



FRIENDS OF VICTORIA GARDENS

Newsletter November 2018

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Dear Member,

On Sunday 14 October at *Spring into Gardening*, the Friends and other stall holders experienced delightful weather in near perfect conditions, except for those who suffer from Plane tree allergy or hay fever. Many people came to the Gardens and according to Council about 4,600 people attended.

For the first time all the marquees were arranged around the sunken oval which created a wonderful fair-like atmosphere. This year we chose to have a double marquee which allowed for a better display of the Gardens information and an opportunity to talk with visitors about the Gardens. We had many inquiries and subsequently saw 13 new members join the Friends. We extend a warm welcome to Patrick Butler, Debra Deklerk, Adrian Brown, Alicia Brown, Tom Kalogeropoulos, Annie and Charles Hider, Carol Castiello, Sarah Jardine and Brendon Gray, Gabriel Hermes, Lisa Carnegie, and Ken Bunny.

Following notification by Council about the intention to hold the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival's Long lunch event in the Gardens in March 2019, members were emailed to gather their response to paid events in the Gardens. As a result of the survey of members in late October 2018 members overwhelmingly endorsed the following principles in regard to the commercialisation of Victoria Gardens.

- 1. The Friends of Victoria Gardens Inc do not support the use of Victoria Gardens for any private paid event of whatever length or for whatever private paid purpose, and whether the Gardens are closed to the public or not for the duration of the event.*
- 2. The Friends of Victoria Gardens Inc do not support Victoria Gardens being closed to the public as exclusion of the public has never been countenanced by the Friends or by Stonnington Council. Victoria Gardens is a public garden open to the public and should remain so always and no precedent set to the contrary.*

Though we were not successful in our endeavour to negotiate the relocation of this event, we look forward to working with Stonnington Council to ensure that all of the Council's departments are made aware of and respect this principled position when considering requests for private fee paying events. The Friends pledge to ensure that Victoria Gardens remain a public amenity at all times.

Lumley Playground Upgrade:

Many Friends will be delighted by Council's decision to bring forward their plans to upgrade the playground. This project is largely in response to the Friends submission to Council's Draft Council Plan 2017-2021 prepared by Vihra and Amy and presented to a Council meeting in 2017. It was followed later that year by a second submission prepared by Vihra to Council's *Draft Children & Youth Strategy*. A copy of both documents can be found on our website under the Projects tab.

On 30 October Vihra Migios, Amy Lee & John Hawker met with Dominic Mazza and Council's Landscape Architect Alex Hogan to discuss proposed works to redesign and upgrade the Lumley Playground. Some of the matters discussed include: a playground for 1-10 years of age, a range of play experiences, use of natural elements, hiding places, a mix of surfaces, an inspirational focal point and landscaping.

The proposed timeline:

- By the end of 2018: Initial review of existing playground and usage, including a survey of local residents, garden users and key stakeholders
- By end of March 2019: Design concept prepared for second phase of consultation regarding proposed design, materials, colour palette, planting etc
- End of Financial year: Final concept prepared for information and final opportunity for comments from residents, park users and key stakeholders.
- End of August 2019: Detailed documentation prepared for construction tender.
- Mid 2019-20 Financial Year: Playground construction.
- Provisional budget \$100,000 - \$120,000.

Volunteer Gardening Program:

The Victoria Gardens Volunteer proposal has been approved through Council. It has been a lengthy period working with Council to get to this position. The first day of volunteer gardening is as per the details below:

- When - **Saturday 1st December 2018 – 8.30am -11.30am**
- Where - Victoria Gardens Council depot (located centrally in the garden).
- Dress - Closed toe shoes and please bring a pair of gloves.

Following the morning spent in the garden a lunch will be provided This is an exciting time as we build an opportunity for individuals to be involved in their local area and help develop a sense of community.

Plant News:



Rosa 'Iceberg'

The Iceberg Rose is one of the world's most popular roses and has been widely planted in Victoria over the past 30 years or so either as a bush rose or as a standard growing in the parterre and shown left. Iceberg is a modern cluster-flowered floribunda rose cultivar.

The cultivar was developed by prolific German rose breeder Reimer Kordes in Germany in 1958. He and his father Wilhelm had initially specialized in developing bush roses that were suitable for small gardens. The parent varieties of Iceberg are 'Robin Hood', a red hybrid musk rose, developed by Joseph Pemberton in 1927 in England, and 'Virgo', a white hybrid-tea rose bred in France by Charles Mallerin in 1927.

The plant was registered under the cultivar name 'KORbin' by Kordes in 1958 and given the trade name Schneewittchen (Snow White). The cultivar is known as Fée des Neiges in French and Iceberg in English. In 1958 Iceberg was awarded a Royal National Rose Society Gold Medal. The cultivar was selected as the "World Favourite Rose" of 1983 by the World Federation of Rose Societies and is listed in their "Rose Hall of Fame".

Christmas Party:

The Christmas Party is on **Sunday 2nd December** between 3.00 – 6.00pm inside the High Street entrance beside the RSL memorial. Bring a plate to share and BYO drinks, chairs or picnic rug. All welcome!