

THE FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK

NEWSLETTER



Contents

Editorial	2
Presidents report	3
The Nursery	4
Why we love BP	6
Bird Survey	7
Spotlight Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	10
The Tawny	11
Bunnings BBQ fundraiser	12
Breakfast with the Birds	14
The A Team	14
Spotlight on Committee member	15
The Park in 2023	17
Photography in the Park	19
Park Info	20



Braeside Park
 470 Lower Dandenong Road,
 Braeside 3195
 Phone: 8427 2027

Friends of Braeside Park
 PO Box 196, Dingley Village,



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

Editorial

Another year passes and hopefully you are all in good form.

Christmas and New Year festivities can be quite draining of energy and resources. So many things to do, so many people to please.

What about yourself? Take the time to unwind and find yourself. Now that the festivities are over, you can enjoy a nice walk in the park, drink that cup of tea (or coffee) slowly, and start planning for a great 2024.

Last edition of the Newsletter did not get published. I had only received two articles and no interesting new information or news. A newsletter needs news and material that is likely to be of interest to the readers. I guess that it was a quiet period, and no one had anything to say.

This edition is much better as I have received many articles and news to publish.

I am also including some photos from the whole of 2023 in a special in "Residents of the Park".

I hope you enjoy reading this edition and if you have something to say, please say it. Print it or email it to me and we can all share.

May you have a great 2024 and I hope to see you sometime in the park.

David MacLean

macleandavid@gmail.com

President's Report

The Australian Bureau of Metrology and many councils are investigating how to manage heatwaves, which they have defined as three consecutive days and nights where the temperature sits above 37 to 42 degrees centigrade.

In mid-September 2023, Dandenong Council ran a community event titled Preparing for a Heatwave. It was very well attended and a big wakeup call for community members.

On the day of the Dandenong conference, 19 September 2023, *the Bureau of Metrology declared an El Nino year and the Bureau's Dr Karl Braganza said it would be up to individuals and communities, particularly in the nation's south-east, to prepare for a summer of fire and heat hazards, but he added that the landscape was not as dry as it had been leading into the catastrophic fires of 2019 and 2020.*

El Nino has a profound influence on Australia's climate, depleting rainfall and ramping up daytime heat, hence boosting the chance of risky bushfire seasons.

This one is expected to last until late summer or early autumn.

This has direct impact on our nursery. Already, a few hot days, when the friends were unable to access the nursery due to a fallen tree branch, ten or more trays of prickly tea-tree seedlings were lost.

The Ranger did check but even with the watering system the wind caused the tubes to dry out and all were lost.

Some thought will need to be given to regular checking by Friends during peak of a prolong, and predicted hot weather.

Simon Flemming has had some success in the sowing the last of the seeds collected in the past and there has been a flurry of pricking out by the volunteers. Now the Friends must turn their attention to collecting more seeds for future propagation.

Thanks to all who volunteered to run a Bunnings' Sausage Sizzle, and most especially Vicki and Frank.

The money raised will go to buying new potting mixture and general nursery stuff!

I noticed that the planting outside the Visitors' Centre on one side is growing well but the other side is not surviving.

The plants, mostly Goodenias, seem to have been flattened and defoliated. Was it the recent flooding downpours or a combination of rabbits and flooding?

Rosemaree's bird survey group is all registered on Park's Connect which is a great achievement and thanks to Rosemaree's hard work.

Margaret Hunter has been supporting the Propagation Group to get to the same position by the beginning of the 2024.

The Committee members have been very focussed on trying to get the remaining cypress trunks carved and to maintain the carvings already completed.

President's Report (cont.)

There is always some photographing happening beside the carvings so it is important to arrive at some agreement with Parks Victoria on this on-going project.

Frank has been very dedicated in pursuing this end.

We enjoyed Simon Flemming's Frog Night in mid-November. In the second half of 2023, the Committee also presented a couple of Heathland Walks looking for spring flowering bushes and orchids, a bird survey followed by breakfast and finally a frog survey. Very productive!

Judith Sise

President

The Friends of Braeside Park Nursery

Simon and I are officially The Propagation "Bosses".

In reality, the volunteers turn up and decide on what they will do for the two hours. Jane checks out the nursery igloos and hardening off shed and cuts back the luxurious green growth of the grasses and Goodenias to keep them growing during the hot summer to come.

She sorts out the dead plants leaving a very productive looking shed each week. Jane will also wash pots to keep up with the demands of the pricking out and cutting ladies, Mina, Gaye, Claudia and Maggie.

Vicky is our thistle eradicator and planter.

