



Friends of Williamstown Botanic Gardens Inc.

NEWSLETTER No 16 April 2013

President: Sue Murray ph 9397 5698 *Secretary:* Geoffrey King ph 9397 5672
Postal address P.O. Box 826, Williamstown 3016
email williebotgardens@gmail.com
website <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~wbotanic/>

1. Recent Events and Activities

General Meeting Wednesday - 3 April 2013

Ian Rae's presentation "Significant Trees of Williamstown" was lively and informative. Firstly, he presented an official definition of the characteristics of "significant trees" and then using his own expanded version showed a series of beautiful photos of local trees by category, and named their location. Members who attended found it engaging and many of were interested to add to Ian's collection!

Subsequently there was some discussion of the Hobsons Bay City Council's street tree planting program for Williamstown and surrounds. We also noted that Victoria's current requirements for pruning trees around power lines following the Black Saturday fires will adversely impact on major street trees in Hobsons Bay. It was agreed to seek a speaker on these matters for our next general meeting.

If you missed Ian Rae's presentation you may like to attend the meeting of the Williamstown Garden Club at 7.00pm on the 14th of October at the Ladies Bowling Club when it will be repeated.

Book Corner - 2nd to the 12th of April

Throughout the first term school holidays a dedicated team of members ran the book corner on fine week days. It has been decided to only advertise the book corner in a low key way, allowing visitors to the Gardens to just discover and enjoy it. Thank you to Meagan Kearney and Carol Challis of the Children's Activity/Education Sub-committee for once again co-ordinating this activity and to Felicity Dent, Phyllis Hooper, Lindy Wallace, Melanie Suares-Jury and Rae Szuch who volunteered to set up and pack up.

Paint the Gardens Sunday - 14 April 2013

As Loretta Demasis wrote "It was a successful day all round; lots of patrons enjoyed the wonderful exhibitions and appealing activities created a great environment for a family day out. Thankfully, Melbourne's splendid Autumn weather also decided to support our initiatives!" There were 43 entries in the Open Section and 76 entries in the young Persons Section. Hundreds of people attended and enjoyed the exhibits as well as voting for the People's Choice awards.

The lively event included art activities for children run by Sandra Di Lisio of the Hobsons Bay Art Society, a book corner for children and plant and book sales organised by the Friends of Williamstown Botanic Gardens, a picnic setting and refreshments provided by the Relay for Life team, coffee sales from the coffee cart, a wonderful display of wildlife photography including birds and insects of the Gardens taken by Nora Peters, music from

the Newport Folk and Fiddle group and a display by Stefan Gevers, teacher of botanic art. Altogether it was a great community event.

We thank our judges Hobsons Bay City Council Mayor, Angela Altair, John Gambardella, local Williamstown artist and Sandra Di Lisio, representing the Hobsons Bay Arts Society. Acknowledging that their task had been difficult because of the high standard of entries, Mayor Angela Altair presented the prizes to the following successful entrants.

PAINT THE GARDENS ART COMPETITION 2013 AWARD WINNERS

Open Section

First Prize	Gwen Temby	Sunshine and Shadows in the Garden
Second Prize	Jan Johnston	The Pond
People's Choice	Gwen Temby	Sunshine and Shadows in the Garden
Highly Commended	Liz Mckeag	Queensland Bottle Tree
Highly Commended	Dimi Simeondis	Standing Guard
Highly Commended	Stella Vassiliou	Calm before the Storm
Highly Commended	Pauline McCahon	Tai Chi Heaven

Young Person's Section

First Prize	Vivian Nguyen	Silhouette
Additional Youth Prize	Nicholas Whyte	The Water Fountain
People's Choice	Baani Singh	Hibiscus
Highly Commended	Noah Stojkovski	The Magic Tree
Highly Commended	Maddie Bryant	The Enchanted Tree
Highly Commended	Reze Wang	Summer Sunset
Highly Commended	Katherine Nguyen	Bottle Tree
Highly Commended	Lachlan Mee	Bottle Tree
Highly Commended (Under 12 yrs)	Tyler Van Niel	Today's History
Highly Commended (Under 12 yrs)	Caitlin Brunton	Hibiscus

Special thanks to our generous sponsors who made this event possible:

Banjo Plumbing
Bendigo Bank Williamstown
Bonnie Gardens
Dirty Dogs Pet Supplies
Ferguson Street Provisions
Ferguson Street Lotto
Fitzgerald Optometry
Friends of Williamstown Botanic Gardens Inc.
Foster Care Association of Victoria Inc.
Hobsons Bay City Council
Lions Club of Williamstown

Six extra prizes were conferred on the day as extra sponsors signed up.

