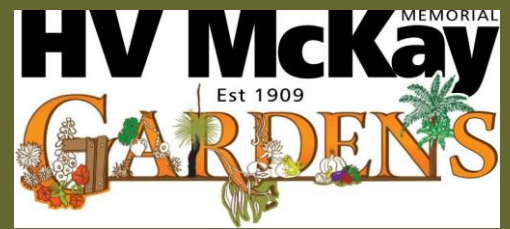


Newsletter

WINTER 2025



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

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President's winter welcome



Photo: Rainer Linz

Welcome to another fabulous edition of the Friends newsletter for Winter. In this quarter we formally requested Council to allocate money in its next budget to reinstate lights in the Gardens and to also to replant garden beds along the Straight Six removed in anticipation of the airport rail works that have not as yet happened. The Friends are in ongoing discussions with descendants of HV McKay about their proposed kind donation of a mature Monkey Puzzle tree to plant in the Gardens, and to lay a memorial plaque in commemoration of the Centenary of HV McKay's death that occurred on 21 May 1926.

As Friends Member, Neil Head notes, 'McKay was the industrialist/benefactor for the Gardens. He is also associated with so many of the foundation elements of Sunshine, including Albion new town, the Albion Soldier Settlement Estate, the Railway Pedestrian Overpass, the Sunshine Club, Former Sunshine Technical College and an almost endless list thereafter. Remnant parts of his work and donations can be seen all over Sunshine and Albion, many of them heritage-listed items.'

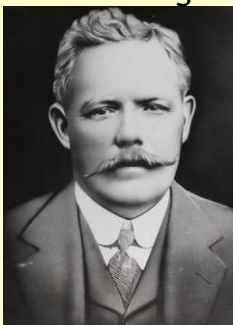


Photo: Museums Victoria

If you live in this area ... Indeed if you live in Victoria, or even from a broader Australia and international perspective, do make some time to read up about the deeds of McKay, including the significance of the Harvester Judgment as a starting point element of the annual National Wage Case, that we all take for granted these days. There will be various activities to mark the historic occasion, including the proposed tree planting by the McKay Family in the Gardens.'

After another successful McKay Gardens Community Festival only four months ago, the Friends have submitted a new funding application to Council for the next festival in March 2026. A recent highlight was nomination of the Friends for Community Group of the Year by Simone Gordon and Jane Allen, Festival and Events Support Officers, Brimbank City Council. Though the award went to the deserving *Helping Hand Mission* in Sunshine, we were excited and grateful to have been nominated. Read more about the Awards night in this edition of the Newsletter.



Another recent activity at the Gardens was a visit by school children from Jacksons' School, St Albans who helped with gardening under the watchful supervision of Brimbank Council gardeners.

I hope you enjoy this Newsletter and keep an eye on our Website and social media for Springtime activities!

Speroulla Christodoulou, President.

We are Brimbank Awards 2025

The Friends of the HV McKay Memorial Gardens were deeply honored to be nominated for Community Group of the Year at the 2025 *We Are Brimbank Awards*. This prestigious accolade recognizes an extraordinary community organisation whose dedication, service, and passion have profoundly enriched the lives of Brimbank residents—whether through hosting events, delivering essential services, or spearheading initiatives that unite our community.



Our much-loved Annual Community Festival in the HV McKay Memorial Gardens is the highlight of our calendar each year, as we come together to celebrate Brimbank's rich cultural diversity with music, dance, sports, and a feast of delicious food. Yet, what truly brings this festival to life is our committed volunteer committee—driven by a shared passion for the Gardens and its central role in Sunshine's historical heritage. It's because of them that this festival has become a cherished, joyous occasion for the whole community. A heartfelt thank you goes to Brimbank City Council for hosting such a wonderful evening during Volunteer Week. The food was delightful, the entertainment lively, and the atmosphere uplifting. Although the Friends of the McKay Gardens didn't take home the award, the night was a celebration of all the remarkable contributions made by individuals and groups across Brimbank. Melanie Abdeen.



Photo: Speroulla and Melanie at the Awards evening, 2025



The Community Group of the Year at the 2025 *We Are Brimbank Awards* was **Helping Hands Mission**. This award is for a remarkable community group that has demonstrated outstanding dedication and service, leaving a positive impact on the lives of residents in Brimbank. This could be through organising events, providing essential services or championing initiatives that have brought community together.



Helping Hands is more than just a charity — it's a community lifeline. What began as a small mobile op shop in 2007 has evolved into a crucial support network for over 10,000 local families. Whether it's emergency food relief, a warm meal, affordable shopping, or simply a friendly face, they are here to help. Thanks to their incredible volunteers, donors, and partners, Helping Hands provides essential items to those in need, rescues food, and keeps quality goods out of landfill. At Helping Hands, everyone is welcome, and every contribution makes a difference.

MEGA McKay Gardens

A stroll through the Gardens on a winter's day will reveal both MEGA plants and structures as well as some fascinating plants on a MICRO scale (next page).

These are just some of the extraordinary trees, buildings, structures and bushes that need to be observed from a substantial distance!



Photos: Russell Smith, June 2025

MICRO McKay Gardens

Winter visitors with an eye for detail will find many plants that others may miss - and think also about scents as you walk past the violet beds! Join the Friends of the Gardens to learn more.

