



# FRIENDS OF VICTORIA GARDENS

## *Celebrating 30 years – 1987-2017*

### Newsletter September 2017

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#### **Dear Member,**

A follow-up to the garden inspection held in May, the tree works that were identified have now been implemented. This includes the dead wooding and shaping of the large Weeping Elm (*Ulmus glabra* 'Camperdownii'), and removal of elm suckers. The timber support frame that is no longer required will be also removed. The Golden Elm (*Ulmus glabra* 'Lutescens') near the Gardens entrance to the Lumley Playground will be pruned to remove deadwood and branches damaged by borers.

The two Gosford Wattles (*Acacia prominens*), and featured in the September 2016 Newsletter, contained extensive trunk cavities and decay, and were removed in early September. The dead Box Elder (*Acer negundo*) fell over in a wind storm on 17 August 2017. Fortunately the tree avoided causing any further damage, missing the drinking fountain and bin. The removed tree will now allow a better view of the important Yew (*Taxus baccata*).



17 August 2017 Peter Saville

#### Spring into Gardening:



**Sunday 8 October 2017**

**11.00am – 300pm**

**The Friends will be at Stall 2 beside the parterre.**

**Come along and enjoy the day and help celebrate 30 years of supporting Victoria Gardens**

Whether you've got a tiny balcony garden or a sprawling backyard jungle, *Spring Into Gardening* is the perfect event to get inspiration and tips on green living. Held at Prahran's lush Victoria Gardens, and drawing in thousands of keen gardening enthusiasts each year, the one-day festival features:

- Demonstrations by expert gardening and sustainability personalities.
- Costa Georgiadis from the ABC Gardening Australia will be present
- Stallholder displays promoting reliable and on trend information about gardening and sustainability
- Market stalls to upgrade your plant collection and grab everything you need to create the perfect garden
- Eco-friendly Clothes Swap
- Children's activities and workshops
- Roving entertainment
- Sustainable food and drink offerings
- The New Joneses Tiny House - a pop-up home with a little carbon footprint

The following is from *Stonnington* news Spring 2017



## Victoria Gardens Park improvements

Improvement works have been made to Victoria Gardens.

This includes the installation of a new irrigation system on the oval and lawn areas throughout the park, re-levelling and new turf on the oval, and the creation of a new granitic sand path linking the playground with the existing pathway in the gardens.

These works significantly improve the year-round quality of grass on the oval and throughout the gardens. They also enhance park amenity and improve the capacity of the gardens to accommodate off-leash dog exercising and Council-based community events.

The works were planned in consultation with the Friends of Victoria Gardens.

### Plant News:



Just inside the High Street gates beneath the Chinese Elm are two rarely grown *Ficus maclellandii* (Long-leaved Fig). The species is native to India, Southeast Asia and China.

It is an evergreen often grown as a houseplant in temperate climates. It is most likely that both plants were originally indoor plants as both when planted about 15 years ago were pairs of plants. The secondary stems were removed in 2015.

The leaves are 8–13cm long tapering to a long point, glossy bright green and uniquely dimorphic; with narrow leaves on the lower, sterile branches and broader leaves on the higher branches. The new leaves are a bright bronze colour, a feature of many tropical plant species.

The most common cultivar is 'Alii' which was originally introduced in Hawaii. In the past this cultivar was often misidentified as *Ficus binnendijkii* or under the invalid name *Ficus longifolia*.