



FRIENDS OF VICTORIA GARDENS

Newsletter November 2019

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Dear Member,

At *Spring into Gardening* held on Sunday 13 October in perfect weather the Friends welcomed many people into Victoria Gardens. Our marquee beside the parterre and near the free plants being distributed by Stonnington Council saw a constant stream of Garden inquiries. There were a lot of questions about the history of the Gardens and Gynea Lily (*Doryanthes excelsa*), a native to the coastal area around Sydney, flowering in the parterre opposite the Friends stall. Now about 30 years old there were five spectacular flowers and is the greatest number flowering on a single occasion. The flower beds filled with Iceland Poppy and Polyanthus were at their peak and displayed the excellent work by Adam de Zoete and council staff.



Throughout the day there were artists with model bees entertaining the crowd. The beehive stall and other sustainable living displays were informative and attracted a lot of community interest.

The Friends had a very successful day with several members renewing membership, new members joining and the sale of the postcards. The raffle of an attractive purple and white weeping Fuchsia and garden book was well supported and raised \$97 for the Friends.

Welcome to new members Beverley Cook and Gretchen Kesoglidis

Lumley Playground Upgrade:

A draft concept for the Playground was released in early October. The community was invited to an information session on the 10 October and all comments to be received by 18 October. The final design is now being developed and works are due to commence in the new year. [*turned sideways to save space*]



Dogs:

Visit: <https://www.connectstonnington.vic.gov.au/dogs-in-public-spaces>

Have Your Say

about 1 month ago



We invite you to share your insights in a short online survey.

Click **here** to begin the survey.

The survey closes **Wednesday 13 November**.



We have great parks, reserves and public spaces that are shared by people and pets. Earlier this year, we introduced changes restricting the number of dogs that any one person can walk to four dogs at a time in Stonnington public spaces. We want to hear from anyone who uses our parks, reserves and public spaces about what they think about this change and how people and our pets can best share these spaces. You are invited to share your insights in a short online survey. Following the community consultation period, findings will be reported back to Council and all participants will be advised of the outcome in early 2020.

The Friends have been increasingly concerned with the unfettered dog off leash activity in the whole Gardens. We first raised our concerns at a meeting in May with Madeleine Grove (Amenity and Compliance) and Simon Holloway (Parks and Environment). The Friends then tried to engage the dog walkers by posting an invitation to participate in a problem-solving meeting, to no avail.

We carried out our own amenity survey in August and compiled and shared the responses with members and our South Ward Councillors. In late October we met again with Madeleine Grove and Simon Holloway. The Mayor and South Ward Councillor Steve Stefanopoulos also attended this meeting. Measures discussed included improved signage reminding dog walkers that the only off-leash area is at the oval, and the possibility of increased animal management officer attendance. We await the outcome of the Council Survey and hope it is not a simple case of one size fits all.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday 12 November 2019 at 7.45pm at 64 Bendigo Street, Prahran, opposite the Flying Duck Hotel.

The **Christmas Party** will be held on Sunday 1 December between 3.00 - 6.00pm.