



FRIENDS OF VICTORIA GARDENS

Newsletter March 2019

President: Vihra Migios, ph: 9529 1959

Secretary: Denise Saville

Treasurer: Jill Hawker, email: jhawker@bigpond.net.au

Email: info.fovg@gmail.com

Website: www.fovg.org.au

Dear Member,

The Gardens have again experienced very hot weather over the summer period, with a day in early December reaching 38° C and 105mm of rain with 42mm falling on the 14 December. In January two days over 42° C, with only 11.2mm of rain, and in February there were five days over 35° C, and just 18mm of rain. The first three days of March were all over 36° C and saw major fires breaking out in Gippsland. Until 14 March there has only been 3.8mm of rain and unfortunately predictions for the next 3 months is well below average rainfall. Despite these challenges the Gardens are in excellent condition thanks to the work by Council staff.

Council has painted the original 1888 fountain base and undertaken new bed planting and continued the weed removal program. Many of the beds were recently mulched.

Sunken Oval Works:

During March Council will be undertaking turf improvement works in Victoria Gardens. The works will include; Application and levelling of turf sand throughout the sunken oval, application of seed and fertiliser, installation of grow-mat to enhance seed germination and daytime irrigation to maximise seed germination.



Sunken Oval - 9/3/2019

Victoria Gardens Volunteers

Following extensive work by Alex Ralton and approval by Simon Holloway of Stonnington Council, the Friends volunteer program commenced the 1 December 2018. The group is directed by gardener Adam De Zoete and coordinated by Alex with the aim of bringing the local community together to get some dirt under their finger nails and vitamin D on their skin. The volunteers have worked in the Gardens on Saturday 5 January, 2 February and 2 March 2019. The next date is the 6 April. The volunteer program is held on the first Saturday of every month between 8.30 – 11.30 am and is followed with a BBQ. If you would like to stay involved with the volunteers progress you can follow us on www.instagram.com/victoriagardensvolunteers For more information contact Alex Ralton, ralton@hotmail.com ; phone 0437 178 403



1/12/2018



2/2/2019

Dogs:

For some time, many of the Friends have been concerned about the impact dogs are having on the Gardens and the enjoyment and safety of visitors, especially children. On the 27 February 2019 Friend, Lucy Battersby wrote in *The Age* on this subject under the heading, "Owners need dog obedience training" and highlighted that as Melbourne is getting more crowded and dog ownership is increasing the opportunity to find safe place for play has become difficult, and the conflict between off-leash and on-leash areas is clearly an issue for Councils. The following day two letters to the editor addressed this concern. Further dog articles appeared on the 1 and 2 March all agreeing that it is safer when dogs are kept on- leash.

This Age correspondence has highlighted our concerns over dogs in the Gardens and will be important in progressing our discussions with Council over the next few months.

Sara and Alfie's Memorial Seat:



In memory of their daughter, Sara and grandson Alfie, the Clark family have donated seat to the Victoria Gardens.

The seat was installed by Council for the 28 January 2019 anniversary. It is located west of the parterre garden and is backed by *Echium candicans* (Pride of Madeira)

Next Meeting:

Tuesday 19 March at 7.45pm at 64 Bendigo Street, Prahran, opposite the Flying Duck Hotel.