



Friends of Williamstown Botanic Gardens Inc.

NEWSLETTER No 26

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Secretary: Lindy Wallace ph 9391 5387

Postal address P.O. Box 826, Williamstown 3016

Email: williebotgardens@gmail.com

www.friendsofwilliamstownbotanicgardens.net

Friends of Williamstown Botanic Gardens Inc. Committee 2015- 2016

At the Annual General Meeting on the 22nd of October 2015 there were changes to our committee. Alan Murray stepped down after six years during which he served on the committee and produced many of the newsletters. Sue Murray stepped down as President though remaining on the committee. The new committee is Kim Sawyer (Vice President), Lindy Wallace (Secretary), Helen Tribe (Treasurer), Helen Page (WBGAG rep), Diane Robinson, Geoff King, Sue Murray, Barbara Sloan (committee members). Subsequently Pam Fegen has agreed to join the committee.

Membership 2015 -2016

Thanks to all the members who have renewed their membership at the AGM or later. It has been a good response. We would be pleased to receive renewals from those who have not yet rejoined.

Paint the Gardens deferred to 2017

Paint the Gardens will not occur in 2016. Each year this event has been an important part of Art in Public Places run by Hobsons Bay City Council. However, Art in Public Places is to become a biannual event and will not be held in 2016. Also some pivotal Friends' organisers of Paint the Gardens are not available this year to run the event.

As the next Art in Public Places will be in 2017 we plan to hold Paint the Gardens on 2 April 2017. Given a year's break the artists may well return refreshed, there will be time for the Friends to involve new people in the co-ordination, our sponsors may well appreciate a break and we will retain the connection to Art in Public Places.

Best wishes to Helen Page

Unfortunately Helen who is our committee member and representative on the Williamstown Botanic Gardens Advisory Group recently fell and broke her femur. She has now returned home and we hope she will soon be completely recovered.

1. UPCOMING EVENTS

Friends Get Together Sunday 14 February 2016

2.00 pm in the Williamstown Botanic Gardens on the lawn with the large blue gum

All members are invited to bring their afternoon tea and meet in the Gardens on the lawn where we hold Paint the Gardens. This is a good chance to get together and discuss activities for 2016 and the current state of the Gardens. You may like to bring a picnic rug or chairs. The DVD of John Hawker's Tree tour will be available for sale at \$10.00 for members. We hope to have some new members sign up so if you know people who may be interested please invite them to join us.

Storytime Under the Golden Elm "How Does Your Garden Grow?" – Friday 26 February 2016

10.30am – 11.15am in the Williamstown Botanic Gardens

Anja Lee of the Friends and Russell Barrett of Hobsons Bay Libraries will join to present new material to preschool children and their families. Please let people know it is on and join us if you can. Assistance with pack up is always welcome.

Picnic in the HV McKay Memorial Gardens – Saturday 5 March 2016

2.00-4.00pm 120 Anderson Street, Sunshine

We have been invited by the Friends of the HV McKay Memorial Gardens to visit their Gardens and to enjoy a community afternoon – there will be stalls and it will be a good opportunity to support their Friends who visited our Gardens in November. Let us know if you would like to come by phoning Sue Murray, 9397 5698 or emailing williebotgardens@gmail.com – we may then organise car pooling.

General Meeting of the Friends – Monday 7 March 2016

7.30 pm at the Williamstown Croquet Club, 104 Victoria Street Williamstown

Details of speaker will be advised.

Storytime under the Golden Elm "Teddy Bear's Picnic – Friday 18 March

10.30am – 11.15am in the Williamstown Botanic Gardens

We may be welcoming a new presenter to partner with Russell Barrett of Hobson Bay Libraries as Anja Lee has work commitments. Parents and grandparents are invited to bring preschool children for this last session of the Season 2015-2016 season.

Book Corner - First Term School Holidays Tuesday 29 March – Friday 1 April and Monday 4 April – Friday 8 April

Once again we will be looking for members to assist with this great initiative which attracts enthusiastic feedback from parents and children.

2. RECENT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

General Meeting of Friends – 9 Wednesday September 2015

7.30 pm at the Williamstown Croquet Club, 104 Victoria Street Williamstown

We viewed the DVD "A Tree Tour of Williamstown Botanic Gardens" filmed by Trade Creative Media in May with John Hawker, Horticulturist, Heritage Victoria generously sharing his expertise. Our thanks go to Des Olsen and Lindy and John Wallace for helping with the set up problems.

Shelley Wood is delighted with the DVD both as a wonderful record of the Gardens in May 2015 and also as great tool to teach about the specific trees in the Gardens and the value of Botanic gardens - not just for the general public but also for staff working in the Williamstown Botanic Gardens.

