



# FRIENDS OF VICTORIA GARDENS

## Newsletter September 2022

President: John Hawker  
Secretary: Denise Saville  
Treasurer: Jill Hawker

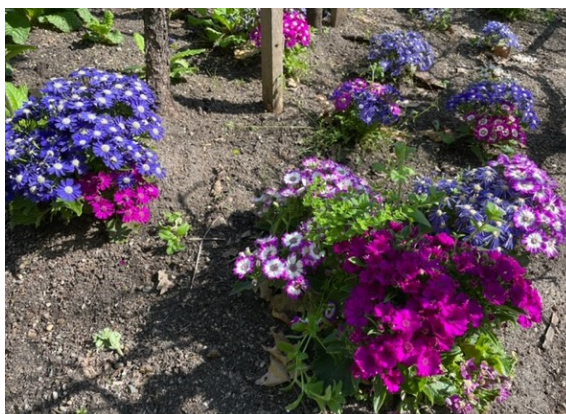
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### Dear Member,

The work by Adam De Zoete and his gardening team has presented Victoria Gardens in a colourful and spectacular form. A highlight is the kidney shaped bed near the High Street entrance full of colourful Polyanthus, giving the appearance of a Persian carpet, and the parterre containing Cineraria.



The cooler and wetter start to Spring has enabled these annual plants to be displayed at their very best and for a longer period. The vigorous growth of many plants and the intense flowering of Abutilon, Spiraea, Echium, Kaffir lilies and the Coral tree (*Erythrina x sykesii*) and Powton (*Paulownia tomentosa*) west of the parterre are now a feature in the Gardens

### Spring into Gardening:

The Friends have been advised by Council that *Spring into Gardening* will not be held in October 2022. This the third occasion that the event has been cancelled. The postponement of this important community event is a significant loss to the work of the Friends and our engagement with the community. We have contacted Council in the hope that this event will be reinstated in 2023.

There will be no Friends meeting in September which is held to plan for *Spring into Gardening*.

### Garden Inspection:

Following the Garden Inspection held in July the Friends have received an update on the progress being made. A majority of the plant improvement works have been completed. This includes the coppicing of five overgrown Madagascan Butterfly-bush *Buddleja madagascariensis* plants in the south west corner. This vigorous plant which produces bright orange flower spikes and grey to silver contrasting foliage, requires regular pruning.



In other proposed works are the removal of the four Elvin's *Prunus* in the kidney flower bed. These trees have been in decline over the past few years and will be removed in October and replaced with *Prunus mume* 'Pendula', an early flowering Weeping Apricot. Two new *Magnolia grandifolia* trees are to be planted in the Murray Street bed.

Council is making arrangements to source two French Hawthorn trees to replace the vulnerable tree north of the RSL memorial and opposite the depot entrance and a new flowering tree to replace the lost Cape Chestnut in the south east corner. French Hawthorn, *Crataegus x lavalleei* (yes there are two ee's) was a favourite of Edna Walling but is rarely propagated now. It is a hybrid of *C. crus-galli* x *C. pubescens* f. *stipulacea* and has a garden origin, ie it does not occur in the wild.

The cause of the waterlogging occurring the south east bed and lawn is still to be investigated and fixed.

### Plant News:



A native of Madeira, *Echium candicans*, Pride of Madeira, is a woody perennial grown for its deep purple, sometimes pale blue to pink flowers. These are probably hybrids sometimes listed as *E. x fastuosum* with *E. candicans* as one parent. Grown from seed.

This genus is best known in Australia for *E. plantagineum*, Patterson's Curse (Salvation Jane), which was introduced into Australia as a garden plant in 1843 and by 1890 had become a widespread weed.

### Community Event:

**Rewilding Stonnington** - [rewildingstonnington@gmail.com](mailto:rewildingstonnington@gmail.com)

Next working bee: Planting at Tooronga Station.

Sunday 9 October 10am-12pm

### Next Meeting:

- **Date: Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November**
- **Time: 7.45pm**
- **Place: The Studio - 64 Bendigo Street Prahran**