



FRIENDS OF VICTORIA GARDENS

Newsletter July 2022

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Dear Member,

If you are noticing the cold weather this is not a surprise. On Wednesday 6 July the overnight temperature dropped to just 3.1°C and in many outer suburbs and regional centres it was below 0°C. This follows a lengthy period of 17 days below 15 degrees from 30 May which was the longest period so early in the season for 109 years. On the positive side if we were looking to going skiing the season opened a week earlier than the usual Queens Birthday weekend and the depth of snow is the greatest since 1968. Rainfall in June of 52mm was close to Melbourne's average and above average in most suburbs in Greater Melbourne.

This cool weather and short days have slowed plant growth, especially lawns. Now is the best time to experience the sweetly scented *Luculia gratissima*, *Daphne odora* and *Chimonanthus praecox*, known as Wintersweet or Japanese allspice. There is a plant below the prickly paperbark trees south of the depot.

Stonnington Environment News: An alternative water future:

The City of Stonnington is now developing its first Water Balance (2022-2050), which will show where our current and future water will come from. Research suggests that Stonnington's water demand will increase despite its cost, due to population growth and higher temperatures. To ensure we are climate-resilient, we must work to implement alternative water storage solutions so that we can maintain healthy green spaces and provide cooling during summer.

National Tree Day -- Sunday 31 July 2022 at 10am to 2.30pm Central Park, Malvern, corner Wattle tree and Burke Roads

Help green our city and celebrate [National Tree Day](#) on Sunday 31 July by adopting your very own native plant to care for at home. Stonnington residents are invited to take their own piece of nature home at this special event offering a range of local shrubs, grasses, groundcovers, and wildflowers, all indigenous to the Melbourne area, to choose from. There's no better time to plant and get ready for spring.

By adding indigenous plants to your garden, you'll help provide safe habitat and food for native birds and pollinators. Establishing habitat in home gardens is also important to create habitat 'stepping stones' for wildlife so they can travel safely between our City's parks and reserves.

Book into one of our two 'Collect and Connect' sessions to chat to Council horticulturalists about the right species for your outdoor area, no matter how big or small your garden space. Wemba Wemba-Wergaia ecologist Dean Stewart, and creator of the [Lost Lands Found](#) eco-art installation at **Central Park** will also be at each session, along with local community revegetation groups, to share tips and tricks to help your plants thrive. Stick around between sessions to join a free guided

Lost Lands Found tour with Dean to see some of the spectacular indigenous specimens, like the ones you can take home.

For more gardening tips on how to create a wildlife-friendly garden with indigenous plants, [watch this clip on how to plant natives at home](#), check out our [Sustainable Gardening in Stonnington Booklet](#) or sign up to our free [My Smart Garden program](#).

Note that you must Register to attend either session 1 or session 2

[Register here for session times: Adopt-a-Native-Plant for National Tree Day City of Stonnington](#)

- 10:00am –12:00pm: Collect and Connect session 1
- 12:00pm – 1:00pm: Break and *Lost Lands Found* tour with Dean Stewart
- 1:00pm – 2:30pm: Collect and Connect session 2

The *Friends of Victoria Gardens* have been invited by Council along with other community groups operating in Stonnington to attend to share any promotional material about their group, and to chat to residents attending about getting involved in planting/working bee events each group hosts.

If you are available on Sunday 31 July, any time between 10-2.30 for 30 or 60 minutes to assist in promoting the activities of the Friends and Victoria Gardens please email info.fovg@gmail.com or phone John Hawker on 0438 510 522.

Garden Inspection:

The annual garden inspection has been delayed due to staff availability and will now be held next week on Monday 11 July at 10-11.30am. You are welcome to attend or if there are any issues you want raised, please email info.fovg@gmail.com or phone John Hawker on 0438 510 522.

Victoria Gardens Volunteers:

The Friends are now reviewing Council's guidelines and we hope to be able to report back to you soon. In the meantime, can you please indicate your participation by emailing info.fovg@gmail.com. The proposal is to have a Saturday morning session once a month. Possibly the last Saturday of the month but your preference will be helpful.

FOVG Membership:

Membership subscription for **2022-2023** is now due as of 1st July. Your membership demonstrates the strength of community support for the Victoria Gardens. Membership Fee: **\$10 Individual and \$15 Family**. Payment via bank transfer as follows:

- Account name - Friends of Victoria Gardens Inc.
- BSB - 083 427.
- Bank - NAB
- Account number- 43 521 3152.
- Write you name in the reference section so that we can acknowledge receipt of your membership.

Next Meeting:

AGM: Tuesday **12 July** at 7.45pm at 64 Bendigo Street, Prahran,

Ordinary Meeting: Tuesday **12 July** (after our AGM on the same night)