



FRIENDS OF VICTORIA GARDENS

Newsletter March 2022

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Dear Member,

Now that the pandemic lockdown has been removed Victoria Gardens is experiencing a reduced level of usage and are slowly recovering from the intensive use. In late January the Friends were notified of proposed of park improvement works to the sunken oval at Victoria Gardens. These works are being undertaken to address the current poor condition of the grass on the sunken oval.

The proposed works include:

- Lightly cultivate the worn area
- Application and levelling of turf sand throughout the sunken oval
- Application of seed and fertilizer
- Installation of grow matt to enhance seed germination
- Day time watering
- Installation of temporary fencing for a period of 4-5 weeks to enhance germination



8/12/2021



7/3/2022

For the second year running Melbourne experienced no days over 40°C. The last time that happened was in the summers of 1988-91. The warmest was 37.7 on 31 December 2021. Night-time temperatures were warmer than average. Rainfall in December and February was less than average, while in January rainfall was near-average to above average at most sites in Greater Melbourne. A total of 113mm of rain fell over summer. Avoiding extreme temperatures, a period of high humidity and good rainfall in January saw Melbourne's gardens continue to flourish and our landscapes remain largely green over summer. Plant growth and flowering has been exceptional this year.

Stonnington Environment News:

[Stonnington environment news and events - March 2022 \(mailchi.mp\)](#) Many of us lose our gardening enthusiasm as the weather cools, but did you know that winter is a great time to grow veggies in Melbourne? For more great tips and events, sign up now to [My Smart Garden](#).

Animal Management Plan 2022 -2025:

Stonnington Council is preparing a new Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2025. The Plan will provide the framework for our animal management services for the next four years. To help develop this plan Council want to hear from the community on a number of issues in a two-stage community consultation process. This is an opportunity for people to help inform how Council progress with our animal management and improve future services for our dogs and cats. Council will use your feedback to develop a draft Domestic Animal Management Plan.

The aim of a Domestic Animal Management Plan is to:

- Promote and encourage responsible pet ownership
- Ensure that people comply with laws, regulations and legislation
- Minimise risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals
- Address over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats
- Minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance
- Effectively identify all dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs
- Encourage registration and identification of dogs and cats

You are invited to provide feedback before the **31 March**. The Plan information is available at; <https://connectstonnington.vic.gov.au/animal-management-plan>
And [Draft DAMP100817 Nat \(amazonaws.com\)](https://www.amazonaws.com)

During May 2022 the Plan will be endorsed by Council and on the 30 May submitted to Agriculture Victoria for approval.

Victoria Gardens Volunteers:

We have been in contact with Council who have indicated that they are happy to reinstate the volunteer program. Staff are reviewing Council's new processes, cross checking what they have from the Friends group and will be in contact shortly. The new protocols are likely to include a requirement to be fully vaccinated.

Plant News:



7/12/2012

An attractive shrub in the east bed in early summer is the Tree Fuchsia, *Fuchsia paniculata*, often mistakenly listed under the name *Fuchsia arborescens*. The deciduous shrub that can reach 5m or more displaying terminal clusters of tubular purple to lavender flowers, followed by purple oval shaped fruit. The fruit is edible. A native of Mexico to Panama

The flowers are not as large as the hybrid fuchsias but are produced on mass and the plants are very showy. Suitable as an understory plant in moist shaded areas. An attractive plant that should be more widely planted. Responds well to pruning or hedging. Can be damaged by frosts when young. Easily propagated by semi-hardwood cuttings.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 22nd March at 7.45pm at 64 Bendigo Street, Prahran

- Tuesday 12th July (after our AGM on the same night)