

General Meeting

Members (and others interested) are invited to a general meeting of the Friends on **Wednesday March 10 at 7.00 pm.** to progress activities for 2010.

The meeting will be held at the **Community Education Centre, Joan Kirner House**, at the corner of Thompson and Cecil Streets, Williamstown and will finish by approximately 8.30 pm.

There will be two speakers.

- Shelley Wood, Head Gardener, Williamstown Botanic Gardens will speak about current developments in the Gardens and plans for the 150th birthday celebrations during 2010.
- Kim Sawyer. Committee member, Friends of Williamstown Botanic Gardens will speak about art in botanic gardens around the world.

Focuses for Activity for the Friends

The Committee has so far identified three main focuses for activity.

These main focuses are –

- Supporting and developing children's activities in the Gardens. There is widespread agreement that making the Botanic Gardens better known to children should be a major part of the Friends' activity.
- Developing Art activities in the Gardens. There is wide interest in Art in the Gardens, both in terms of painting and in terms of holding exhibitions.
- Participating in the 150th birthday celebrations. This appears to offer major opportunities for promoting Williamstown Botanic Gardens.

Recent Activities

There have been three activities since our last newsletter.

While few members were able to come to the picnic in the Gardens on December 12, the Children's Treasure Hunt run by Anja Lee proved a major success and was appreciated by around 20 children and their parents.

Story time under the Golden Elm Tree, Williamstown Botanic Gardens, was held on Friday 15 January 2010.

To quote Helen Page “Words can't describe what a wonderful event this was for the children of Williamstown and for the Williamstown Botanic Gardens. On a perfect summer day about 300 people attended, mainly small children. They were entertained by storytellers, Russell Barrett (Librarian) and Anja Lee of the Friends who also led singing and oversaw coloured paper folding and running around a small rope lap game. This absolutely proved the asset the City of Hobsons Bay has with these Gardens. For the Friends of Williamstown Botanic Gardens it is a great start for our aim to have every Williamstown child to know and love the Gardens.

All credit to Anja Lee of the Friends of Williamstown Botanic Gardens who initiated and created the original idea for this activity, Jenelle Colston-Ing, Hobsons Bay Libraries, Children and Youth Team Leader who incorporated it into the Hobsons Bay Council's School Holiday Program. We thank librarian Russell and Anja of the Friends who are great assets for Hobsons Bay.”

Helen Page organized a visit by 22 members of the Horticultural Media Association on February 5th for a tour of the Gardens. Helen welcomed the group and gave them an overview of the past ten years and this was followed by a tour of the Gardens led by Shelley Wood. The group included Stephen Ryan and Jane Edmanson from the ABC's *Gardening Australia* program and several radio and print media garden identities. They were very interested to hear all that has been achieved in recent years in the Gardens and were pleased to meet some of the Friends.

If you have ideas for Friends' activities or queries, please get in touch with -

The Friends Committee

PO Box 826 Williamstown 301

or email

williebotgardens@gmail.com

You can view photos of recent activities on our website. When visiting the website, <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~wbotanic/index.html> remember to use the refresh button so that you get the most up-to-date version.