

# Newsletter

## AUTUMN 2018



Website: <http://www.mckaygardens.com.au/>

Email: [contact@mckaygardens.com.au](mailto:contact@mckaygardens.com.au)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofMcKayGardens>

Twitter: @McKayGardens

Post: Friends of the McKay Gardens, PO Box 154, Sunshine, VIC 3020

Registration No A0050996B

## Community Festival Edition

Welcome to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Special *Community Festival Edition* of the Friends of the HV McKay Gardens Newsletter.

On Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2018, the Friends' Group organised a Community Festival to let the residents of Sunshine and others enjoy the gardens while listening to live entertainment and activities for children throughout the afternoon.

The weather, although a little windy, was good for all the activities, with sunshine but not too hot. A wide range of visitors from all age groups came along with people representing the diversity of Sunshine's ethnic community - reflected in the range of music, dance and activities on show.

This year saw over 200 people attend the event, which was moved to the first Sunday in March from late March in previous years. This meant that more people were free to come and enjoy the gardens. Thanks, again to Speroulla Christodoulou, the current President of the Friends, for organising entertainers and stall holders and arranging Council permission, insurance and logistics for the event.

This year saw a number of new music performances, additional stalls, and some new activities and entertainments, especially for children. The raffles and competitions were held as usual to promote the Gardens and the Sunshine Scouts ran a very busy sausage sizzle.



### Inside This Issue

Introduction	1
Program of events	2
Entertainment tent	2
Kid's Corner & Fitness Corner	3
Heritage Tree and friends' Tent	4
What's coming Up	4

This year, Brimbank City Council provided \$12,000 in funding that was used to hire the marquee and tents, pay for St John's ambulance to be present for the whole afternoon, pay for the music performers and toilet facilities, and cover the costs of security, publicity and printing. This year, the new power points in the gardens that the Council had installed were put to good use by the musicians and Bunnings Pop Corn machine.

## The Program of Events



The Community Festival was spread over five locations in the Gardens from 12.00 noon to 5.00pm

- *The Entertainment Tent* - with music, dancing and singing by community groups
- *The KIDS Corner* - with games, competitions, activities, face-painting for kids by Fairy Caitlin and Fairy Lulu, free Popcorn provided by Bunnings, and the fabulous Roving Wizard!
- *The FITNESS Corner* - with soccer, lacrosse, yoga and barefoot lawn bowls
- *The HERITAGE Tree* - with a heritage photo display, self-guided walk, and information desk
- *Community Stalls* - Friends' Group, Sunshine Scouts Sausage Sizzle and handicrafts, Coffee Cube, Essential Oils Man, Whispa Wellness desk, Sunshine RSL, Handmade by Rebecca and Upbeat .

## The Entertainment Tent

Once again, the entertainment tent was the focus of the musical activities and performances. The event started with a performance by Veseli-Makedonki of Macedonian dance - ably assisted by Speroulla!



This was followed by a selection of international songs performed by Harmony for Humanity - the multicultural choir.



Bush music and dancing was provided by Folkus and Cory Snoek and Jim Power once again played Fiddle and Banjo.



This year, we also had some new groups including a superb performance of Spanish music by Duo Arrayanes, as well new music from UpBeat.



Later in the afternoon, music and dance from Sudan was given by the Nuba Mountains Dancing Group wearing traditional costumes.



The day ended with Samoan music and dance from the Samoan Independent Leadership Network - who were joined in the last item by the Nuba Mountains people.





The KIDS Corner, run by Gardens' Friend, Michelle assisted by Laura, was once again a great hit with kids and visitors alike! This year, two fairies flew in - Fairy Caitlin and Fairy Lulu did a wonderful job painting faces of lots of young fairies. The competition for guessing the number of sweets in two enormous Jars was popular as was the drawing competition. But the most popular activity was provided by the Roving Wizard who helped kids discover the magical features of the Gardens!



The FITNESS Corner began with Junior Soccer was provided by the Innovation Hub, followed by Barefoot Bowls organised by Garry from Sunshine RSL, that was held on the site of the original Lawn Bowling Green in the Gardens. Yoga instruction was available from Whispa Wellness and Junior Lacrosse was represented by the Footscray Lacrosse Club. Chasing the Wizard, climbing trees and dancing provided lots of other exercise for everyone.



Keeping up with the Wizard was a challenge . . .



Advice on Lawn bowling from the Wizard!



Ever-popular face painting for the kids.



Fun for families, kids and dogs alike!





The HERITAGE Tree and FRIENDS' TENT provided a focus for information on the history of the Gardens and an extensive display of historical photos of the Gardens. Ros Savio answered questions from visitors about why the Gardens were established and the challenges that have faced the Gardens over the last century. Ros also directed visitors to the start of the self-guided Oak Walk that let visitors find some of the significant places in history of the Gardens. Visitors also enjoyed the food and drinks from the Scouts (who sold 185 sausages), as well as the Coffee Pod and Pop Corn machine.



A great way to relax in the sunshine, at Sunshine!



## What's coming Up

The Friends have organized a community bulb planting morning in the Gardens on Saturday 21 April 2018. Daffodil, jonquil, freesia, tulips and other Spring flower bulbs will be provided for you to plant in the Gardens from 10.00am to noon, followed by a free sausage sizzle provided by Brimbank City Council. Meet near the irrigation tanks on the South Walk, 120 Anderson Road, Sunshine at 10.00am - bring your gloves, trowel, hat, sunscreen and water to drink for a few hours of exercise and fun in the Gardens.



## Meetings

Meetings of the Friends are held monthly alternating following days:

*Saturdays at the Sunshine Presbyterian Church Hall, 120 Anderson Road, Sunshine at 10.00am - 3 Feb, 7 April, 2 June, 4 August, 6 October, 1 December*

*Thursdays at the Sunshine Library, 301 Hampshire Road, Sunshine at 6.30pm - 1 March, 3 May, 5 July, 6 September, 1 November*

## New members are always welcome!



The annual subscription is just \$10.00, and you can join by contacting the Secretary, Melinda at:  
 Email: [contact@mckaygardens.com.au](mailto:contact@mckaygardens.com.au)  
 Post: Friends of the McKay Gardens  
 PO Box 154, Sunshine, VIC 3020

or by sending your name, address, phone and email with a cheque for \$10.00 payable to:  
 Friends of the HV McKay Memorial Gardens c/- PO Box 154 Sunshine VIC 3020

or send an email and electronic funds transfer to:  
**Name:** Friends of the McKay Memorial Gardens  
**Bank:** Westpac; BSB 033-085; Account 385640