It is available for sale - \$10.00 for members of our Friends group and for \$12.00 to non members. Sales have been going well. Our treasurer Helen Tribe has the videos. Orders can be placed by emailing williebotgardens@gmail.com, phoning 9397 4543 or writing to Helen Tribe at PO Box 826, Williamstown 3016.

General Meeting of Friends - Monday 5 October 2015

7.30 pm at the Williamstown Croquet Club, 104 Victoria Street Williamstown

Speaker Helen Page "The historic Boroondara (Kew) Cemetery and the work of the Friends of the Cemetery"

Helen Page shared her knowledge of the history of the Kew Cemetery and the renewal it is undergoing in an enjoyable illustrated presentation. Then our Curator, Shelley Wood reported on work planned for the Gardens in the coming months including resurfacing the paths after installation of the new irrigation system, draining and cleaning the ornamental pond and refurbishing the lawns. Rod Noonan was most helpful providing and setting up the digital projector for the talk.

AGM of Friends of Williamstown Botanic Gardens - Wednesday 21 October

7.30 pm at the Williamstown Croquet Club, 104 Victoria Street Williamstown

President's Report 2014 -2015 may be viewed on the web site:

www.friendsofwilliamstownbotanicgardens.net.au

**Storytime Under the Golden Elm "Where the Wild Bugs Are" – Friday 29 October 2015
10.30am – 11.15am in the Williamstown Botanic Gardens**

This well attended event in Children's Week was run by Russell Barrett of Hobsons Bay Libraries with members of the Friends assisting with the activities.

Community Garden Open Day - Saturday 7 November 2015

11.00am to 2.00pm at Floyd Lodge, 63 Hanmer St, Williamstown.

Thanks to Rod Noonan the Friends again participated in this annual event which included a BBQ lunch, vegetable plants propagated at the community garden and Rod Noonan's tomato plants, Friends of WBG trading table and entertainment by women's community choir "Willin Wimmin".

We thank the members who generously manned our trading table selling plants, gardening books, botanic art cards donated by Stefan Gevers and Janet Howie and the DVD "A Tree tour of Williamstown Botanic Gardens" raising \$150.00 for the Friends.



Friends at Floyd Lodge Community Gardens Open Day 2015

Visit of Friends of HV McKay Memorial Gardens Sunshine – Saturday 28 November 2015

2.00pm to 4.00pm in the Williamstown Botanic Gardens

On a beautiful sunny afternoon, a number of the Friends of HV McKay Memorial Gardens came over for a guided walk through the Gardens with Sue Murray and Helen Tribe. They were delighted by our Gardens, interested in the history, and particularly wished to hear about our activities as a Friends group. They told us how their Friends work valiantly to get Brimbank City Council to staff and maintain their Gardens. They purchased a number of our DVD's and we finished with afternoon tea at the ice cream shop on the Esplanade enjoying cakes they provided (with the permission of the cafe owner!!)

Storytime Under the Golden Elm “A Bush Christmas with Santa” – Friday 4 December 10.30am – 11.15am in the Williamstown Botanic Gardens

This popular session was presented by Anja Lee and Russell Barrett and as usual was greatly enjoyed – the highlight being Santa's visit.

Jack and the Bean Stalk – Monday 15 December 2015 with Prep students from Williamstown Primary School in the Williamstown Botanic Gardens

Once again Anja Lee engaged the Preps of Williamstown Primary School with the fairytale followed by the children planting of “magic” beans in a pot. This is all part of bringing the Gardens close to the hearts of young people.

Reading Corner Thursday 7 January to Friday 22 January 2016

When the weather allowed the Book Corner was set up on week days by volunteers from the Friends. Once again it drew great feedback for children and parents. Thank you to Anja Lee and Carol Challis who ran training on two days, to Carol for organising the roster and of course to everybody who set up and packed up.

Storytime Under the Golden Elm “Pond Life” – Friday 15 January 2016 10.15am to 11.30am - Moved to Williamstown Library

This session was run in the Williamstown Library because of rain. It was well attended and Russell Barrett did a great job presenting and everybody obviously had a great time. Sue Murray represented the Friends networking with parents and staff and handing out Friends brochures and the storytime timetable. Jenelle Colston-Ing, Coordinator Learning Liaison, and Jodie Flood, Acting Co-ordinator Community Engagement and Partnerships, were very supportive of the Friends. They were interested in possibilities for joint projects and purchased two of our DD “Tree Tour of the Gardens” for the library – one for the heritage section and one for loan. They also offered to look out retired books and magazines to donate to the reading Corner.

Friends Committee meeting – Monday 1 February 2016 7.30 pm at the Williamstown Croquet Club, 104 Victoria Street Williamstown

The focus of this meeting was ideas for the Friends to be actively involved in advocacy for the Gardens this year, possibilities for hands on activities in the Gardens and urgent follow up of the progress of the Master Plan. We want to see it finalised and signed off well before the end of this financial year.