAL BANKSIA (*Banksia integrifolia*)
- * SWAMP PAPERBARKS (*Melaleuca ericifolia*)
- * CHERRY BALLART (*Exocarpos cupressiformis*)
- * EUCALYPTUS CAMALDULENSIS (George's Tree)
- * BANKSIA MARGINATA



Bev Bancroft



Spring Walk (Sunday 15th Oct) cont.

The following is a compilation taken by the David and Rosemaree MacLean:



Below —George with bush parsnip

Above—walking group



Twilight Photography Walk

On Friday 20th October the Friends of the Park ran the inaugural Twilight Photography Walk.

The aim of this walk was to provide a relaxed walk around the park looking for animals and birds to photograph during the twilight and early night.

As the sun goes down, the whole nature of the park changes. A quietening period occurs – often broken by the screeches of the Sulphur Crested Cockatoo’s looking for the right tree in which to spend the night, while most of the day animals find shelter and go to sleep.

Then, as the night darkens, a quickening is felt as the next shift of animals and birds emerge. Experiencing this change can be quite exciting and deeply satisfying as we watch the night shift emerging.

During this walk, a number of amateur photographers and friends of the park had the opportunity to photograph the following:

- * Sulphur Crested Cockatoo
- * Tawny Frogmouth
- * Dusky Moorhen
- * Coot
- * Pacific Black Duck
- * Ringtail Possum
- * Brush tail Possum



I have included here some photos taken by myself.



The following 2 photos were taken by a member of the public (Ian Morehouse) who attended the walk and generously allowed us to publish them.



David MacLean

Other

Wetlands Observation Platform

The wetlands viewing platform has been completed by the Rangers and the Men's Shed. It provides a clean and safe platform with wonderful views over the lakes. The solid hand rail provides with a sturdy surface on which to rest a camera or your elbows whilst using a pair of binoculars.



Photos by the editor



Visitor's Centre revamp

The rangers have proposed some changes to the Visitor Centre for the purpose of making the Centre more inviting, engaging and welcoming to increase visitation numbers.

A subcommittee was formed which proposes to make some changes to make it light, welcoming and engaging. To ensure the everyone who enters the door will leave having learnt something about the natural world around them. To really showcase the amazing collection of animal specimens we have on show.

The subcommittee will keep the organic feel to the centre while making in easier on the eye and a more usable space for the park and other user groups.

ERNIE'S "A" TEAM - WEDNESDAYS:

DINGLEY WATER WAY

Return to the Caterpillar pond to chip out the thistles/weeds & remove guards/frames from the established plants (300+).

GRASSLANDS

Hand weeding around native grasses/plants.

Fence checks for rabbits & more weeding.

Planting of native grasses & herbs X 300 plants.

Check of Orchid site & found an increase of new plants.

Congratulations to Ernie & Wednesday volunteers, as since the inception of this project over 5,300 plantings have occurred.

VISITORS CENTRE

Maintenance of garden, weeding, removal of guards & frames & a little mulching

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Weeding, mulching & general clean up continues

*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

Birds of Braeside Park

Photos by David MacLean



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.**

Friends of Braeside Park Inc.

President: Judith Sise **Secretary:** Margaret Hunter
Assistant Secretary: Rosemaree MacLean **Treasurer:** Bev Bancroft
Newsletter Editor: David MacLean **Webmaster:** Frank Russo
Publicity Officer: Vacant

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Join us on Facebook

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

Current Facebook Members = 118

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 - 9pm 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 Wednesdays 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 Bev 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	<i>Nightwalks offered from April through to September. Gold Coin Donation per head Bookings Essential 0417323460</i>												
Community Projects Weekends	9am - 12pm, follow the signs					4	1	6	3	7				
Special Activities are held throughout the year at various times				Clean Up Australia Day Sunday 4th Meet at Visitor Centre 10am - 12pm		Community Nursery Day 10am - 12pm Sunday 6th	World Environment Day Tree Planting Sunday 3rd	National Tree Planting Day Saturday 28th	AGM Sunday 12th 2pm-4pm	Breakfast with birds 23rd Meet at Red Gum Picnic Area 7am - 9:30am		Spring Walk - Heathland & Grasslands Sunday 14th 1pm - 3:30pm		End of Year BBC Wednesday 12th