



**NEWSLETTER No 24  
May 2015**

**Friends of Williamstown  
Botanic Gardens Inc.**

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**1. Upcoming Events**

**Tree tour with John Hawker – Sunday 17 May 2015 – 2.00pm in the Williamstown Botanic Gardens**

Members, their family and friends are invited to join us for a tree tour of the Gardens with John Hawker, Horticulturist Heritage Victoria. We will meet at the main gates of the Gardens cnr Osborne and Giffard Streets at 2.00pm.

Come along to hear about trees which provide the botanic underpinning of our Gardens. Please contact Sue Murray phone 9397 5698, email [agriview@bigpond.net.au](mailto:agriview@bigpond.net.au) to register your interest so we have some idea of numbers. We have contracted Trade Creative Media to film the walk so we can make presentations to a variety of groups from now on.

**AGM Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens – Friday 5 June  
9.30am - Ballarat Botanic Gardens**

The Association AGM is to be held in Ballarat this year and they would really welcome a delegation from the Friends of Williamstown Botanic Gardens. It should be an interesting day and not too far to travel. There will be presentations, guided walks, the Association's 2015 AGM and lunch hosted by Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens. The invitation is open to all our members and provides an opportunity to meet with other Friends groups and the AAFBG Committee.

Elizabeth Gilfillan, AAFBG Secretary writes “It will be our pleasure to welcome Prof Tim Entwisle, Patron of the Friends of Ballarat, and Director and Chief Executive of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne. As we commemorate the Centenary of ANZAC, the Gallipoli Landings and World War I, we will also be joined by a community representative from the *Avenues of Honour 1915-2015* national project. The project is working with local communities across Australia to support efforts to document, preserve and restore Avenues and to plan and establish new ones. Ballarat's Avenue of Honour is the first and longest (22 kms) in Australia with approximately 3,900 trees. Please note that presentations will start at 9.30 am sharp and the AGM will commence at 11.15 am.”

**If you wish to attend this event please contact Sue Murray phone 9397 5698, email [agriview@bigpond.net.au](mailto:agriview@bigpond.net.au) or Lindy Wallace phone 9391 5387, email [wallaclj@bigpond.net.au](mailto:wallaclj@bigpond.net.au) by Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup> May as we are asked to RSVP by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May. Once we know who is going we will reply to Elizabeth Gilfillan, AAFBG Secretary and make travel arrangements.**

**Friends of Williamstown Botanic Gardens Committee Meeting – 1 June 2015  
7.30pm Williamstown Croquet Club**

Although this is not a general meeting any members interested in attending are welcome.

**Request to propagate for Williamstown Primary November School Fete – from May 2015**

Carol Challis writes “Cameron's old primary school (Willy Primary) is holding its big fete on the 15<sup>th</sup> November this year and I'm helping out on the plant stall. Although it sounds like a long

way off, as a gardener you'll know how long it takes to propagate and get plants going. I was wondering if I could ask members of the Friends if they wished to start potting up a few items or even better, put the date in their diaries and come along and buy plants too.

Williamstown Primary School only holds its fete once every four years and this year it will be on the 15th November. The plant stall is seeking interesting plants so if anyone would like to pot up some flowers, herbs or vegetables that would be wonderful. If anyone has any old pots they don't want, they would be appreciated as well. Please contact Carol on 0411042511 or email [carol@challispalace.com](mailto:carol@challispalace.com) if you'd like to get involved."

**Book Corner at the Williamstown Literary Festival – Saturday 13 June – Saturday 14 June  
Williamstown Town Hall**

For the second year the book corner will appear at the Williamstown Literary Festival. Information about the festival is available at <http://willylitfest.org.au/> Do consider booking.

