



FRIENDS OF VICTORIA GARDENS

Newsletter July 2021

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

Email: info.fovg@gmail.com

Website: www.fovg.org.au

Dear Member,

In the July 2020 Newsletter information on the COVID-19 restrictions was discussed. A year later lockdown restrictions are still in force and any chance of returning to pre-pandemic conditions seems a long way off. The Garden has continued to be a popular destination and the upgraded Lumley Playground a favourite location for the younger generation.

Engaged Network Visit:

On Monday 3rd March a 'Walk and Talk' session was conducted by John Hawker for 15 participants from the Stonnington Engaged network. Two Friends attended, Julie-Ann Hobbs and Peter Saville to share information on the role of the Friends and talk about the Garden's history, features and significant plants.



Garden Inspection:

The annual garden inspection was delayed due to COVID-19 and was held on Tuesday 15 June between the Friends and Council staff. Also in attendance for part of the meeting was Angelo Hatzis, Community Amenity and Service Officer who attended following concerns about rear gateways, paving works and shrub lopping along the east boundary (Trinian Street).

A range of maintenance works were identified, including oval works, weed and dead tree removal, pruning, planting and a review of the trees and screen planting along the east boundary of the Murray Street flats in the north east corner.

From the Stonnington Sustainable Environment Unit:

"The City of Stonnington is one of 46 Victorian councils to sign on to [VECO - the Victorian Energy Collaboration](#), the largest ever emissions reduction project by local government in Australia. We're very excited to say that from 1 July, we've switched to 100% renewable electricity to power our buildings and facilities. Council is committed to acting on the climate emergency". While we're feeling the winter chill, data from the Bureau of Meteorology suggests Australia's climate is warming, and Stonnington is no exception. Our temperatures aren't as cold as they used to be during July, with the average daytime temperature now sitting around 14.6 degrees. That's about one degree warmer than it was 50 years ago.

We have a responsibility to act on climate change and lead local action, contributing to a global effort. We're reducing our emissions through projects such as VECO, and we're finalising our draft **Climate Emergency Action Plan** to outline our pathway towards a zero-carbon future for our city. Consultation has now closed on the draft plan and we'll be considering all feedback and updating the plan to take it to Council for adoption in the coming months.

National Tree Day:

Sunday 1 August, 10am-12.30pm Darling Park, Malvern East (meet at Basil St Playground)
Grab your gloves and join our community planting event to celebrate [National Tree Day](#). We'll be planting over 3,000 indigenous plants at Darling Park to help enhance this key biodiversity site along Gardiners Creek (Kooyongkoot), supporting the vision of our [Gardiners Creek Masterplan](#). By revegetating this section of Gardiners Creek, we'll also be joining our neighbours planting further upstream in Whitehorse City Council to enhance habitat value along the length of this important shared waterway. [Register to join the event](#). [City of Stonnington - Darling Park, Malvern East \(Gardiner's Creek\) Tree Day Site Details \(planetark.org\)](#)

Gardening in July:

Whilst it's chilly out, why not catch up on some past My Smart Garden webinars and get inspired to garden smarter in spring? [My Smart Garden joining form City of Stonnington](#)

- Learn how easy it is to support [biodiversity on your balcony](#) or small space
- Find out everything you need to know to get started with [plant propagation](#).
- Get advice on [making your garden more resilient to a warming climate](#)
- Find out how to [save, grow and share heirloom seeds](#)

View the [calendar of upcoming events](#) including pruning fruit trees, composting and growing Asian greens. New to My Smart Garden? [Sign up today](#) and access free online resources, workshops and events to help you grow a productive and resilient garden."

FOVG Membership

Membership subscription for **2021-2022** 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 **13 July** at 7.45pm at 64 Bendigo Street, Prahran,

Ordinary Meeting: Tuesday **13 July** (after our AGM on the same night)