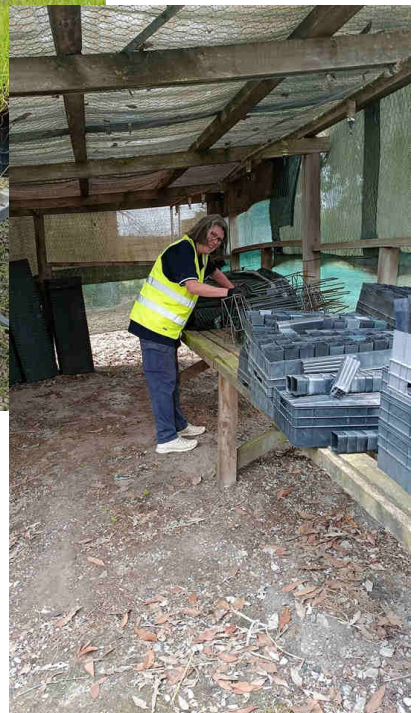
She worries that the potted plants need to get out there and grow freely so once the thistles that have grown since the last propagation session are removed, she plants inside the broken fenced off area! Mind you Vicky will turn her hand to any area that needs cleaning up.



The Friends of Braeside Park Nursery (cont.)

Simon and Sofia are the seed sowers and irrigation experts. Wayne arrives and sorts out any break-ages. And I am a serendipity volunteer, washing pots, helping Vicky and Jane in their long term project to sort all the multitude of pots stacked precariously into one shed, finding the scoop or secateurs and most importantly getting morning tea ready for our elevenses!

Sarah, our newest volunteer, arrived for the Christmas BBQ and joined the pricking out ladies, with the added bonus of a youthful back, she could also shift all the completed boxes to the igloos.



While we sow seeds, prick out seedlings and harden them off ready for plantings, we learn the botanical names, meet the resident blue tongue lizard and skinks and marsh frogs and occasional huntsman spider that find homes in the tubes.

It all works and each week we all leave happy with our progress and relaxed! Thank you to the Propagation Team for 2023.

Judith Sise

WHY WE LOVE BRAESIDE PARK

We have lived only 5kms from Braeside Park for over 30 years, but really only started seriously exploring the park since Covid. It fell within our 5km exercise limit so we used to ride our bikes along Mordialloc Creek and come in via Waterways.

Prior to Covid, we had started doing the monthly bird survey. We found information about it on the Visitor Centre board. Back then, we did a Heathland and a Woodlands count. The Woodlands count involved lots of dodging of rabbit holes. It was very interesting trying to look at birds and avoid doing an ankle in rabbit holes. These days we only do one Woodland section and the Heathland due to lack of volunteer numbers.

The park changes so much with the time of day and the seasons, it's always worth a weekly visit to check things out. There is certainly lots to love about the park. Favourite moments over the years:

- in Winter, capturing fog over the ponds and shafts of light breaking through the fog
- massive white thunderhead clouds looming over the ponds
- rain fronts coming over the Bay
- so many frogs at the boardwalk near the ponds that you could hear the noise from 200m away
- finding the little waterfall at Bent Bridge on the Red Gum trail after heavy rains
- in Spring, with 19 young Pacific Black ducklings from one pair
- finding the 2 Magpie Geese visiting
- little fluff ball Tawny Frogmouth chicks staring and bobbing at the camera with those huge orange eyes while Mum and Dad try to remain inconspicuous
- the Buff Banded Rail around the water ponds near Red Gum carpark
- the Swamp Harrier gliding across right overhead
- finally finding the Fan Tailed Cuckoo after chasing its call for days
- a Wedge Tailed Eagle riding the thermals
- large groups of Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos in the trees
- Ghost fungi
- finding Australian Shovellers, Freckled Ducks, Pink Eared Ducks, Hard Head Ducks and Blue Billed Ducks all on the same day
- Reed Warbler singing its little heart out in the early morning
- juvenile Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoos chasing each other like Honeyeaters
- in Spring, discovering the tiny Greenhood orchids
- meeting the regular photographers and finding out what is about
- checking out the compost piles over winter to see what fungi have grown
- in Spring, finding Cattle Egrets in their orange breeding finery
- reflections in the little ponds over near the Heathlands
- the monthly bird surveys and constantly learning the bird calls
- Blue Damselflies on the grasses beside the ponds
- finding an echidna with his face covered in dirt snuffling through the leaves

Kerry Gill

Bird Survey

Dec 2023

The bird survey group consisted of six (6) volunteers. All volunteers are members of FOBP.

A cool start for a summer survey (16C), however birds were active in most zones, except for H1 next to the golf course which has had low sightings for a few months now.



Previously we would observe good numbers of honeyeater species, fantails, pardalotes, eastern yellow robins, cuckoos. Today was particularly quiet, even the wren count was low.

