



## FRIENDS OF VICTORIA GARDENS

### Newsletter July 2018

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**Dear Member,**

**Garden Inspection:**

On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May the Friends held a Garden Inspection with Council staff, Dominic Mazza, Steve Watt, Adam De Zoete and Tim Rathbone. Tim had recently been appointed head gardener and this was his first gardens inspection. Many major improvements have occurred to the gardens over the past year with the most noticeable being the upgrade of the sunken oval and seat surrounds. Over a 4-week period during June and July the oval is being:

- Lightly top dressed and levelled with turf sand
- Seeded and fertilised, and
- Grow matt is being installed to enhance seed germination



Some of the items identified this year for attention included the levelling of the lawn in the playground where there is a large depression caused by the removal of a spinning wheel, weed control, removal of suckers and climbers from the depot bed and fence, pruning and installation of a possum band around the Kaffir Plum, and removal of dead branches from several trees.

Seedling woody weeds, mainly Box Elder, Celtis and Privet will be removed and overgrown *Buddleja madagascariensis* and *B. davidii* will be cut back. Areas for additional shrub planting were identified along the west and east boundary fences. A new Chinese Elm is to be planted near the playground entrance between the Golden Elm and Chinese Elm, as both these trees are now in decline. Other works include the Murray Street entrance light replacement and the treatment of corrosion and repainting the High Street fence. This work has already been undertaken. Concern was again raised over damage to garden beds by dogs. It must be stressed that it is the responsibility of the owner to control their dog, and the only off leash area is the sunken oval.



Severe decay and decline has been identified in the large *Liquidambar styraciflua* east of the Winged Statue. The tree has 2 large trunk wounds and its health is poor.

This tree will be removed and any replanting will be reviewed. It was generally agreed that the Liquidamber would not be replanted but 2-3 *Arbutus unedo*, similar in appearance to the *Arbutus* opposite the depot entrance would be planted either side of the Weeping Lilly-Pilly along the path edge.

### Projects:



15 November 2017



1 July 2018

Two of the three projects are nearing completion. The two eastern shelters now have spouting and down pipes, the timber seats which were found to be rotten have been renewed, new internal lining boards installed and the shelters have been repainted. Stone conservator James McCauley was appointed by Council to repair and clean the 1888 marble plaque. This work is progressing and further works will be undertaken in coming weeks. The third project is the Information Sign. A draft has been provided to Council who are working with designers to finalise the text, map and photographs. The rectangular sign will most likely be erected in the garden bed next the notice board



### **Annual General Meeting:**

The 2018 Annual General Meeting will be at 7.45pm on Tuesday 17 July

### **Next Meeting:**

Tuesday 17 July 2018 following the AGM at 64 Bendigo Street, Prahran, opposite the Flying Duck Hotel.