



**Friends of Williamstown
Botanic Gardens Inc.**

**NEWSLETTER No 12
August 2012**

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1. Recent Events and Activities

April

April was a very busy month.

Paint the Gardens

The major event was Paint the Gardens, held on April 1st and was attended by more than 200 people. The weather was fine and the event a great success. There were 38 entries in the open section and 98 in the young person's section. The standard of entries was extremely high. The prize winners were:

**PAINT THE GARDENS ART COMPETITION 2012
AWARD WINNERS**

Open Section

First Prize	Dimity Gregson	From the Liquid Amber Garden
Second Prize	Jan Johnston	By the Pond
People's Choice	Jenny Viney	Autumn in the Gardens
Highly Commended	Carole Smith	The Gardens
Highly Commended	Felicity Joll	Shakespeare in the Gardens
Highly Commended	Jenny Viney	Autumn in the Gardens

Young Persons Section

First Prize	Alexia Humphries	Reflections in the Pond
People's Choice	Grace Kennedy	Succulence
Highly Commended	Christina Pelosi Thorpe	Moreton Bay Fig
Highly Commended	Rose Murphy	Picnic under the Golden Elm
Highly Commended	Alexander Loughran	Plants Need Water

The prizes were presented by Councillor Altair.

There were botanic art classes held by Stefan Gevers and Erica Gofton. The Newport Folk and Fiddle group played during the afternoon and the "Saturday Morning Team" picnicked and sold tea and muffins while coffee was available from a commercial van.

Photos of the event can be viewed on our web site <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~wbotanic/>

We wish to thank the following sponsors for their generous support:

- **Banjo Plumbing**
- **Bendigo Bank Williamstown**
- **Bonny Gardens**
- **Clark, Toop & Taylor**
- **Ferguson Street Provisions**
- **Fitzgerald Optometry**
- **Friends of William Botanic Gardens**
- **Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services**
- **Patsy Toop**

We also wish to thank all those people who helped make the day such a success. These included the many Friends of the garden who helped to set up and run the event, the group of members who propagated plants for sale, the Friends of Altona Library who donated children's books for sale and Varleene Gibson who donated magazines.

Special thanks are due to Kim Sawyer who put so much time and effort into organising the event and Hobsons Bay City Council for their strong support through their Arts and Culture department. This was a major event of Art in Public Places.

Book Corner

Over the school holidays around Easter, a quiet space for reading appeared in the Williamstown Botanic Gardens. Visitors were surprised and delighted to find a peaceful oasis to enjoy the pleasant weather with a few rugs, cushions and a selection of books for their children as well as some gardening magazines for inspiration.

The Reading Corner was piloted by the Children/Education Group during weekdays of the school holidays, locating it in different places for the visitors to find. A variety of books were sourced with the theme of 'garden' as well as the usual classics. Items such as outdoor cushions and portable shelving were purchased with grants from Hobsons Bay City Council and the Federal Government. With a roster, volunteers brought out the items each day around 9:30am and packed up at 3:00pm trusting visitors to use the resources respectfully. A clipboard and pen were provided for feedback.

It was pleasing to read the comments, especially the children's comments about how much they enjoyed the books and the space. Older visitors wrote how much the experience enhanced their visit to the gardens, allowing the children to run then sit quietly and enjoy some reading time. Even overseas visitors commented on how nice it was to find such a beautiful place. No books or items went missing; in fact, offers of extra books were received.

Due to its success and weather permitting (the Reading Corner is not set up if rain is expected), we will be organising this program again. This time we will have larger signage and a little more promotion (but not too much). After all, it is meant to be a quiet space to enjoy the gardens.

If you have some spare time on weekdays to help setup or pack away the Reading Corner during the next school holidays (22nd September - 7th October), please contact Carol Challis 9397 2069 or 0411 042511 who is co-ordinating the roster.