Track clearing may have had an impact. Should be temporary if this is the cause.

In other zones, there were high numbers of Noisy Miners, Rainbow Lorikeets, Red Wattlebirds consistent with the season.

Also, unusually good numbers of White-plumed Honeyeaters and Striated Pardalotes. Highlights were observing a Great Egret and



Nankeen Night Heron in the Dingley drain pond area. Also spotted a juvenile Tawny Frogmouth along the path leading to the Heathland gate.

We celebrated the last bird survey for 2023 with refreshments and rhubarb and apple pies to celebrate a great day's viewing.

November 2023

There was a high count of 35 species, consistent with sightings for late Spring. Numbers of Noisy Miners, Rainbow Lorikeets, Red Wattlebirds and Superb Fairy Wrens were high.

We were encouraged to see some of the less common birds in the Heathland - a Golden Whistler, Silver Eye and Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo. The highlight of the day was hearing a Sacred Kingfisher near the second pond along the Dingley drain system.

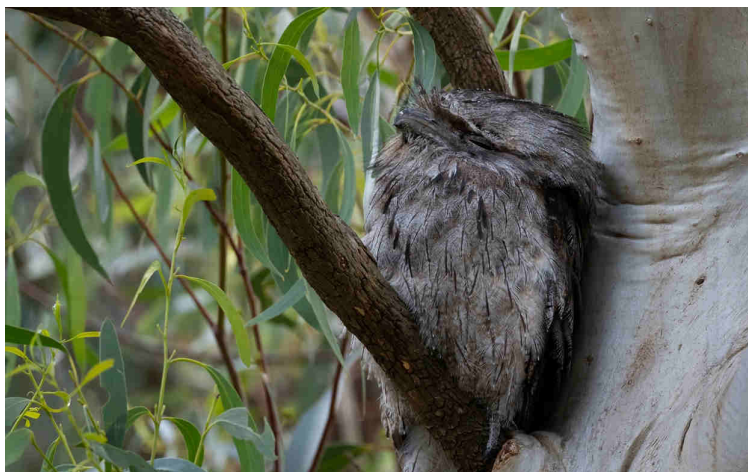


Bird Survey (cont)

Breeding Activity: The Purple Swamphen pair which builds a nest in the reeds of the first pond of the Dingley drain system, have successfully raised two chicks this year. Juveniles are now foraging in the grasses for food, usually not far from an adult.

When juveniles become fully adult in appearance, they tend to stay with the parents for 1-2 years then relocate, presumably in the Park.

I have observed this breeding pair for four (4) years now and note that they remain at this site throughout the year with occasional visits to the second pond.

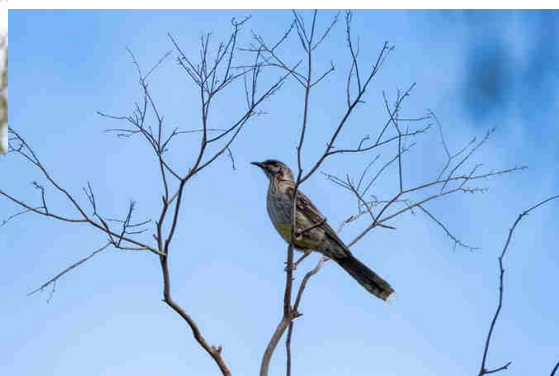


October 2023

A total of 34 species were observed consistent with sightings expected in Spring. However, we hope to see different honeyeater species and smaller birds in warmer weather.

Breeding Activity: Observed 2 large Purple Swamphen chicks feeding in the grass near the pond, accompanied by adults. Observed a very energetic juvenile Willy Wagtail near the pond, and many Noisy Miner chicks are out of the nest now.

A Tawny Frogmouth chick was observed with an adult in a gumtree near the pond. In the Heathland zones, observed many



Rainbow Lorikeets guarding nesting hollows.

The survey group voted the Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo bird of the day as this species hasn't been observed in the conservation area for some time, and it was exciting to add this species to our list.

Another highlight was watching a group of eleven Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos travelling together. It's always pleasing to hear their distinctive cries and softer interactions while feeding.

Bird Survey (cont)

September 2023

A total of 32 species were observed which is significantly higher than during Winter.

Higher numbers of Little Ravens, Noisy Miners, Rainbow Lorikeets, Red Wattlebirds, Spotted Pardalotes, Superb Fairywrens, Grey Fantails



Ian Morehouse

and Spotted Pardalotes.

Breeding Activity: Observed Purple Swamphen, Noisy Miner and Tawny Frogmouth chicks.

Highlights: Observed a group of 15 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos squawking along the Heathland trail, and 5 Laughing Kookaburras in the locked area. Rare viewing of a Shining-bronze Cuckoo, as well as the more common Fan-tailed Cuckoo.



