

# Friends of the HV McKay Memorial Gardens

MAY 2011

## WINTER 2011 NEWSLETTER

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## June Planting Day

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> June 2011 10am - 12pm

McKay Gardens  
120 Anderson Road, Sunshine  
(Melway map 26 reference G12).

Everyone is invited to come and join us for the next planting day. Bring your gardening gloves and kneeling pad and we will provide the hot drinks (plus the council usually provides sausages and the like).

Our aim is to finish planting out the garden along the "straight six" (parallel to the train tracks).



The *Friends* have been cultivating Gazanias that were struck from cuttings and these, as well as other plants, will be going in. There will be reason to celebrate as these plantings should complete the "straight six" section of the gardens.

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There may also be some weeding to do in the rose gardens for those who are really enthusiastic.

We will also hold a brief meeting afterwards in the Church meeting rooms.

Rug up warm and come and join us. Bring friends and family and meet new people from the neighbourhood.



## Art Prize

In 2010, the *Friends* ran a schools art competition and received over fifty entries from five schools. Cash prizes were donated to the winning entrants' schools.

At the AGM in March 2011 members voted to hold another art competition in 2011 but open to the broader community. We are now seeking a person interested in helping to organise a potential art prize, utilizing the Gardens as inspiration

For more information, please contact Catherine McDonald:

[catmcdonald@iprimus.com.au](mailto:catmcdonald@iprimus.com.au) or (03) 9364 7443

## Regional Rail Link Project

In April 2011, the Victorian Government announced it will proceed with the \$4.3 billion Regional Rail Link project. It aims to separate regional trains from metropolitan trains in Western Melbourne giving Geelong, Bendigo and Ballarat trains their own dedicated tracks from Sunshine to Southern Cross Station.

Of particular interest to the *Friends of the HV McKay Gardens* are two proposed road rail grade separations along Anderson Road. The project notes the necessity to separate the road from the rail line to avoid traffic delays along Anderson Road. It states that Anderson Road accommodates 20,000 cars a day and with the increased train frequency, boom gate closure times would be unacceptable.

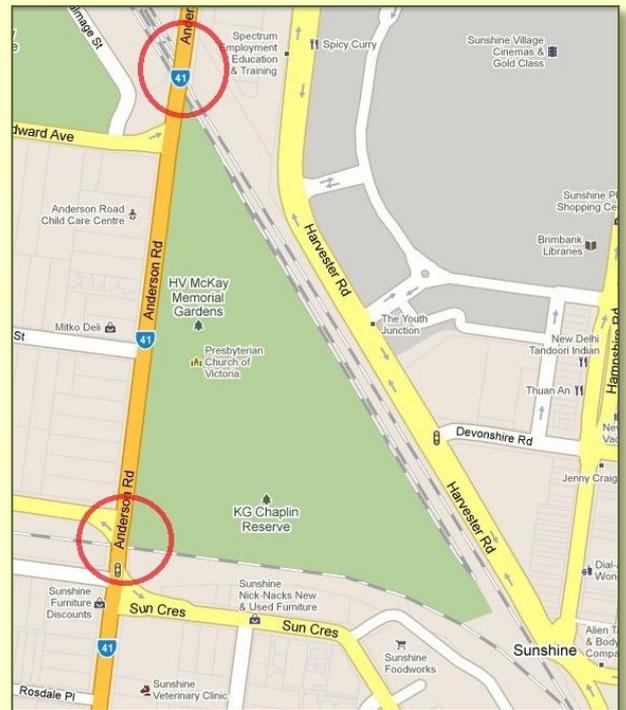
The road rail grade separations are situated very close to the HV McKay Gardens (see map). Whilst some community consultation on the Regional Rail Link has been undertaken by the Department of Transport, consultation on the grade separations has not been undertaken to date because of the preliminary nature of the proposal.

