# THE FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK

# NEWSLETTER

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Friends of Braeside Park PO Box 608



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

City of

KINGSTON

# **From the President**

# The Friends of Braeside Park

Last week, wandering down Braeside Park's shady Cypress Parade, I came upon several large yellow fungi amongst the long grass. While spectacular in size, about 15 cm in diameter, and colour, the fungi is together with bacteria, responsible for breaking down organic matter and releasing carbon, oxygen, nitrogen, and phosphorus into the soil and the atmosphere.

At the end of National Recycling Week (8-14<sup>th</sup> November), I wondered how many people busily spruiking this year's recycling aim "to helps you reduce your waste and recycle right" thought of the humble fungi, the ultimate recycling mechanism quietly processing the waste in the Park.

I stopped to get a closer look and noticed a number of flies or gnats feeding on the fungi while their larvae had left slime trails similar to those from small snails or slugs. So as the fungi recycled, the gnat was reproducing the next generation. Nothing was wasted and everything was interconnected. Why can't we humans do that?

Overlapping with National Recycling Week was Australian Pollinator Week (13-21th November). Immediately everyone thinks bees, the small buzzy insect that moves pollen from the male anther of a flower to the female stigma of a flower and to fertilize food plants and to give us honey! We all need bees but the introduced European honey bee is not the only pollinator.

I had joined the Victorian Field Naturalists' special interest group doing their annual insect survey in Braeside Park at the beginning of Australian Pollinator's' Week. There were some honey bees, especially among the clump of Patterson's Curse or Salvation Jane (*Echium plantagineu---m* L.) and cape weed flowers, reminders of the Park's grazing past and proof that introduced weeds are hard to eradicate. There were also many iridescence flies, hover flies, beetles and flying ants pollinating indigenous acacias and gum blossoms.

We did not see any native bees which according to the experts is not surprising as new findings suggest many native bee species are endangered following the 2019—2020 bushfires.

A *Flinders University study* found between 50 to 80 per cent of some species' habitat had been destroyed, with two native bee species moved to the endangered list and another nine marked vulnerable. To date, 1,700 Australian bee species have been identified and named, with estimates that the true figure is closer to 2,000. Rather than living in hives, most native bees are ground dwelling which makes them, just like the recycling fungi, susceptible to disturbances by visitors leaving the tracks to explore the Park.

While many people in Covid-19 Lockdown installed honey bee hives, let's not forget our unique native bees and help protect these often-stingless insects by creating some space, for planting Australian native plants. We can continue to help the native bee population and native flora thrive by contacting Kingston Council's Gardening for Wildlife or visiting Greenlinks' Heatherton Road nursery to buy some indigenous plants and spend some time observing your garden's pollinators.

#### Judith Sise

# **The Friends of Braeside Park News**

On Thursday 14th December, I was part of the Golf Course Redevelopment Standing Advisory Committee's site visit to Kingswood Golf Course.

The Friends have made both a submission and a presentation to the Committee because the Golf Course is open space, and that allows flora and fauna to survive in Braeside Park's own 390 hectares of indigenous open space. Just as Covid has taught us that the world shares viruses, so biodiversity is connected.

I don't golf and I had never visited the Course despite 26 years in Dingley Village. Even so, I could see that the Greens have deteriorated since the Golf Club abandoned the site, but it is still a beautiful and very rare open green space in our area.

In the substantial cypress trees, I saw Yellow-Tailed Black Cockatoos' making their loud, sad wailing call ("Whee-la") to greet us. There were Welcome Swallows who swooped across the Greens, and a single Sulphur Crested Cockatoo, which is also the emblem of Braeside's Friends. That particular native parrot screeched acknowledgment from a large, dead tree. Those are not useless, but can contain nestable hollows, valuable, rare real estate for birds, gliders, and possums. I also observed Noisy Miners, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes, and Butcher birds flying and calling from the dense, mixed vegetation which divides the Fairways.

Here, there are also large to medium trees such as Eucalypts which I would estimate at 50 - 60 years of age and as Narrow leaf Peppermint (Eucalyptus radiata). There are more familiar Coastal Banksia (Banksia integrifolia) and the smaller Black and Drooping She-oaks (Allocasuarina littoratis and verticillata). For shrubs, I saw White Correa (Correa alba) and Prickly Tea-tree (Leptospermum continentale) where there were small orange and black insects, hoverflies and bees feeding because dense and prickly vegetation is how they survive. I saw other insects, including the Common Brown and Painted Lady butterfly in the grasses and tussocks where they are let grow longer than lawn length.