Unknown photographer

Rosemaree MacLean

Group Leader

Bird Survey Group



Graham Gill

Unlabelled Photos in this article by David MacLean

Spotlight Yellow-Tailed Black-Cockatoo

Identification

The Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo is a large cockatoo. It is easily identified by its mostly black plumage, with most body feathers edged with yellow, not visible at a distance. It has a yellow cheek patch and yellow panels on the tail. The female has a larger yellow cheek patch, pale grey eye-ring (pink in males), white upper bill (grey-black in males) and black marks in the yellow tail panels. Young birds resemble the adult female, but young males have a smaller cheek patch.

Location

The Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo is found in south-eastern Australia, from Eyre Peninsula, South Australia to south and central eastern Queensland.

Habitat

The Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo inhabits a variety of habitat types, but favours eucalypt woodland and pine plantations. Small to large flocks can be seen in these areas, either perched or flying on slowly flapping wings. In recent years it has been in rapid decline because of native habitat clearance, with a loss of food supply and nest sites.

Feeding

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos feed in small to large, noisy flocks. The favoured food is seeds of native trees and pinecones, but birds also feed on the seeds of ground plants. Some insects are also eaten.

Breeding

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos have a long breeding season, which varies throughout their range. Both sexes construct the nest, which is a large tree hollow, lined with wood chips. The female alone incubates the eggs, while the male supplies her with food. Usually only one chick survives, and this will stay in the care of its parents for about six months.

Rosemaree MacLean



David MacLean

The Tawny

The tawny frogmouths in the park are proving to be a very popular attraction at the moment. There are several chicks in nests and all are doing quite well.

The tawny frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*) is a species of frogmouth native to the Australian mainland and Tasmania and found throughout. It is a big-headed, stocky bird often mistaken for an owl.

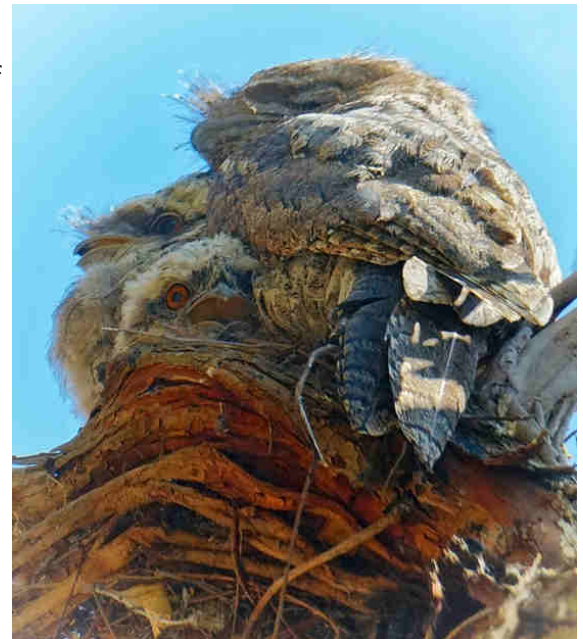
The tawny frogmouth makes use of cryptic plumage and mimicry to camouflage itself. These birds strategically perch themselves on low tree branches during daylight hours, cleverly assimilating with the tree itself.

Some people I talk to in the park think that Tawny Frogmouths are owls, when in fact they're not. Here is a brief summary of the difference between a Tawny Frogmouth and an owl.

Tawny frogmouths and owls both have mottled patterns, wide eyes and anisodactyl feet. However, owls possess strong legs, powerful talons, and toes with a unique flexible joint they use to catch prey. Tawny frogmouths prefer to catch their prey with their beaks and have fairly weak feet. They roost out in the open, relying on camouflage for defence, and build their nests in tree forks, whereas owls roost hidden in thick foliage and build their nests in tree hollows. Tawny frogmouths have wide, forward-facing beaks for catching insects, whereas owls have narrow, downwards-facing beaks used to tear prey apart. The eyes of tawny frogmouths are to the side of the face, while the eyes of owls are fully forward on the face. Furthermore, owls have full or partial face discs and large, asymmetrical ears, while tawny frogmouths do not.

They really are remarkable birds. See if you can spot them as you enjoy walking through the park!

Heather Markland



Keysborough Bunnings Fundraising Event

Only a few months ago the committee decided to have a Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Fundraising event. As soon as a date was agreed upon with Keysborough Bunnings, the committee swung into action. Many businesses and local politicians were contacted to support this event. We gladly received sliced bread, onions and vouchers which helped with the purchase of numerous items required for the day. Thank you to the following businesses and politician who so kindly supported us.

