

RECENT ACTIVITIES

The 150th Anniversary Garden Party

The Garden Party held on 24th October was a great success, with fine weather and a big crowd.

The Friends' marquee (supplied by the City of Hobsons Bay) was manned throughout the morning and afternoon and had many visitors including families from as far away as Albury. There was much interest in the Friends Group marquee and a number of new applications for membership were received.

Councillors Angela Altair and Peter Hemphill represented Hobsons Bay Council and there was a group of councillors from Buloke shire.

The children's activity "I spy in my garden" had around sixty entrants and was greatly enjoyed. Once again, special thanks are due to Anja Lee and Carol Challis for the success of this activity.

Visit to Ballarat November 2010

Members of the Williamstown Friends group visited Ballarat Botanical Gardens on 23rd November. We were welcomed by Joan Garner, the President of the Ballarat Friends and shown round the gardens and their Heritage listed trees.

The Ballarat Friends Group was started 28 years ago and now has a membership approaching 200. It meets weekly. There are special groups involved in plant propagation, guiding, engraving of signs for the garden, history research, botanical art and education.

The Friends Group has its own building and a special area set aside for propagation. It now gains substantial income from sales of plants.

The Williamstown Friends have bought some engraved labels from Ballarat as a start to a program of labelling significant trees in the Williamstown Botanic Gardens.

Children's Activities

There have been four more Story Time activities for children, run in conjunction with the City of Hobsons Bay Libraries, who have also provided posters and other advertising. These have continued to be very successful with attendances of 200 people or more. Only the January event has been

hindered by the weather and this was moved successfully to the Uniting Church Hall in Electra Street, Williamstown.

Special thanks are due to Anja Lee and Russell Barrett for the tremendous effort they put into making these events a success and to Hazel Finney for providing copies of the posters for distribution by the Friends.

COMING EVENTS

Next Committee Meeting 7th March 2011

The next committee meeting will be held on Monday March 8th at the **Williamstown Ladies Bowling Club** at 7.30 pm. The Ladies Bowling Club is adjacent to the main Bowling Club building. The entrance is in Melbourne Road.

The Education, Art and Publicity sub-committees will report and it is intended to discuss the possibility of setting up a propagation activity.

All interested members (not just committee members) are invited to attend.

General Meeting 4th April 2011

This meeting will be held at the Williamstown Bowling Club **in the main Club building at 7.30pm.**

Our guest speaker will be Richard Barley, Chief Executive Officer of Australia's Open Garden Scheme and former Director of Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens.

He will speak about the historical context of botanic gardens in Victoria and their contemporary and future roles.

This promises to be a very interesting evening with an authoritative speaker. Please make a note of this date and make sure you attend

Paint the Gardens 16th April 2011

The Williamstown Botanic Gardens Art Competition "Paint the Gardens" will be held in April. This competition is part of "Art in Public Places". Entrants must register by Friday 8th April. All entries will be displayed at the Botanic Gardens on Saturday 16th April between 11.00am and 5.00pm.

Judges will be local artists Stefan Gevers and Erika Gofton and Councillor Angela Altair

Judging guidelines are available at <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~wbotanic/>.

There have been some generous sponsorship commitments.

Thanks are due to Dr. Kim Sawyer for the time he has put into the development of this activity.

Children's Activities – Story Time in the Gardens 29th April 2011

The final Story Time in the Gardens will be held on 29th April at 10.30am. It will be a Teddy Bears Picnic with all children invited to bring their teddy bears.

Everyone is invited. We suggest that anyone who has not yet been to a Story Time takes the opportunity to see the last of these enjoyable events for this season.

Schools Program

Programs are being developed for schools, offering activities to grades 3 to 6. Material has been designed. These activities are based on the study of selected trees in the Gardens and are designed to follow on from this year's children's activities. There are also creative writing exercises. Leon Frankcom has approached schools to discuss implementing these programs.

Prep and Grade One children will enjoy activities and materials developed by Anja Lee and Carol Challis.

Membership

There are still a number of membership renewals due. [Click here to download a membership form.](#)

Renewals

We would appreciate receiving your application to join or to renew your membership. For information phone Friends secretary Geoff King 9397 5672.

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.