



**Friends of Williamstown
Botanic Gardens Inc.**

**NEWSLETTER No 14
September 2012**

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Recent Events and Activities

General Meeting – September 3, 2012

A general meeting was held at the Ladies' Bowling Club on September 3 and addressed by Shelley Wood, curator of the Williamstown Botanic Gardens and Loraine Callow, HBCC Arts Facilities Officer. They reported on the BGANZ (Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand) conference in August and on recent developments in our Gardens.

The subject of the BGANZ conference was Restoring Heritage Landscapes – two of the presentations dealt with the restoration of the Cascades at Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens Daylesford and the Parterre and Scroll Garden reconstruction at the Carlton Gardens abutting the Exhibition Buildings. Around 100 people attended. It was an excellent opportunity to meet people associated with other Botanic Gardens, municipalities and training institutions and for the Friends to assist with registration and provide a display. Shelley reported that the delegates were very interested in the initiatives of the Friends and that some plan to attend the next the Story Time in the Gardens

Shelley and Loraine discussed the last year's activities notably the restoration of the Ornamental Pond which began a year ago. Birds are returning to the Pond, including Nankeen night herons and ducks. Not using chemical sprays and utilising munash fertiliser (derived from rock dust) has created a healthy Gardens ecology - a local resident has so far recorded a total of 114 species of invertebrates in the Gardens in an ongoing project.

Loraine reported that work is proceeding on drawing up a new Master Plan for the Gardens. A survey of the Gardens (which will be provided to consultants) is underway. The next stage is mapping and analysis of all the trees and their required maintenance.

Shelley reported that Head Gardener, Michael Wilkins, is now producing regular horticultural reports a version of which can be available to the Friends. She tabled the August report.

After the speakers, there was discussion of a number of items of interest to the Friends.

“Spring into Life” Expo – September 8, 2012

On Saturday 8 September the Friends supported the HBCC "Step into Life" expo at Bayfit Leisure Centre. The aim was to inform residents of opportunities for living a healthy life within Hobsons Bay - encouraging people to enjoy all there is on offer in this great community. Four members manned a display and provided handouts to promote the Botanic Gardens and the many and varied Friends events, especially the outdoor activities. We thank Carol Challis for the display material and handouts she produced.

Mini Beasts Activity – September 12 and 13, 2012

Anja Lee ran two wonderful sessions (assisted by Carol Challis and Megan Kearney of the Friends as well as teachers and parents) with grade 2 students from Williamstown Primary School in the last week but one of term. This was the culmination of a term's study at the school. HBCC ranger, Andrew Webster conducted one of the activities related to pond life. In all there were five different activities, greatly enjoyed. Equipment used was purchased with money granted to the Friends by the Federal Government and HBCC.

Future Events

Book Corner – Spring School holidays 2012

Book corner has been running over these school holidays on week days when the weather has allowed it.

If you can help setup at 9.00 am or pack up at 3.00 pm during the week beginning the 1st of October please contact Carol Challis by phone 9397 2069 or by email at carol@challispalace.com.

General Meeting - Monday 1 October, 2012

All members are invited to a general meeting at 7.30pm on Monday evening at the Ladies Bowling Club, Melbourne Road, Williamstown. Jill and John Bentley from the Friends of the Melton Botanic Gardens will give a presentation of how their Friends group established and now maintain their Botanic Gardens. Supper will follow.

Annual General Meeting – 22 October, 2012

The AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 22 October in the Ladies' Bowling Club, Melbourne Road Williamstown.

Annual Subscription Renewals

These fall due on 22 October 2012, the date of the AGM. Notices will be sent out.

Story Times – from 26 October 2012

As advised in our last newsletter, there will be three Story Times Under the Golden Elm run in conjunction with Hobsons Bay Libraries. The times and subjects will be:

26 October 2012	Pond Life
14 December 2012	Santa in the Gardens
22 February 2012	Kookaburra Sits in the Old Gum Tree

Next Committee Meeting – 5 November 2012

Because of the general meeting and the AGM in October, the next committee meeting will be on Monday 5 November at 7.30pm at the Williamstown Ladies Bowling Club.

Picnic in WBG with Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens

Members of the Geelong Friends who attended the BGANZ conference are looking forward to the combined summer picnic they proposed – the date is to be decided.