Mark Dreyfus MP
Bakers Delight Southland
Costco
Woolworths Thrift Park
Sciclunas Toorong
Woolworths Dingley Village
Parkdale Pantry

Once a roster was setup, a request was sent out for people to volunteer on the day, for 2 hour shifts. We had 8 FOBP members, 1 non-member volunteer and 5 FOBP committee members help out throughout the day. The day before I had the task of peeling and chopping 16.7kg of onions and there was only one way to do that. With a snorkelling mask. The day started quietly setting up at 8am, with a few tradies buying sausages from 8.30am. Then the busy period, from 11am until 2pm, there were 3 people serving cooked sausages, one person stacking serviettes between sliced bread and another cutting up the strands of sausages. Each master chef kept cooking up the back and the order taker, up the front, kept taking orders and payments. There were 2 long queues at one stage. One line for orders and the other waiting for their cooked sausages. The borrowed taco holder, which held sausages in bread disappeared. At every 2 hour mark, there was a seamless hand over and everybody kept up with the demand. Frank Russo had to go buy more American mustard early on and then sausages and serviettes later. We ran out of onions, so must remember to have more next time. Cash and card payments using Square was accepted on the day. Thank you to the following people, this would not have been a success without you.

FOBP Members

Helen Russo
Rosaleen Lehmann
Colin Prossor
Alanna Paraskevas
Pam Wall
Jan Maslin
Guil Clarke
Bev Burrell
Kathryn Whiteside – thank you for stopping by and offering help

FOBP Committee

Judith Sise
Frank Russo
Rosemaree MacLean
David MacLean
Myself – Vicky Paraskevas

Keysborough Bunnings Fundraising Event (cont)

Here are some facts you might be interested in.

It took 44 volunteer hours on the day, sold 52kg of sausages, 16.37 kg of onions and 30 loaves of sliced bread. Coke Zero sold out!!!

A profit of \$2,105.15 was raised on the day for the plant nursery.

Thank you to everybody, for being so helpful. Thank you to Frank Russo who helped organise behind the scenes and for staying the whole day with me. I hope you all muster up some more energy for the next one.

Vicky Paraskevas
Treasurer



Breakfast With The Birds

First day of Daylight Saving, so back to darkness at 5 am cutting up pineapple, watermelon and fruit salad and packing the car.

Arriving at 5:50 am in carpark one with the gate still shut waiting for Frank and Vicky to arrive. We're all so punctual! Saturday afternoon, Frank had already set up the mugs, hot water for early coffee and a croissant.

People began appearing 6:45 am even before Margaret came with her sign in lists.

Frank and a volunteer led one group of 10 and John and Jeffery led the other group and at 7:15 am we headed to the Heathlands with a gusty wind and the sun peaking through the ragged clouds.

A quick stop to see Tawny Frogmouth sitting on a nest in the playground. Then down to the ponds where a Purple Swamp Hen, some Dusky Moorhens, Eurasian Coots and a couple of Black Ducks appeared.

Hiding amongst the water reeds was a Great Egret.

Through the gate into the Heathland, the Noisy Miners and the Red Wattle Birds were heard and seen chasing other birds. The Superb Fairy Wren was calling "pee pee" from the bushes. The melodious call of the Grey Butcher Bird could be heard and in the distance the Laughing Kookaburra was heard too.

One Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike was seen sitting on a dead tree stump. Grey Shrike-thrush was heard calling with a soft whistle. Rainbow Lorikeets flew noisily overhead and were seen nesting in hollows. Eastern Rosellas were seen near the golf course. The Grey Fantail was busy in the undergrowth. The Fan-tailed Cuckoo was heard trilling but as usual not visible. Add to that the Common Bronze-wing was walking ahead of the group and eventually flew off into the tea trees. The back to the Visitors' Centre for breakfast.

Frank's group checked out the Wetlands too but coffee and croissants drew us back.

Judith Sise

The A Team

Janelle Cadd, a Ranger at Braeside Park, led a Cardinia Sandbelt Team with local staff and Braeside Park A team Volunteers, to use chicken wire around the fences to exclude Rabbits from the Diuris Block. The original fence was installed in 1993 and needed regular checking to keep the rabbits from degrading an important habitat inside the fenced off area.

The A team completed preparation works making pins for the fence in the lead up to the day.

Everyone worked hard to re-establish a secure perimeter fence. This is just start of further work to try to control rabbits within the Park, including the areas of Dry Forest and Woodland, Heathland and the EPBC-listed Plains Grassy Woodland. The Braeside Park rabbit program is part of the Western Port and South-East Melbourne Conservation Action Plan.