At the Brimbank Council meeting on 15 March 2011 Council endorsed a number of urban design principles for the Anderson Road Grade Separations, including:

### Preserve heritage values

- Avoid any encroachment into the HV McKay Memorial Gardens, a registered heritage site of State significance, being one of only two intact industrial heritage gardens in Victoria.
- Avoid any impact on the McKay homesteads at 145 and 147 Anderson Road, registered as sites of local heritage value. Minimise encroachment on the established gardens of these two properties, recognising that the mature trees are an important part of the heritage value of the homesteads.

*"..road rail grade separations are situated very close to the HV McKay Gardens"*



*Locations of proposed road rail grade separations*

### Retain and enhance important pedestrian access across Anderson Road, the rail corridor and HV McKay Memorial Gardens

- Ensure all existing formal and informal pedestrian links to the Sunshine Town Centre across Anderson Road and the railway corridor are enhanced and retained.
- Ensure all pedestrian links across Anderson Road to the HV McKay Memorial Gardens are enhanced and retained.
- Maintain active pedestrian frontages along private property and the HV McKay Memorial Gardens.
- Incorporate access for all abilities into the design of all new infrastructure.

The full list of endorsed principles can be found in the [15 Mar 2011 Ordinary Meeting Minutes](#) on the Brimbank Council website.

For more information on the overall rail link project, visit the [Regional Rail Link](#) website.

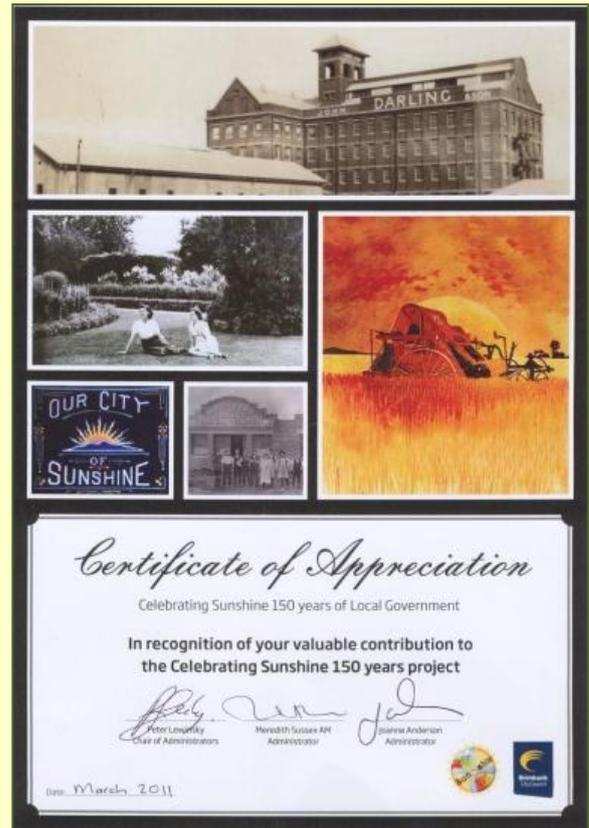
Keep an eye on the McKay Gardens [Blog](#) for updates and more information on community consultations.

## Celebrating Sunshine

The *Friends* took part in Brimbank Council's *Celebrating Sunshine 150 Years* project last year producing a booklet of historical images of the Gardens.

Copies of the booklets are still available (free to members).

Brimbank Council has kindly sent us a Certificate of Appreciation for our participation.



Views from the pedestrian rail overpass

## Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting (AGM) of the *Friends of the McKay Memorial Gardens* was held on 26 March 2011.

- Catherine McDonald was returned as President
- Helen Reed was returned as Treasurer/Secretary
- Michelle Edwards joins the *Friends* as Media Officer

Ordinary Meetings for 2011 were scheduled:

- Saturday 18 Jun 2011 (See planting day article)
- Saturday 27 Aug 2011 10-11am
- Saturday 26 Nov 2011 10-11am