Many people contributed to the success of the day, a collaboration of the Friends and Hobsons Bay City Council's Arts, Events and Tourism Department. We appreciate the contribution of Tania Blackwell and Ilona Rayson from Arts, Events and Tourism in preparing for the event as part of the Art in Public Places programme, Shelley Wood, and Loraine Callow for their wonderful contribution on the day (starting at 6.00am and finishing about 6.30pm) and all the members of the Friends who worked to make the day such a success. In particular we thank Kim Sawyer for all his efforts including sourcing the entries, preparing the catalogues and cards for the painting, obtaining easels, and his family, Kessada and Clarisse, for organising registration. Loretta Demasi of the Relay for Life team energetically marketed the event, the Friends Propagating Group had a wide variety of plants sourced from specimens in the Gardens for sale and donated books were sold. Plant sales raised \$389.00 and book sales \$51.50.

The Saturday Morning/Relay for Life Team greatly added to the enjoyment of the day by setting up an al fresco eatery where people could relax at the tables and chairs and where they raised over \$600.00 to contribute to Cancer Research.

It was good to have the support of the HBCC staff who attended the event including Janet Dawes Manager, Arts, Events and Tourism, Ian Brown, Manager, Parks, and Rosemary Clark, Coordinator Marketing from HBCC Libraries.

Reading Corner Donation from Jackie Kerin

"We had a visitor to Paint the Gardens who was not only delighted by the event but thrilled with Reading Corner! So thrilled she went off to her publisher-Museum Victoria and requested a copy of both of her books which have been signed and dedicated to the Friends (Reading Corner)!! Both are true stories, one titled *Lyrebird* (currently short listed for the upcoming Children's Book Awards) which has beautiful flower illustrations, the other is the most wonderful account of Phar Lap which won a Notable Book award for children a few years back- Jackie has signed both and dropped them on my doorstep last night!!!" Shelley Wood

Heartfelt thanks to Jackie Kerin. Having signed copies of her books in the Reading Corner collection is a real privilege and a great acknowledgement of how valuable this initiative is. It would be great if we can have a reading event next season (i.e. Spring Summer 2013) with Jackie. Loraine Callow has sent the link to Museum Victoria <http://museumvictoria.com.au/about/mv-blog/nov-2012/lyrebird-a-true-story/> full of delightful and interesting information about Jackie's book "Lyrebird"

2. Future Events

General Meeting of the Friends - 7.30pm Monday 6 May 2013

Speaker : Ian Brown, HBCC Manager Parks - "HBCC Street Tree Planting and the Elm Programme"

The meeting will be held at the Williamstown Ladies' Bowling Club, 60-64 Melbourne Road, Williamstown.

You are invited to hear Ian Brown talk about the HBCC's strategy for planting and managing our street trees with particular reference to the Elm Programme. He will also talk about the impact of the Victorian Government mandated pruning requirements on street trees near power lines which were developed after the Black Saturday fires.

HBCC Libraries event ‘Lyrebird’ – 7.00pm Thursday 16 May 2013 in the Williamstown Library

You may be interested to attend the event centred on Jackie Kerin’s “Lyrebird! A true story: the gentle tale of a remarkable friendship between a gardener and a wild bird.” scheduled for 7.00pm on 16 May at Williamstown Library. Details may be found and you can book for this free session at http://libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/event-list?task=view_event&event_id=153

Friends of Bendigo Botanic Gardens Visit to Williamstown Botanic Gardens – Thursday 13 June 2013

We have been contacted by the Friends of Bendigo Botanic Gardens who will visit our Gardens for a walking tour and to meet those members of our Friends group who can come along in the morning of the 13th of June. They will arrive at Southern Cross station by train at 9.30am so will be at the Gardens about mid morning. It is yet to be decided whether they will picnic with us or go to one of Williamstown’s cafes or restaurants as it is early winter. Please note this date in your diaries if you can come. Final details will be provided in early June.

3. Other Matters

Internal Stakeholder Consultation for the Williamstown Botanic Gardens Master Plan

This important meeting will be conducted by Andrea Proctor and Andrew Laidlaw from Laidlaw and Laidlaw Design on Monday 13 May 2013 - representatives from the Friends will attend. There will be a wider community consultation in June 2013 which we will advertise to all members of the Friends.

Background Notes – April 2013 “One of the ways we can ensure the viability of heritage landscapes is through master planning. In 2001 a Master Plan was adopted for Williamstown Botanic Gardens and many projects have been undertaken and completed as a result of the plan – including - restoration of the main gates, planting of the palm walk, restoration of the Alfred Clarke statue, formation of a successful Friends Group, restoration of pathways and replanting in the Pinetum, the installation of new gates, the creation of interpretation and management plans, reintroduction of buffalo lawns, and of course the restoration of the ornamental lake in 2011.

2013 will see the development of a new Master Plan to take the Gardens into the future. This document will build on the historic Gardens, maintaining their heritage significance and well loved features, while proposing new works and management practices...

As part of the Master Plan process we are inviting input from various individuals and groups with a connection to the Gardens, including members of the public. ... we have arranged a series of meetings to discuss the project and gain people’s insight into the Gardens and their management. These meetings will be undertaken before any design work has been commenced and will help inform the development of the Master Plan.

Laidlaw and Laidlaw are experienced in the production of Master Plans for both public and private open spaces, most notably the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, Kyneton Botanic Gardens, Benalla Botanical Gardens and Melbourne Zoo.”

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