**2. Recent Events and Activities**

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

On a wonderfully sunny autumn day the Gardens were alive with activity as people enjoyed our Paint the Gardens Art Competition run in partnership with Hobsons Bay City Council. Ours was the first event in Art in Public Places and the official launch of AIP also took place in the Gardens that day. Use the link below to view pictures of both events courtesy of Cathy Buchanan, Williamstown Camera Club/Hobsons Bay City Council  
[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/401kcg18gbi4h5b/AACMUm2t\\_6s6ZeYJcwez-F1Ka?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/401kcg18gbi4h5b/AACMUm2t_6s6ZeYJcwez-F1Ka?dl=0)

It was great that it was such a successful community event. As well as the art exhibition there was a book corner for children, book and card sales organised by the Friends of Williamstown Botanic Gardens, colouring activities, botanic art classes run by Stefan Gevers and a display of historical material including the panels from our oral history project. Refreshments were available throughout the day thanks to the Relay for Life Team and the coffee van, and we had a wonderful display of wildlife photography, including birds and insects of the Gardens taken by Nora Peters. Music from the Newport Folk and Fiddle group was very much enjoyed. There were 30 entries in the Open Section and 300 entries in the young Persons Section.

**PAINT THE GARDENS ART COMPETITION 2015  
AWARD WINNERS**

**Open Section**

First Prize	<b>Dorothy Page</b>	Teddy Bears Picnic in the Gardens
WBG Related Prize	<b>Dimi Simeonidis</b>	Light Through the Golden Elm
Emerging Artist	<b>Jessica Cataldo</b>	Wattlebirds in Kniphofia
People's Choice First	<b>Heather Horrocks</b>	Pipe of Life
People's Choice Second	<b>Carol Smith</b>	Blue Morning
Highly Commended	<b>Raylee Anderson</b>	Reflections
Highly Commended	<b>Janet Howie</b>	Late Season Clivias

**Young Person's Section**

First Prize	<b>Keerthana Karthic</b>	Image in the Water
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Emerging Artist	<b>Rakshita</b>	Untitled
Best Individual	<b>Alexandra Newman</b>	Untitled
People's Choice	<b>Sruthi</b>	Untitled
Best Entry Dita's Art School	<b>Leo</b>	Untitled
Best Entry Varinka Art School	<b>Diya Shiburan</b>	The Enchanted Wood
Best Entry Westbourne Grammar School	<b>James Hately-Williams</b>	Untitled
Best Entry Williamstown High School	<b>Dylan Cutajar</b>	In the Garden
Best Entry Williamstown Primary School	<b>Charlotte Miller</b>	Criss Cross Leaves

## **BENDIGO BANK GIFTS - Young Persons**

### **Williamstown Primary School**

Flynn De Hoog  
Alexis Sofia Harvey Wells  
Claire Leibel  
Sienna McPhee  
Sophia Neville  
Thomas Stojanovski  
Amelia Von Rechenberg  
Violet White

### **Williamstown High School Year 7**

Sienna Rabbidge  
Jasmine Featherstone  
Charles Kneebone  
Katherine Ly  
Molly York

### **Westbourne Grammar School**

Ruby Streit

### **Dita's Art School**

Devyani  
Rakshita

### **Varinka Art Studio**

Adirala Vybhav  
Shiburam  
Madeleine Bryant  
Freya Plant

### **Open Section**

Suganya  
Christina Thorpe

## **SPONSORS**

Thanks to our wonderful sponsors *Back to Basics, Banjo Plumbing, Bendigo Bank Williamstown, Book and Paper, Bunnings Altona, Dog Town Pet Supplies, Fitzgerald Optometry, Friends of Williamstown Botanic Gardens, Hobsons Bay City Council, Jas H Stephens, Knight Frank Valuations, Lions Club Williamstown, Paint Right; Pioneer Textile*

*Cuttings Pty Ltd; Point Gellibrand Rotary Club; Provisions; Saturday Morning Team, Yellow Diva.*

Their names were displayed on the sponsor board and also acknowledged in the presentation of prizes by Councillor Paul Morgan. The sponsor board will continue to be displayed at our events this year.

### **Visit to Friends of Bendigo Botanic Gardens – Tuesday 14 April – White Hills Botanic Gardens**



#### **Our Friends on their visit to the White Hills Botanic Gardens, Bendigo**

On Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of April the Friends of Williamstown Botanic Gardens paid a visit to the Bendigo Botanic Gardens. There were 7 of us in total.