In October, Janelle Cadd attended a two-day Rabbit Leadership Course at Phillip Island run by the Victorian Rabbit Action Network and will share this knowledge with volunteers and Rangers. Darren Mitchell and Janelle Cadd, Rangers.



Get to know our committee members

Spotlight on Rosemaree MacLean - Assistant Secretary

What is your role with FOBP committee?

My role with FOBP committee is Assistant Secretary.

How long have you been on the committee?

I was invited to attend committee meetings as a visitor in early 2017, then was elected as a committee member in August 2017 at the AGM.

Why did you join the committee?

I have been a park visitor for many years. My first introduction was when our children were invited to attend a party at the playground. I was taken by the beauty of the park but had no idea how big the park was at that stage. A few years later I was looking for a relaxing, natural setting to facilitate walks and morning teas for participants in a recovery program and I remembered Braeside Park. Over time I noticed the physical, mental, and social health benefits for those participating in the activity. So, when I sustained a back injury, I incorporated walks into my own recovery. I began to fully appreciate the healing power of Nature. Soon the park became a place where I could rejuvenate my body and spirit and I became a regular visitor. The next level of involvement came when someone told me about the Nocturnal Walks hosted by the FOBP volunteers. I began to attend each month and discovered I was quite good at spotting possums and tawny frogmouths and was able to assist the group. I was interested in finding out more about the work of this volunteer group and accepted an invitation to attend a committee meeting. I found there was a great community spirit at meetings and was impressed by the way members worked together in a friendly, collaborative way to get things done. The FOBP has many activities and projects if you want to contribute, and you can choose your level of involvement.

Is there anything you want to achieve while a committee member?

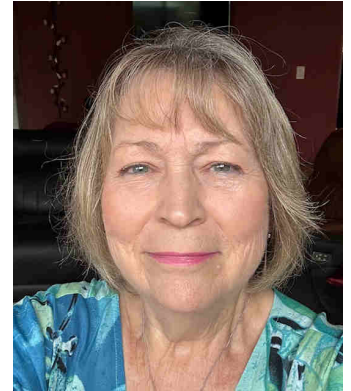
When the founding members of the bird survey group retired, I took on the role of group leader. When the group reformed after Covid I started working on building the membership and our collective knowledge of the birds of Braeside Park. Our ability to identify bird species is improving and I encourage members to use mobile bird apps to assist with bird identification; this is enhancing our capacity to do the work with greater accuracy. The main goal is to collect bird data which can be used to monitor bird populations in the park for management and conservation purposes. In the process, we catch up with everyone and have a good yarn, so it's a social group too.

In 2024, I would like to assist the committee with the production of posters to display some of the birds likely to be found in the wetland, woodland, and heathland areas. The posters can be placed in key locations to inform the public and can be sold to raise funds for FOBP projects.

What changes to the park have you seen over the years?

During Covid I observed a huge increase in park attendance. Thank goodness that has reduced somewhat; for me it was too crowded with many people racing around the tracks on bikes, so not very relaxing!

The most significant change I've seen has been the growth and consolidation of vegetation that was planted by FOBP volunteers and the Ranger team many years ago. The upper and middle storey is filling what was previously barren farmland. Hopefully, we can plant more lower storey plants to attract small birds and provide more habitat for reptiles and insects.



Get to know our committee members (cont)

What is it about Braeside Park that makes you return regularly?

It is my green home, my sanctuary where I can immerse myself in Nature. I love following the seasons and cycles of life in the park. Spring brings new life of all kinds. Hot, dry summer days bring dragonflies and buzzing insects and the chatter of bird life. Autumn brings cooler, wet weather, spectacular sunrises, and fungi. Autumn is also a great time to visit as a diverse array of fungi can be found throughout the park. The huge boletes are spectacular, ghost fungi are beautiful to behold and emit a faint, green glow in the dark and the red basket stinkhorn is another wonder worthy of the search. Winter mornings can be chilly, but walking in the fog or mist is an unforgettable experience. For me it's about walking the trails, breathing the fresh air, and relaxing while I take in the surrounds and look for wildlife. There's so much to see at Braeside Park, there's always something new to discover.

What activities in the park are you interested in doing?

I would like to continue facilitating bird surveys, reporting bird data and being a spotter on the nocturnal walks. I would like to assist with the production of bird posters and with other fundraisers like the Bunnings sausage sizzle.

Are there any activities you would like to see commenced?

It would be beneficial to produce a booklet on the flora, fauna and fungi of Braeside Park so visitors can learn more about the diversity of life in the park and perhaps contribute to preserving the extraordinary natural resources which are surrounded more and more by urban development.

What is your vision of Braeside Park in 100 years 2122-2123?