Story Time in the Gardens – Teddy Bears’ Picnic under the golden elm

The final activity for the story time season of 2011-2012 was on 27 April 2012 on the Golden Elm lawn in the Gardens. These events are run in conjunction with Hobsons Bay Libraries. We were again lucky to have glorious weather and more than 250 children and adults turned up. The Toy Library mounted a display. Thanks again to Anja Lee and Russel Barrett and to Hobsons Bay Libraries for another stimulating and engaging series of events for preschool children and their parents.

May to August

Children/Education Sub-committee

This sub-committee has been meeting at Sirens to plan future events. Their next meeting will be advertised so interested members can attend.

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Visit Williamstown

The Geelong Friends visited the Williamstown Botanic Gardens in July. Subsequently they wrote to Shelley Wood thanking her, enclosing a donation of \$100 our Friends and enquiring whether we be interested in having a summer picnic in the Williamstown Gardens as a joint event for the Geelong and Williamstown Friends. We thank them for their donation and are following up organising a summer picnic with them.

Propagating Group

We are pleased that propagating by the Friends has been re-established under the direction of Shelley Wood. Members Helen Olsen, Peter Lindstrum, Diane Miovoc and Eva Haabjoern met Shelley for a briefing on 16 July. They are now meeting on alternate Mondays from 10.00am to 12.00 noon at Williamstown Botanic Gardens. The next session will be on Monday 27th August. **Members interested in participating can contact Helen Olsen 9397 5378.**

Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) Conference

Representatives from Botanic Gardens around Victoria met on 9 August in the new facilities at the Williamstown Cricket Ground. Three members of the Friends assisted with registration and welcome of delegates and then observed the conference. Carol Challis provided an excellent display of our activities and the Friends were acknowledged for their support of our Gardens.

2. Future Events

General Meeting of the Friends – 7.30pm Monday 3 September 2012

The meeting will be held at the Williamstown Ladies’ Bowling Club, Melbourne Road, Williamstown. Shelley Woods, curator of the Williamstown Botanic Gardens, will speak - reporting on the BGANZ conference, recent developments in our Gardens and discuss opportunities for our Friends group. Supper will follow.

General Meeting of the Friends – 7.30pm Monday 1 October 2012

At the Ladies Bowling Club, Friends of Melton Botanic Gardens will present the story of their botanic gardens which were actually established and are being developed by their Friends group. Supper will follow.

Annual General Meeting – 7.30pm Monday 22 October 2012

Our AGM will be held in the Ladies Bowling Club.

Story Times – October 2012 to February 2013

Story Times will recommence on 26 October 2012 in Children's Week.

The model of outdoor story times developed by the Friends and Hobsons Bay Libraries has proved so successful and popular that Hobsons Bay Libraries are to run outdoor events in Altona and Laverton. Consequently, there will now be three story times under the golden elm instead of five, reducing the resourcing demands on Hobsons Bay Libraries.

The sessions which will run from 10.30am to 11.15am are:

Pond Life, 26 October 2012

Santa in the Gardens, 14 December 2012

Kookaburra under the Old Gum Tree, 22 February 2013

Committee Meetings

The committee have been meeting, and will continue to meet, on the first Monday of the month in the Williamstown Ladies' Bowling Club except when there is a general meeting. Interested members are always welcome to attend.

3. Other Matters

Venues

The Williamstown Bowling Club lease of the Williamstown Ladies Bowling Club has expired. The Friends are now booking this venue through the Hobsons Bay City Council. We thank the Williamstown Bowling Club for their generous support.

Liability Insurance

We have renewed membership of the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria (RHSV) and paid our liability insurance through them.

Access to newsletters

The Friends have put newsletters of the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria (*The Gardeners Gazette*), the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (*Campsis*), the Friends of Williamstown Botanic Gardens and other Friends groups in the Williamstown Branch of Hobsons Bay Libraries (currently in Electra Street, Williamstown). Ask at the desk for materials placed by the Friends if you would like to browse through interesting and relevant publications in the library.

Annual Subscription Renewals

These are due on October 22 at the time of the Annual General Meeting. Renewal forms will be sent out with the formal notice of the AGM.

We thank Wade Noonan's office for assistance in copying this newsletter.