Wood, Pacific Black and Chestnut Teal ducks potted around the long, narrow water retention basin.

AustraliaSuper, the developers, propose 14 hectares of open space, including a new park, boundary reserves and a new wetland to support local biodiversity. I wonder if AustraliaSuper informed the "local biodiversity" of their *new reduced home site and human neighbours*.

Mr. Wynne, the State Planning Minister, will make the final decision after "the robust planning process" to re-zone the land, and after the advisory committee's recommendations.

Back in 2015 the Victorian Court of Appeal (Cit. 2015 VCSA 16) ruled unanimously and possibly robustly that the sale of the Golf Club had seen the seller's act was: (a) acted for an improper purpose; and (b) oppressed their own members. Then, there were the 8000 Dingley residents who lodged objections to re-zoning and The Council's unanimous rejection. Perhaps, neither was robust enough? This Golf Course is still, for now, zoned golf course as it was when bought by these property developers, who knew that too, because the planning scheme has always said so!

Every Dingley resident, especially the school children, should walk the site with a map of the proposed development. There are 823 homes proposed. They are of two to three storeys, and each on less than 300 square metres.

That is what will replace what I saw yesterday, and thinking that makes me sadder than I can put into words.

#### Judith Sise

# Kingswood Golf Course Submission

As President of The Friends of the Braeside Park Margaret and I presented a submission to the board last Tuesday, 23 November 2021. Our Power Point went over the many environment reasons of the interconnectivity of all the natural world. The Friends oppose the development, and this was my final statement which took us overtime but really in essence is why the course should not even have had to have a submission process.

*"I would like to just summarise how the Kingswood Golf Course Re-development disappointing and demoralising business has run for the last 8 years.* 

In 2013 Kingswood Gold Club's Board amalgamated their Club with another one and sold their golf course to a gang of property developers - not golfers. In 2015 the Victorian Court of Appeal ruled unanimously (Citation 'VCSA no. 16') that when they made this sale the Board had: (a) acted for an improper purpose and (b) oppressed their own members.

However, their Honours declined to intervene and undo the transaction because the local member of the community who brought this action had delayed too long before doing so. Part of the reason for his delay was so that a collection could be taken up amongst our community to provide enough money to pay for lawyers who had already agreed to charge us a special low rate. Apparently, their Honours think that giving us justice would have financially oppressed Australian Super, which is the largest pool of private wealth in Australia. But, Victoria's highest court opposes this development.

This Golf Course is still zoned golf course and was bought by these property developers knowing that it was zoned golf course. They then set about doing two things: (1) devastating it beyond use as anything but property development; and (2) applying for re-zoning. The longstanding planning scheme for Kingston opposes this development.

This application for re-zoning holds the record for number of objections in the history of the City of Kingston. There were 8,000 objections over an illegitimate development in a suburb whose population is only 10,000. I have spoken to people with decades of political experience who say that this is the most thorough and complete example of community mobilisation that they have ever seen in Australia. If any community in Australia can be said to be united in one political opinion it is Dingley Village to save Kingswood. The community completely opposes this development.

The Kingston City Council voted years ago in 2018 unanimously to reject the Property Developers' application to re-zone. It has never been revisited there since. Local Democracy opposes this development.

# Kingswood Golf Course Submission (cont.)

Yet, here we all are. If you were me, what would you think that this Panel was set up to do?

This property development has been rejected by the Victorian Court of Appeal and the Kingston City Council. It is contrary to the longstanding planning scheme of this suburb. It has been utterly rejected and persistently opposed by the community who understand what it will mean better than anyone else.

This property developers scheme has zero credibility and zero legitimacy. If this Panel approves it, then what will it have?"

And now we have the Suburban Rail Loop EES to present. When will the Green Wedge be given due credit and left alone?

Judith Sise

# **Cancellation of Seniors Walk for 2021**

The City of Kingston has an annual Senior Month Program, for which the Friends have until 2019, run successful Seniors' Walk, with a good attendance. These are usually ranger led and include morning tea. A lot of useful information about Braeside Park and new visitors to the Park take the opportunity to experience Braeside Park on these walks.

