



# FRIENDS OF VICTORIA GARDENS

## Newsletter September 2018

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### Dear Member,

Finally some warm weather has arrived after a long cold but relatively dry winter. The winter was colder than average with temperatures of 0.9°C in central Melbourne and -2°C in the outer suburbs. Melbourne has only received about half its average winter rainfall. A concern is that when the warm weather does arrive, the landscape will dry very quickly.

The Gardens are looking impressive now with the flush of spring growth, flowering shrubs and flowers. Particularly impressive is the oval which has benefited greatly from a turf management program over the past 2 months where access was restricted and the turf aerated, fertilized and over-sown.

Further to the garden inspection held in May works have been undertaken to remove woody weeds, ivy and new shrub planting has occurred.



The removal of the declining Liquidamber (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) occurred on Friday 21 September. The trunk wounds resulted in more than 50% of the trunk cross section being dead. The difficult task was undertaken with minimal damage to the Gardens.



### Spring into Gardening:



SUSTAINABILITY AND  
GARDENING FESTIVAL  
SUNDAY 14 OCTOBER



VICTORIA GARDENS  
HIGH STREET, PRAHRAN

11am – 3pm



Whether you have a tiny balcony garden, a sprawling backyard jungle, or you dig all things green, **Spring into Gardening** is the perfect event for getting inspiration and tips on gardening and sustainable living. Join Costa Georgiadis from ABC's Gardening Australia who returns to host the festival that features free workshops, expert demonstrations, hands-on kids' activities, a clothes swap, market stalls, and food trucks to help you start planting and preparing your garden for summer. Residents are invited to bring along gardening questions and join us in meeting Costa and the line-up of presenters including author Fabian Capomolla (The Hungry Gardener), who will chat about how to make limoncello from home-grown lemons.

### Information Sign (Draft):



Council forwarded an example of the proposed Information Sign to the Friends for comment. The layout concept was generally supported; providing information on the history of the Gardens, the Friends and significant trees. There were several concerns expressed about the artistic interpretation of the garden plan, especially the paths scale, and the loss of a formal layout, shrubberies and garden beds. The following features were missing; RSL memorial, Gardens depot, two shelters, and the 1888 Fountain base. There is a dominance of tree canopies and several of numbered significant trees in the wrong location. These concerns have been passed onto Dominic Mazza and Chloe Horner at Stonnington Council.

### Plant News:



***Euphorbia characias subsp. wulfenii*** (Mediterranean Spurge) is a species of flowering plant in the Euphorbiaceae family. It is an upright, compact evergreen shrub growing to about 1.2m tall and wide. A stunning plant for year-round interest displaying months of yellow-lime bracts (the flower are in the centre and very small). A major attraction are the erect stems with spirally arranged blue-green leaves, a colour which stands out in the landscape. It is a tough plant, largely pest free and capable of resisting long periods of drought. This plant can also resist high salinity. All Euphorbia plants have milky sap which is toxic. There is a variegated form called 'Tasmanian Tiger'.