



**Friends of Williamstown
Botanic Gardens Inc.**

**NEWSLETTER No 10
November 2011**

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Recent Events and Activities

The main events since our last newsletter were –

**Guided Walk in Williamstown Botanic Gardens with John Hawker, Horticulturist,
Heritage Victoria Saturday 15 October 2011**

Forty people including members of the Friends and of the Inner West Branch of the National Trust enjoyed the informative and entertaining walk with John who provided a list of the trees in the Gardens for each participant. We were pleased to have Shelley Wood, Loraine Callow and Michael Wilkins along. Loraine organised taping of John's talk and we hope to produce some of it for our records and ongoing education activities. We thank John for his generosity in giving us his time and opening our eyes to the arboreal wealth and diversity of our wonderful Botanic Gardens.

Annual General Meeting of the Friends of WBG 26 October 2011

At the annual general meeting the President and Treasurer presented reports. In the absence of any nominations for office bearers and committee members other than those who have held office for the last two years the current committee was reappointed. The President Sue Murray, Secretary and Public Officer Geoff King, Treasurer Diane Robinson, Publicity Barbara Sloan and Committee Members Alan Murray and Kim Sawyer all retained their positions. Helen Page continues in her role as representative of the Williamstown Botanic Gardens Advisory Group.

Shelley Wood spoke to the AGM and advised that the propagating program is to be suspended. For any sale of plants connected with Botanic Gardens certain standards are required. Factors to be resolved are meeting stringent requirements for propagating using sterilised potting material and clean pots so no diseases or weeds are spread, and the need for a suitable central venue for propagating where appropriate standards are monitored. Shelley sees the program beginning again when there are suitable and safe facilities established in the Gardens work area and in the meantime encouraged the Friends to continue their work on educational and art activities.

Shelley had met a group of Friends in the current propagating group and explained the new situation. She has undertaken to contact other Friends groups for advice on their practices which she will report on to us.

Carol Challis gave a report on the exciting programs planned by the Children's Activities and Education Sub Committee for 2012 which is designated the Year of Reading.

Story Time in the Gardens - Magical Creatures 28 October 2011

On a sunny, windy Friday morning Anja Lee of the Friends and Russel Barrett of Hobsons Bay Libraries ran a delightful session of songs stories and activities which engaged a large group of children. The numbers were similar to those of previous seasons – the Golden Elm Lawn dotted with up to 200 children ranging from babies to four to five year olds and their parents. The Friends distributed brochures, coloured flyers of the 2011 – 2012 Story Time program and again sold children's books provided by the Friends of Altona Library. We appreciate the work of HBCC staff in producing the flyers, advertising the program and setting up in the Gardens on the day. It is a highly successful joint activity. The Toy Library also attended and many children enjoyed seeing and playing with some of the equipment available for borrowing by members.

Upcoming Events and Activities

Official Celebration of the Pond Restoration Sunday 27 November 2011

Hobsons Bay City Council is inviting the community to the Gardens to celebrate the restoration of the pond **between 11.00am to 2.30pm on Sunday 27 November 2011**. The Hobsons Bay City Band and the Won't Go Quietly Trio will play during the day, the Mayor will speak at an official ceremony at about 11.30am then it will be lunchtime, more music and an activity for children.

The Friends have been asked to participate. We will have a marquee at the event where we will have a display and brochures, may sell books and will run the children's activity after lunch. All members of the Friends are invited to come along (maybe with a picnic lunch) and enjoy the celebrations.

We ask any members who can, to come along and help us set up between 10.00am and 11.00am, go on a roster to man the table in the marquee for an hour or so between 11.00am and 2.00pm, or help with the children's activity after 12.30pm. Please either email or phone Sue Murray if you can volunteer some time so we can make up a roster. The email is williebotgardens@gmail.com and the phone number is 9397 5698.

Jack and the Beanstalk 22 November 2011

Prep students from Williamstown Primary School will enjoy a lively session in the Gardens run by Anja Lee of the Friends and Fred Van Someron at 9.30am on Tuesday 22 November. Thanks to Anja for the energy, commitment and creativity she brings to this and many other events for children to foster appreciation and love of the Gardens.

Story Time in the Gardens - Bush Christmas 16 December 2011

This final activity of the Friends in 2011 will be at 10.30am on Friday 16 December on the Golden Elm lawn in the Gardens where once again Anja Lee and Russel Barrett will provide a stimulating and engaging event for preschool children and their parents. Members of the Friends are welcome to come along to enjoy the activity and the Gardens.

Thanks and congratulations to our Children's Activity and Education subcommittee for the great work they do bringing children into the Gardens for memorable experiences.

Annual Subscription Renewals Now Due

Members are reminded that subscriptions are due. A renewal form accompanies this newsletter.