The 2021 walk was rescheduled due to Victoria's 6<sup>th</sup> covid lockdown, and planned to be rescheduled later in 2021. Unfortunately, due to lack of volunteers and available ranger staff to run this activity, it will not be possible to run this activity in 2021. Parks Victoria, and volunteers must comply with O H & S rules that stipulate that two volunteers are required, with further safety requirements. The Friends' Committee made the difficult decision at the November meeting to cancel this walk for these reasons.

A self-guided Welcome Walk on the Howard Road Trail is available from the Friends' for those who registered to enjoy, in place of the 2021 walk. This can be undertaken with your social groups now that lockdown is easing. Another outcome is that the Friends' will develop other resources in 2022 on Braeside Park to promote self-guided activities and other forms of information for these walks.

#### Margaret Hunter

# The Opening of the Extension of the Dingley Village Men's Shed

Margaret Hunter, represented the Friends' Group at the recent opening of the new extension of the Dingley Village Men's Shed, resident in Braeside Park for add here years. The former Art Sheds have found a new use with opportunities for artwork, computers, social activities, and a range of other activities. There were representatives from the Friends, Kingston City Council, government agencies, and the ranger Team Leader Des Lucas (Sandbelt Parks), Darren Mitchell, and of course long-term ranger Digger, who had an enjoyable morning with the members of the Men's Shed celebrating this special occasion. I can recall, seeing the resident possums who retreated to the darkest corners of the building when the sheds were first opened after a long period, and the huge efforts it took to remove them from their home.

#### Margaret Hunter

# Activity Program and Volunteer recruitment for 2022

The Friends of Braeside Park, since March 2020, have held two agm's on zoom, and lost volunteers for our cancelled activities due to covid. With the easing of restrictions in November, and hopefully December 2021, and some return to normality in 2022, the new activity calendar is being sent out with this newsletter.

One planned activity, for February 2022 is a volunteer program day, to let the community know of the planned activities and volunteer roles to support this in 2022. We thank the volunteers who have contacted us during the recent covid lockdowns, and are now looking to restart these programs in critical areas including:

Tour guides, waterwatch (training formally required with MW), general assistance, committee support and involvement, night walk guides, nursery and propagation, archival assistance, support for our long-term Phar Lap project, and others.

It is planned to publicise this when the date is confirmed to kickstart the program of community involvement at Braeside Park, and volunteering with the Friends. Expected in 2022.

It is important that volunteers for the Friends' group, need to register with Parks Victoria through Park Connect, and there is other requirements to note. If you are interested in these roles, please let Margaret know and we will contact you on this matter.

#### Margaret Hunter

#### Wednesday A Team volunteers required

The Wednesday A Team is a regular activity, led by ranger Andrew Morrison, from 9.00 am to around 12.00 pm which does a range of roles in the park on a regular ongoing basis. They need volunteers, with further information and expressions of interest to Margaret who will forward these enquiries to Andrew Morrison. These are also available on the Park Connect site, with assistance available to sign up to this site.

If you have further interest in this activity, contact details for the Friends of Braeside Park Group Leader, Margaret Hunter are available on the Park connect site and in the online newsletters of the Friends group as well.

#### Margaret Hunter

# Park Way Underpass Mural Launch 16 December 2021

Margaret attended the formal opening of the Murals completed at the Park Way underpass into Braeside Park on Thursday 16 December. We had a welcome to country by the traditional owners,

the Bunurong representatives, and met the artist of some of the works. There are three murals featuring park animals, including our possums, tawny frog mouths and other art works. They are a celebration of the Braeside Park environment and are added to by the new directional signage on the walking trail as well.



Margaret Hunter

# **Park Activity**

#### **Re-Commencement of Bird Survey**

Des Lucas (Ranger Team Leader) has given the go-ahead for Braeside Bird Surveys to start again, subject to complying with Covid restrictions. At present, I think that means providing proof of double vaccination (or official exemption), social distancing, some restriction on car-sharing, masks in enclosed spaces...etc, etc.

Our surveys are usually fourth Friday of the month.