Planting of all levels of vegetation is complete. Braeside Park now plays a critical role as a haven and refuge for native animals that struggle to survive in suburbia. New lakes have been created to drought-proof the park which is now subject to protracted periods of drought as a result of climate change. Governments now recognize the importance of the park as an oasis in suburbia and value the benefits to wildlife and humans. As a result, the park receives funding for more paid staff to manage the park's resources and to run education programs. All walking trails have well developed signage and there are education stations where you can find out which animals and plants live in the area. There is a new Visitor Centre with interpretive displays which cover the park's history and natural values. The much-loved animal displays are still there, and the Centre now offers special learning experiences through 'touch' and 'smell' mystery boxes which delight children and adults alike.

What is your profession outside of Braeside Park? (I ask this question so people can see the various backgrounds of committee members)

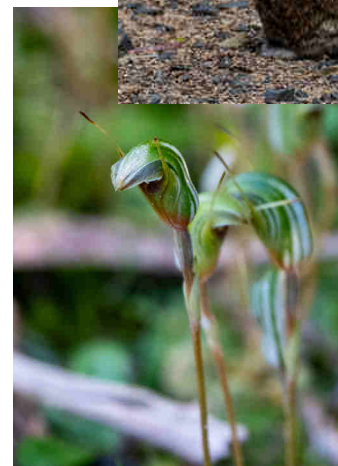
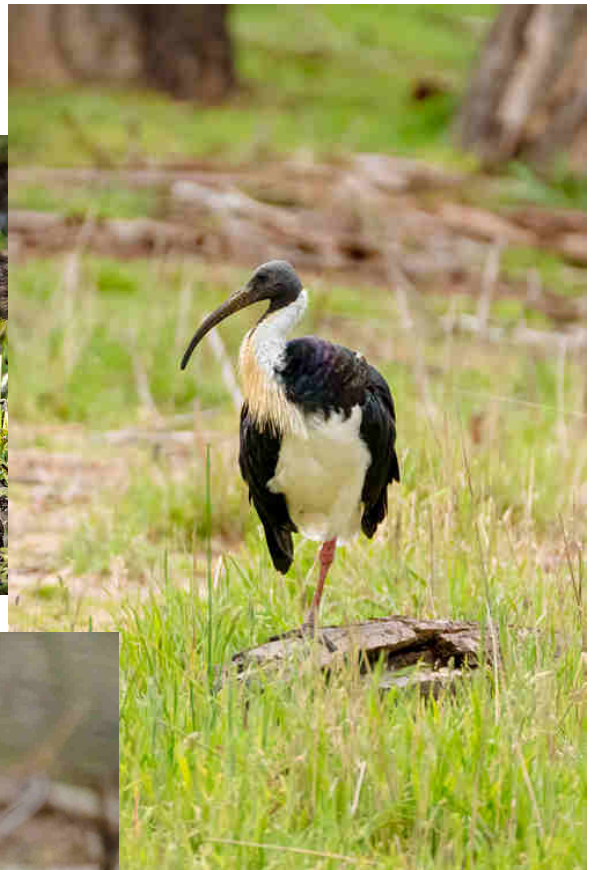
My background is in zoology, I worked at the Melbourne Zoo for some years. I have worked in community mental health recovery programs for over 20 years and currently work as a psychosocial recovery coach and support worker.

