



FRIENDS OF VICTORIA GARDENS

Newsletter June 2013

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Dear Member,

I'm writing this newsletter on the 1st June, which has just been recorded as the highest rainfall of 48mm for a June day on record, and matches the June monthly average. The widespread rainfall across Victoria will be very welcome, and with the mild weather, the Gardens will respond to this desperately needed rain. The period from November 2012 to April 2013 was one of the driest, and hottest, 6 months on record. Unfortunately the plants in Victoria Gardens did not go unscathed with several plants suffering sunburn and severe damage occurring to 2 young Irish Strawberry Trees (*Arbuus unedo*) near the pergola. The southern tree was recently removed.

It has been an outstanding autumn in Melbourne and deciduous trees in Victoria Gardens have displayed rich autumn colours from red to yellow. Even the plane trees coloured well before going brown and falling creating the sometimes challenging leaf removal operation. Other trees providing excellent colour include oaks, elms, hawthorn, ash, Lombardy poplars and crepe myrtle, an excellent plant for small gardens due to not only spectacular autumn leaves but also for flowers and smooth mottled bark.

The Friends have commenced scoping the content for a "Victoria Gardens Prahran" website. The layout will be similar to other Friend websites and the recently upgraded Prahran Historical and Arts Society web page, <http://phas.org.au/>

It is proposed that the main headings will include, Homepage, About us, Committee, Newsletter, Membership, History, Features, Trees and Plants, Map, Photographs, and Links. If you have any other suggestions or are interested in assisting with the development of the website can you please contact John Hawker on 0438 510 522, or jhawker@bigpond.net.au

Sadly, during the past year we lost Peg Goode and Dorothy Hart, both highly valued and long term members of the Friends.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Friends is the Annual General Meeting. You are encouraged to attend and are welcome to raise any issues on the Gardens and the Friends activities. Please contact Vihra if you want any items listed on the Agenda

DATE & TIME: Tuesday 18 June 2013 at 7.45pm

LOCATION: The Studio, 64 Bendigo Street, Prahran (opposite the Flying Duck)