So, all being well (and with reasonable weather predicted without too much rain, gales or thunderstorms) we will be meeting at the Ranger's Office car park at 0800 as of old, doing one or both of the survey circuits depending on numbers of people turning up.

If you are willing, able, interested, free .... - please let me know. (Contact Des via email)

I look forward to catching up with you all again, out in the bush with binoculars and or cameras at the ready.

# Bird survey (November 2021)

The first bird survey since June saw 2 groups of keen birders turn up in rather overcast and drizzly weather. By the time we headed off, the drizzle had all but stopped, and we had breaks of feeble sunshine during the count. Both the Woodland and Heathland areas were covered.

On the way to the restricted area of the Heathland walk we found the family of 4 Tawny Frogmouths. Surfboard Dad, so named because of his rigid stance and Bob, the juvenile who apparently likes bobbing his head about when people walk by. We also found 2 Long Necked Turtles in the process of laying eggs in the path.

# Bird Survey (November 2021) cont.

We counted far fewer Honeyeaters than usual with their favourite trees having finished flowering. Only one Yellow Faced Honeyeater was heard and sighted, along with a number of White Plumed. The presence of Currawongs may also have contributed to the lower numbers. As usual, both Pardalotes were heard but rarely seen. Noisy Miners were in abundance and fewer than usual Eastern Rosellas and Rainbow Lorikeets were sighted. A lovely Musk Lorikeet was sighted. White Browed Scrubwrens and Superb Fairy Wrens, as well as Red and Little Wattlebirds were about. A Black Faced Cuckoo Shrike and an Eastern Spinebill were sighted as well as a couple of Grey Shrike Thrush.

The highlight was the sighting of a Lathams or Japanese Snipe taking flight from one of the water traps at the edge of the neighbouring golf course. Also sighted after the conclusion of the count, was a Brown Goshawk flying over the park.

It was interesting to note the change in the type and density of some of the vegetation since June, especially in the restricted areas.

#### Pat Bingham

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#### Kerry Gill

# Bird Survey (December 2021)

During the bird survey done on November 26, a slightly smelly but fairly fresh eggshell was found lying in the grass in one of the plots being surveyed by *S*,*B* and *D*. The shell was 57 x 44 mm and had faint but clear marbling. The shapes of the holes in the shell indicated that the predator had a fairly sharp bill. *B suggested* Wood Duck, *S* and *D* thought probably White Cocky The field guide by Peter, Pat and Raoul Slater was consulted as it gives the sizes and colour patterns of the eggs of all species as well as the usual information expected in field guides. The eggs of Wood Duck and Cocky were ruled out as both were too small, though not by much, and neither have marbling. What species seen at Braeside is the size of a Cocky or larger and has eggs of the right size and colour? The answer surprised the group when it turned out to be the remains of the egg of a Whistling Kite. The egg must have been carried from a nest by a bird with long enough toes to wrap around the egg and was either brave enough or hungry enough to risk the fury of a Whistling Kite if caught in the

act. The predator species remains a mystery but could have been any one of say Magpie, Little Raven, Currawong (either Pied or grey) but not for example Kookaburra because of the bill shape.

"Here are a couple of photos of the predated egg - in grass close to where found this am; the gum nuts are River Red Gum; and the little token is slightly bigger than a 5 cent piece for size comparison. David will write a short piece for the FOB Newsletter - he reckoned the volume was at least two large chicken eggs. He did measure it using his Slater bird guide's ruler which also helped the identification. The egg is being held in Des's office.



Regards, PJB "

#### Hi David,

Thanks for your reply about the egg. it jogged memories of birds attacking other species that you may find interesting like I did. I am not suggesting that they are of interest as Newsletter items. I have seen a Magpie have a go at a Wedge-tailed Eagle. The Maggie took off after the eagle when

it was so far away that I had to use binocs to be sure that the eagle was not a Whistler. I have also seen a Maggie knock down a Hobby at WTP. A friend once saw a Maggie take on a Peregrine, make a mistake in the angle of attack and found itself the target. The Maggie got away in that case. Given those observations, I would not be surprised If one would take an egg from an unattended nest if it was hungry.

I have not seen either Ravens or Currawongs take on raptors. Both are pretty game and have bills of the right shape and size to leave a shell looking like the one we found.

# Regards

#### David McCarthy

During the bird survey, Kerry Gill spotted and photographed this beautiful example of a Hyacinth Orchid.



