

NEWS

The Friends will be holding a Fund Raising Stall at the Thursday Sunshine Market in Harvester Road Sunshine on the 18th September. We need people to assist in running the stall. If you can help out or have donations (we are looking for books) please contact Cathy on 9364 7443 or email cat.mcdonald@internode.on.net

The Friends will be holding a brief organizing meeting on Saturday 13th September from 10:00 am at the Church Meetings Rooms in the Gardens to organize the Fund Raising Stall. Please come along and help out. We can't do this on our own.

Friends of

The McKay Gardens

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Cultural Walk with Historical Society

The Friends had a very encouraging meeting with the Sunshine and District Historical Society last month. The Historical Society is very keen to organize a cultural walk with the Friends, taking in parts of the Sunshine Housing Estate as well as the Gardens. They were proposing to provide historical information regarding the Housing Estate while we would provide information on the history and horticulture of the Gardens. Cultural walks are a good way of

developing relationships with other community groups and with reacquainting the community with the history of the Gardens. It was tentatively decided that we would aim for sometime early next year. Another proposed project in association with the Historical Society was the production of a set of postcards from their photo archive of the Gardens. This might be a very good way of advertising the Gardens and would make a nice souvenir for the cultural

walk. All we need is someone with the time to do it! Any way, many thanks to John Willaton for organizing this meeting. The Friends of the Gardens look forward to working with the Historical Society in the future.



[Their website]

The Historical Society website can be found at:
<http://www.sunshinehistoricalsociety.org.au/>

The Friends of the McKay Gardens have a website at <http://www.mckaygardens.org/> and can be contacted via contact@mckaygardens.org Usually we hold our meeting on the last Saturday of each month in the McKay Gardens. Contact us to join the mailing list.

FRIENDS OF
THE MCKAY
GARDENS

NEWS

Another planting bee will be held between 9:00 am and 12 noon on the 27th September to make the most of the spring rain. Turn up with your gardening gloves at the Western end of the Straight Six. Everyone (whether members of the Friends or not) is welcome. This is Grand final day but we promise to have you home before the match begins.

NewsWorkZ (a Work For The Dole Activity run by Djerriwarrh Employment & Education Services) has kindly taken over the production of our news letter (as long as their funding lasts) what we need now is items for next month's edition. If you are interested in writing a short piece on any matter related to the Gardens, its history, the plants in it or even on historical plants of the era, please contact us at contact@mckaygardens.org

Recent Developments in the Gardens.

Redevelopment of the Gardens continues apace. Additional seats have recently been installed including the replacement of the memorial seat lost to vandals some time ago. We lost a great number of trees during the drought, the most recent being a Norfolk Pine. While this has been quite distressing, we note with approval that Council has also planted a number of new trees – they have also replaced the Norfolk Pine.

Most of the new plantings in the redevelopment have survived and everything is looking green and much better since the rains. Only a small percentage has been lost to plant thieves. We can only hope this continues. Remember the more people use the Gardens the less vandalism there will be, so make a regular visit. It is also very pleasing to see that most of the plants planted by the Friends at the last planting bee

have also survived. A few were lost due to lack of water and one or two seem to have just disappeared but on the whole we are making progress. As spring arrives we can expect more bird life activity in the Gardens. Keep a look out for the nesting kestrels that have residence in the gardens.



View of the new development



A lost tree

WHY EVENTS ARE IMPORTANT

I. THEY'RE GOOD FOR THE PARK

“If you don't use it, you lose it.”

A buzz of sustained, positive activity is key to a safe and vibrant park.

Especially if you're trying to “take back” a park, there's no substitute for a steady stream of events that brings in the good and drives out the bad.

Events in a natural area, such as birdwatching or a hike, can help introduce people to the park as a community resource

Don't forget to host events in the early evening (stargazing, music, sports), when the park is most often underused (or abused).

Good times in the park mean good feelings towards it. When people have a good time in the park because you've drawn them in with a good event, they'll feel better about the park and be more likely to respect it and support it in the future.

II. THEY'RE GOOD FOR YOUR GROUP

They can help increase your membership. Events bring new people into the park. Take advantage of this by having a table at *every* event where people can sign up for your mailing list and find out how to get involved or become a member.

They can be used to leverage resources. A successful track record putting on events can demonstrate to potential supporters that your group can make a difference in the park. This helps when seeking funds from everyone from elected officials to corporations and businesses.

They raise your group's profile. A successful, well-run event adds to your reputation, which will help you get more support and attendance at future events.

This issue of the newsletter has been made by NewsWorkz, a free service to collate and publish regular or ad hoc newsletters for Schools and Community Groups in St Albans and surrounding areas as a means of providing work experience and training opportunities for eligible unemployed participants.

Djerriwarrh Employment & Education Services receives funding from the Commonwealth Government to run Work For The Dole (WFD) Activities in the West Melbourne Employment Services Area (ESA) and takes responsibility for the operation of the Activities.

Participating groups will supply the content for their newsletter by an agreed deadline in draft form. The activity participants will prepare and collate the material into an agreed format, seek clarification on content and layout as required, and produce a draft publication for proof reading by the editorial group which submits it for approval by the School or Community Group. Final editing will then be completed, the newsletter published and duplicated to the agreed number of copies, and the final product returned for distribution.

Schools and Community Groups can contact the WFD Activity Supervisor, John Egan on 90269606 Tuesday - Friday during business hours.