The day was overcast but a very comfortable temperature, looked like rain but it managed to stay fine for the day. We set off from Williamstown around 8.30 and caught the 9.20 train to Bendigo - a great way to go. It was a very comfortable trip, and a chance to have a good natter and enjoy the scenery.

We arrived at Bendigo at 11.20 and from there caught a Maxi Taxi out to White Hills where the Botanic Gardens are. They are officially called the White Hills Botanic Gardens.

There we were met by Jan Cleary who is the President of the Friends of Bendigo Botanic Gardens. We entered the Arch of Triumph and wandered down the extensive drive way to the meeting/work rooms for the gardens.

First we had a cuppa. Jan had made a chocolate cake for us which Jan's assistants said is most famous, and it was scrumptious. We all had a good chat and talked about the history of the gardens and a looked at few photographs of its beginnings

The Gardens were established in 1857, and, in 2007, celebrated their 150 years. The gardens have changed over the years with salinity causing the death of many trees. It originally had many flower beds, but due to the decline over the years many of the garden beds have been converted into lawn areas.

The gardens have a water area called the lagoon. This is originally where the Bendigo creek ran through the gardens but it has been filled in over time. The area is enjoyed by the waterbirds which inhabit it and is a tranquil quiet spot to relax. The Gardens are very different from our gardens, not as formal but beautiful and graceful – a lovely place for families to enjoy.



**The lagoon at White Hills Botanic Gardens, Bendigo**

After morning tea we had a wander around the whole of garden, Jan gave us a most informative talk about the trees and stories of fame attached to them. There are eight significant and rare trees and these have been listed by the Heritage Council.



**Jan Cleary leading the tour of White Hills Botanic Gardens for Friends of WBG**

From the earliest days the gardens have contained animal exhibits. This practice was encouraged by the Acclimatisation Society with the aim of introducing exotic plants and animals, primarily for the dispersion to suitable parts of the colony. The animal exhibits were popular with children. Appropriate management of the exhibits is an ongoing issue.

The gardens also encompass a swimming pool which was established in 1956. This is still used by the local community today.

The Friends group is very active and their propagating area is something to die for. It is like a commercial nursery and I'm sure they do well from the sales of these.

After our tour of the gardens we all set out for lunch at a nearby café. Jan also joined us for this and we enjoyed her company and her extensive knowledge of all things botanical.

From here it was a taxi back to the station and a train trip back to Footscray. All in all it was a great day and enjoyed by everyone and the gardens are well worth a visit.

**Report by Helen Tribe**



**Friends of WBG enjoying the hospitality of the Friends of Bendigo Botanic Gardens**

## **News from Williamstown Botanic Gardens**

### **Head Gardener Williamstown Botanic Gardens, Michael Wilkins' Report – 7 May 2015**

- New Year began well being cooler than last year's summer. Whilst not too much rain the gardens survived the warmer months quite well. This was despite the fact several ongoing sprinkler and irrigation issues. These should be well sorted over next few months as irrigation works have commenced. The contractors are very respectful of the gardens and are great to liaise with.
- Apprentice Winter is progressing and learning how to work in a Botanic Garden environment.
- There have been several successful events over past months. Shakespeare was once again performed over 2 consecutive weeks in March. Paint the Gardens was also successful with many people involved.
- Gardens wise the annual display of Zinnia's worked really well this year. Only ones who did not appear to like them were the possums (a good thing).
- Ongoing issues with unbooked wedding parties can still be a problem. Maybe a By Laws walk through would be a good thing.
- Loraine Callow continues her good work and publicity on Trip Advisor is mostly positive. Friends group also keep up their top efforts to help promote WBG. Shelley Wood continues to steer the ship and has plenty to occupy her time.
- All in all a successful beginning to a big year.

### **New Sprinkler System for the Gardens**

You will have noticed that contractors are currently installing a new sprinkler system in the northern section of the Gardens. Shelley Wood is delighted with the work which is being carried out efficiently (and respectfully as Michael Wilkins notes). Much work has gone into the design and care is being taken to work around tree roots so there is minimum disturbance. We are delighted that Hobsons Bay City Council is funding these much needed capital works.