# Following are selected photos. Some from The Friends Facebook page

(selected by Rosemaree MacLean - administrator)



















David MacLean

#### Bob

One of the more common activities in the park is spotting the Tawny Frogmouths. On any day you will find someone with a long lens or a trusty phone hunting for a good photo of a Tawny.

There are a number of locations that usually yield a good viewing if patient and keen eyed.

During the last couple of months one baby chick has received the loving nick name of Bob. This is because if you look at him and move your head up and down, he mimics your movement, hence bobbing his head. He is absolutely cute.

Bob is the chick in the middle of the picture.



However, have you considered what Bob would look like to a smaller animal or insect?

I took the liberty of using the above photo and gave Bob a little attitude, and suddenly he is very scary. Stuff of nightmares.



This brought to my attention how scary the animal world really is. Suddenly a Currawong who sits on my backyard fence asking for a feed can be viewed as a deadly predator. Many a turtle in the park has discovered this when laying eggs.



Luckily for us, we are the apex predator and have built a civilization with laws and rules to protect us and others from us. If only we could only look after our environment better so that Bob will still exist in the future for our children to wonder what it would be like to be the prey instead of the hunter?

David MacLean

# Following are selected photos from The Friends Facebook page taken by

Russell Myers (selected by Rosemaree MacLean - administrator)



# **Editor's Note**

Nature can help us heal and conquer many obstacles that have been placed in our path.

As we move forward from the Pandemic years of 2020 and 2021 into an uncertain future, Braeside Park can play a part in maintaining our physical and mental health as individuals and as a community.

The future is uncertain, yes. But as long as we have each other we will get through this period.

# Happy New Year 2022

David MacLean de\_edfobp@iinet.net.au

# Friends of Braeside Park Inc.

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



FOBP Committee Frank Russo, Judith Sise, Helen Russo, Rosemaree MacLean, David MacLean, Margaret Hunter, David Boldiston

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

#### **Newsletter Contributions**

Thank you to Judith Sise, Margaret Hunter, Rosemaree MacLean, Pat Bingham, Kerry Gill, David McCarthy and David MacLean for their contributions to this edition. We thank the many contributors to our Facebook page for their excellent photos and stories. 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 Renewal/Application Form:

I/We wish to become/renew our membership of the FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK INC (No joining fee)

Membership t	ypes:					
Corporate		\$20				
Family		\$15				
Ordinary Men	nber	\$10				
Student Mem	ber	\$5				
Organisation	Member	\$15				
Concession/P	ensioner	\$5				
DONATION:	\$					
Personal Detai Name:	ils					
Address:						
Phone Number	с.					
Email address:						
Interests:						
Membership Type:		Paid:				
Payments can	be made	nto our Bendigo bank account –				
BSB:	633 000					
Account:	1553482	46 Include family name in description				
Then mail or er	mail this fo	orm to either of the following:				
Mail to:		asurer, Friends of Braeside Park. PO Box 608, Victoria 3195				
Or Email to:	o: <u>braesideparkfriends@gmail.com</u>					
Further informa	ation on th	e Friends' activities are available on our website and our Facebo	ok page.			

http://www.braesideparkfriends.org.au

https://www.facebook.com/groups/327955807288240

Secretary contact number 0417 323 460 Friends of Braeside Park Renewal Membership form November 2021



www.braesideparkfriends.orq.au for more info



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

Vebsite www.braesideparkfriends.org.au

The Friends of Braeside Park

# Email braesideparkfriends@gmail.com

Special Activities are held throughout the year at various times	Community Projects Weekends	Nightwalks	Bird Observations	Community Walerwatch Program	Plant Propagation Community Nursery	Nursery open for plant sales	Community Projects Weekday - "The A Team"	Committee Meeting	Activity	
lthe year at Imes	9am - 12pm, tollow the signs	From Visitor's Centre 7pm	8am - 11am 4th Friday Park Office	9:30am - 12pm 2nd Saturday Visitors Centre	10am - 12pm 1st Saturday & 3rd Sunday	10am - 12pm 3rd Sunday	9am - 12pm Wednesday's at the Park Office	7pm - 9pm 2nd Thursday at the Visitor's Centre	Time/Day	н
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# Activity