



**Friends of Williamstown  
Botanic Gardens Inc.**

**NEWSLETTER No 23**

**February 2015**

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**1. Upcoming Events**

**Storytime under the Golden Elm “Pond Life” – Friday 27 February  
10.30am – 11.15am in the Williamstown Botanic Gardens**

This is the fourth storytime of the 2014 -2015 season. Anja asks for two members of the Friends to come along and assist her. Please contact Sue Murray (phone 9397 5698) if you can help on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Friends Committee meeting – Monday 1 March  
7.30 pm at the Williamstown Croquet Club Victoria Street Williamstown**

While this is not a general meeting any members interested are welcome to attend.

**General Meeting of Friends – Wednesday 18 March  
7.30 pm at the Williamstown Croquet Club, 104 Victoria Street Williamstown**

You are invited to come along to a working meeting for a briefing and for setting up the roster for the day of Paint the Gardens Art competition. We are seeking donations of gardening books to sell at Paint the Gardens. We will collect books at the meeting. Alternatively you may deliver them to Sue Murray, 182 Cecil Street Williamstown 3016.

**Storytime under the Golden Elm “Teddy Bears Picnic” – Friday 27 March  
10.30am – 11.15am in the Williamstown Botanic Gardens**

It is useful if two members of the Friends to come along and assist. Please contact Sue Murray (phone 9397 5698) if you can help with this final session.

**Paint the Gardens Art Competition – Sunday 29 March  
11.00am – 5.00pm in the Williamstown Botanic Gardens**

Work is well under way and once again this will be a great day. Do come along and let friends and family know it is on. Any assistance on the day would be appreciated. We have wonderful local sponsorship from Back to Basics, Banjo Plumbing, Bendigo Bank Williamstown, Book and Paper, Bunnings Altona, Dog Town Pet Supplies, Ferguson Street Provisions, Fitzgerald Optometry, Friends of Williamstown Botanic Gardens, Hobsons Bay City Council, Kim Sawyer, Lions Club Williamstown, Paint Right, Pioneer Textile Cuttings Pty Ltd, Point Gellibrand Rotary Club, Provisions and the Saturday Morning Team.

**Proposed Visit to Friends of Bendigo Botanic Gardens – Tuesday 14 April  
Bendigo Botanic Gardens**

Provided we have enough members able to go, we will have this outing which was originally planned for 2014. Soon we will seek expressions of interest.

## **2. Recent Events and Activities**

Plenty has been going on since our AGM in October 2014 where our committee was returned to work for another year.

**Storytime under the Golden Elm “Where the Wild Bugs Are” – Friday 24 October  
10.30am – 11.15am in the Williamstown Botanic Gardens**

**Storytime with bilingual kindergarten - 25 October in the Williamstown Botanic Gardens**

Anja Lee piloted a story time with her bilingual kindergarten group – using a newly purchased book they explored flowers and butterflies and hunted in the Gardens for butterflies. Anja conducted this session in German, translating the book for the children.

**“Voicing the Gardens” - Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2014  
2.00pm to 5.00pm in the Williamstown Botanic Gardens**

This was the culmination of the oral history project carried out by Lindy Wallace utilising the HBCC community grant. It was a wonderful event attended by the interviewees, some of their families, members of the Friends and the community, Janet Long from the Williamstown Historical Society and council officers including HBCC CEO Chris Eddy. Members of the Friends provided a wonderful afternoon tea and we thank everybody who assisted - not forgetting Shelley Wood and Loraine Callow and of course Lindy for her amazing contribution. A report of the event is on our web site.

**“Jack and the Beanstalk” story times for prep grades – 24 and 25 November 2014,  
Williamstown Botanic Gardens**

Over the 24<sup>th</sup> of November and the 25<sup>th</sup> of November Anja ran story time for four groups of preps from Williamstown Primary School assisted by Fred Van Someron. They greatly enjoy the story of Jack and the Bean stalk and plant their own beans as the activity.

**Storytime under the Golden Elm “Where the Wild Bugs Are” – Friday 12 December  
10.30am – 11.15am in the Williamstown Botanic Gardens**

**Storytime under the Golden Elm “Magical Creatures in the Gardens” – Friday 16  
January  
10.30am – 11.15am in the Williamstown Botanic Gardens**

**Anja’s sessions bring children into the Gardens in a way which inspires love and respect for them. She has been pivotal in developing a wonderful relationship with the Gardens for many families and we thank her for her commitment and creativity.**

**Book Corner – late January 2014 in the Williamstown Botanic Gardens**

Although the weather limited the number of times book corner went out, the feedback demonstrated that yet again it delighted visitors who came across it. Thanks to the committed members of the Friends who set it up and packed it away each day.

**Shelley Wood’s talk to a General Meeting of the Friends – Wednesday 11 February  
Williamstown Croquet Club**

A report of this highly successful meeting will be sent out shortly.