The Park in 2023



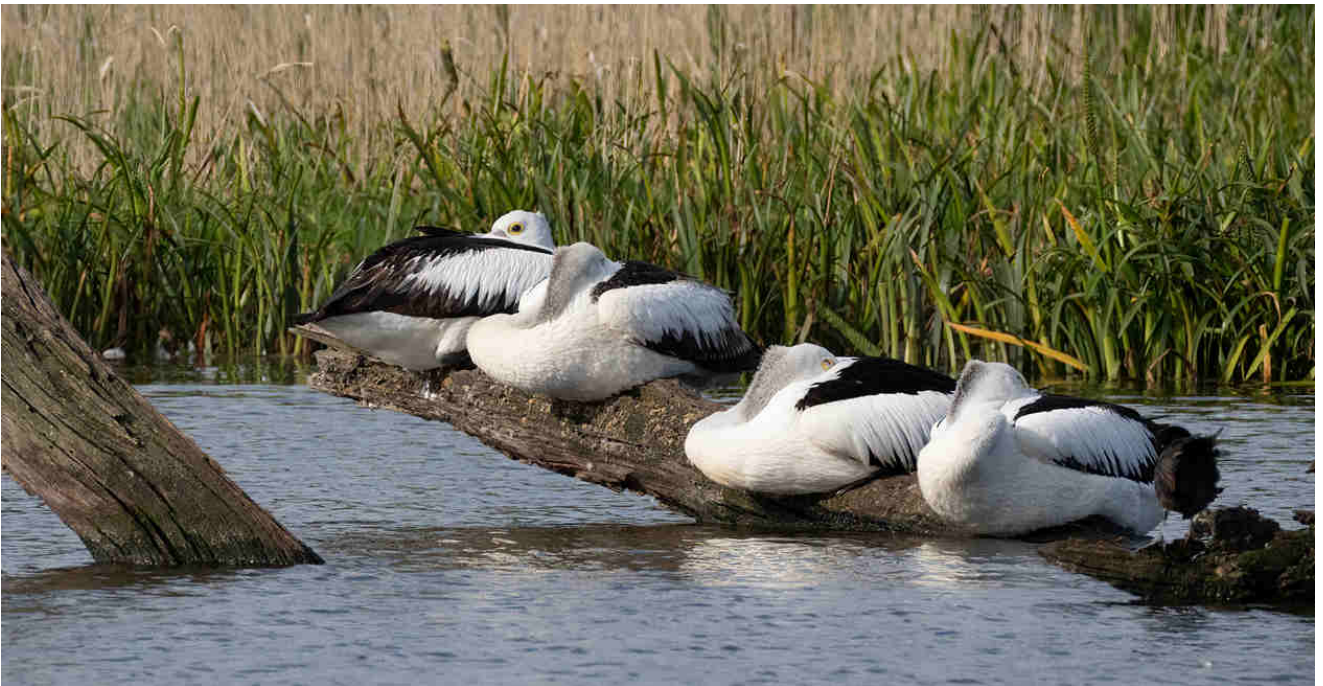
David MacLean

The Park in 2023



David MacLean

The Park in 2023



David MacLean

Photography in the Park

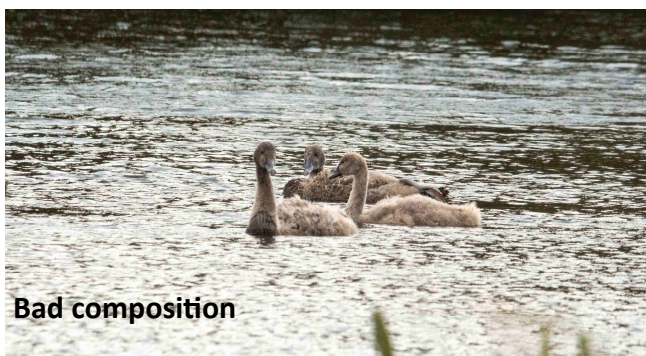
Every year we see a large number of photos from Braeside Park in this Newsletter and also on Facebook and Instagram (possibly other platforms as well).

It is easy to look at some of these photos and just marvel at the luck, ability, equipment or other factors that allowed this photo to be taken. Often I have heard people say that they could not take photos like these as they don't have the knowledge or the expensive equipment.

During the last few years, I have posted photos on this newsletter taken with phones, compact cameras, amateur cameras and professional outfits. What you have should not stop you from trying.

Often when I go photographing (mostly using a Olympus OM1 with a Leica 100-400mm lens), I get a large number of duds. Sometimes I take 100 photos to get 10 good photos of which 2 are truly worth sharing. My duck photo on the 2024 Calendar was taken with a tiny Panasonic pocket camera. The camera helps, but it is your perseverance and determination that truly count.

I am putting a couple of my "dud's" to highlight this. So please don't allow your experience or equipment to stop you from enjoying the experience of photographing nature.



David MacLean



FOBP Committee

Rear - David Boldiston, Frank Russo, Simon Flemming, David MacLean
Front - Margaret Hunter, Heather Markland, Vicky Paraskevas, Judith Sise, Rosemaree MacLean

Friends of Braeside Park Inc.

President:	Judith Sise
Vice President:	Frank Russo
Secretary:	Margaret Hunter
Assistant Secretary:	Rosemaree MacLean
Treasurer:	Vicky Paraskevas
Newsletter Editor:	David MacLean
Committee members:	David Boldiston, Simon Flemming, Heather Markland , Sophie Mills

Postal Address: PO Box 196 Dingley Village, Vic 3172
Phone: 0417 323 460
Email: braesideparkfriends@gmail.com
Web: www.braesideparkfriends.org.au
ABN: 72 959 503 118 INC NO A002420278

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

Newsletter Contributions

Thank you to all you wonderful people who have contributed to this newsletter. Your effort is appreciated.

Your articles are treated with respect and not changed in content or grammar unless required by law.

This newsletter is produced bi-monthly for all financial, honorary and Life members of the Friends group *who have provided* an email address.

Memberships are due on 1st July each year.

If you have an item to share in future editions or have any feedback in relation to this newsletter, please contact the editor at

maclean.david@gmail.com