



**Friends of Williamstown  
Botanic Gardens Inc.**

**NEWSLETTER No 22  
October 2014**

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**Upcoming Events**

**AGM of Friends – 7.30pm Wednesday 22 October 2013, Williamstown Croquet Club**

Join us if you can for the meeting and supper at the Williamstown Croquet Club 104 Victoria Street, Williamstown. Notice of meeting, a membership renewal and a nomination for committee form were posted to all members some time ago.

We'd be pleased to receive nominations for the committee. Memberships may be paid at the AGM. Thanks to those members who have already renewed and returned their forms.

**Storytime under the Golden Elm "Where the Wild Bugs Are" – Friday 24 October 2014  
10.15am – 11.00am in the Williamstown Botanic Gardens**

Once again Anja Lee of the Friends and Russel Barret of Hobsons Bay Libraries will join to present the first of five story times for the 2014 -2015 season. Anja asks for two members of the Friends to come along and assist her at each session. Please contact Sue Murray (phone 9397 5698) if you can help on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

In the event of bad weather an alternative session will be run in the Williamstown branch of Hobsons Bay Libraries by library staff.

**Floyd Lodge Community Garden Open Day - Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2014 - 12.00pm to 2.00pm**

Join the gardeners at Floyd Lodge Community Garden, 63 Hanmer Street, Williamstown to enjoy their garden and purchase seedlings of edible plants including tomatoes. BBQ food and drinks are also for sale.

**Voicing Our Gardens – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November – 2.00pm to 4.00pm**

Shortly you will receive an invitation to a celebration in the Gardens where the results of our oral history project will be presented. Excitingly, the many hours collecting people's memories and photographs has revealed previously unknown and undocumented material about early curators of the Gardens. Panels capturing some of the memories will be on display. There will also be an opportunity to view the Gardens archive. We'd appreciate receiving your reply to the RSVP.

As the Friends are hosting the afternoon tea it would help if you could bring a plate of food. Please contact Sue Murray who will co-ordinate the catering – by phone 9397 5698, email [agriview@bigpond.net.au](mailto:agriview@bigpond.net.au) or to Sue Murray, PO Box 259, Williamstown 3016.

## **Reading Corner Spring - Carol Challis reports**

Spring weather can be quite unpredictable - one day sunny, the next day showers. This made the setting up of the Reading Corner a little tricky but we managed to provide a space to relax and read for some of the holidays. A BIG thank you to all members who volunteered for the roster.

Many hands certainly made for light work. A special thank you goes to Barb Sloan who donated our new trolley (Harvey) which made the job much easier for everyone too.

The Reading Corner has been set up at relevant community events including the Williamstown Literary Festival in May providing a space for parents and their children to enjoy some quiet reading. The Reading Corner also featured at the Upcycle Fibre Fiesta at the Loom Room in the Senior Citizens Hall. This event, organised by Transitions Hobsons Bay, explored how we can re-use and re-create items rather than throw them away and our Reading Corner fits this theme nicely.

## **Head Gardener Michael Wilkin's October Report**

Ongoing maintenance will be the main activity during the Spring.

- Weeding of several garden beds and some pruning has been completed. Main path garden beds were weeded, edged and pruned where required. Echeveria border was divided and gaps filled where necessary.
- Paths have been sprayed and require further attention over coming weeks. The grass on the road flanks has established and is now being cut with the ride on mower. The new path ways around the gardens have been well received.
- Robbie Crivellaro from the HBCC Horticultural group assisted in the gardens with our apprentice Winter, while Head Gardener was on leave. Much was achieved while Robbie was here and her assistance and enthusiasm was much appreciated. At the same time Winter was able to work with Robbie at the depot and was involved in some Nursery work. Very beneficial for his development.
- Loraine Callow continues her invaluable work with promotion of the WBG. Her photos are to be admired and show the gardens in a good light.
- Lindy Wallace has been busy with the Archive on behalf of the Friends and interviewed yours truly with regard some of my recollections over past 27 years. 18 of which I have spent at the WBG.
- Shelley Wood has an expanded role now which includes overseeing works at approx 140 sites in the Municipality. Her official title is Curator Williamstown Botanic Gardens and Team Leader Horticulture.
- Reading corner concluded last week during the school holidays. Weather intervened on a few days, but comments and feedback are most positive.
- Well done to the Friends once again.