



FRIENDS OF VICTORIA GARDENS

NEWSLETTER

November 2009

Dear Member,

The Friends meeting on the 17 September, at our new venue the Prahran Club, members heard presentations from Mark Phillips and Steve Watt both arborists at the City of Stonnington on the protection and management of park and street trees. Council is aware of the loss and decline of many large trees and have a Local Law to protect large trees, - girths greater than 1.4m, at 1.5m above ground level. The Parks unit is working with planners to minimise loss of trees, especially for new developments which require cross overs that may impact on street trees. Council plants about a 1,000 each year and includes 2-300 park trees and about 600 street trees. Where appropriate large, and long lived, trees are being planted including conifers, oaks and elms.

In Victoria Gardens new trees have been selected from the management plan, and species which tolerate the hot and now drier conditions. A priority is to replant removed trees, and new planting to screen the perimeter buildings. A bore has been sunk but the water is saline, and depending on the level of water restrictions a desalination plant might be investigated. The current practice is to use the available water more wisely and in recent weeks Council has been installing a dripper irrigation system in the garden beds. Application of mulch to reduce water loss is part of this project.

We all welcomed the rain last weekend, but the conditions are still dry and Melbourne is well below its annual rainfall. This can be seen in the Royal Botanic Gardens where it is predicted the lakes will be dry for the first time this summer.

For those who will not be able to attend the Christmas Party we send you best wishes from the Friends and thank you for your support during the year.



Following our 21st Birthday in 2008 we are returning to the usual Christmas Party celebrations, but at a new venue. It will be the usual format – bring a plate of something delicious to share and a bottle of your favourite drink. There will be a raffle for a bottle of Moet and Chandon, tickets \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00.

2009 Christmas Party – Friday 4 December , 6.30 – 8.30 pm

at Peter & Jenny Legge, 29 Trinan Street, Prahran

PS. You will be aware that Nobby Seymour has retired from the position of secretary and newsletter editor. If there is a member who would like to take on this role can you please contact me on the number below.