

Recent Activities

General Meeting of Members, March 10 2010

A well attended meeting was held to discuss progress and plan future activities. There were two main speakers, Shelley Wood and Kim Sawyer.

Shelley told us about plans for the 150th anniversary of the Gardens. These include family picnic days, a series of arts based activities for children and heritage and history walking tours.

Kim spoke about the display of Art in Botanic Gardens around the world. The display and performance of art has become a major feature of Botanic Gardens in many countries. He commended the St Kilda "Paint the Gardens" competition as a starting point for our activities.

Two working groups were set up, one to support the development of activities for children of different ages and the other to support art related activities.

The following people volunteered to be members of these working parties –

Children/Education

Leon Frankcom, Samari Smith, Carol Challis

Art in the Gardens

Bev Roberts, Leon Frankcom, Anja Lee, Carol Challis

The 150th Anniversary Celebrations

The 150th Anniversary Celebrations of the Williamstown Botanic Gardens are being organised by the Hobsons Bay City Council and mark the anniversary of the formal opening of the Botanic Gardens in 1860. They will be the culmination of a five year program of events to celebrate their establishment.

Launch of the New Botanic Garden Gates March 19 2010

This was the first major event of the 150th Anniversary Celebrations. There was a very successful launch of the new gates to the Botanic Gardens in Osborne and Gifford Streets by the Lord Mayor, Councillor Bill Tehan accompanied by Councillor Angela Altair. There was a large crowd.

The gates were commissioned as public artworks to reflect aspects of the Gardens. They were designed by Anuradha Patel and Veislav Georgiiev and make a beautiful addition to the Gardens.

Coming Events

Teddy Bear's Picnic

The next event in the Anniversary Celebrations will be a Storytelling and Teddy Bears' Picnic for children on Friday April 23 at 10.30 am. This has been widely publicised around Williamstown. As with the successful January "Under the Elms" event, Anja Lee of the Friends will co-operate with the Hobsons Bay Libraries on the presentation.

Walking Tour of Gardens

This is the subject of the attached flier from Helen Page and will be on **Saturday May 1 at 1.00 pm**. It will start from inside the Main Gates at the corner of **Osborne and Grattan Streets**. Everyone who went on the similar walk last year enjoyed it and learnt more about the Gardens.

Do not miss this opportunity

Garden Party

A Garden Party as part of the Anniversary Celebrations is planned for Sunday September 19.

More major events in the Celebrations are scheduled for November 2010.

New Logo

You will have noticed the new logo in our letterhead. This is the work of Carol Challis and will be used on all future Friends material. Our thanks are due to Carol and to Wendy Ellerton.

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.