

Newsletter

Autumn

2024



FRIENDS OF SALE BOTANIC GARDENS

President's Report Heather Harrington

Autumn has finally arrived after our unexpected heat wave at the beginning of the season. The gardens are an absolute delight with lots of interesting treasures to be found.

One of my favourites is the *Haemanthus coccineus* (the blood or paintbrush lily), a native to Southern Africa. A bulbous perennial with short stems and bright red flowers that appear before the strap-shaped leaves. See if you can find it!

Parks Week was a very busy time and a wonderful opportunity to showcase our gardens with impromptu garden tours, led by our volunteers. Congratulations to Tracey for all her amazing efforts!

The blockbuster Annemieke Mein exhibition at the Gippsland Art Gallery – A Life's Work is also drawing significant visitors to our gardens. Annemieke is famed for her



Haemanthus coccineus (the blood or paintbrush lily). Photo by Lucy Brilman



Camberwell Bushwalking Club. Photo by Fred Hellriegel

extraordinary depictions of native Australian wildlife in three dimensional textiles. A eucalypt sculpture, designed by Annemieke and reflecting both the Australian and Gippsland environment, welcomes visitors to our Gardens at the main entrance.

Our guided tours continue to be very popular, especially by appointment. Recently Fred and Rob had an enjoyable morning with twenty one members from the Camberwell Bushwalking Club. They were really interested and very impressed with their tour of the garden, followed by a visit to the SEED community garden and morning tea at Nakunbalook.

We have been invited to Broughton Hall for the Gippsland Rare & Unusual Plant Fair on Saturday 13th April to promote the Sale Botanic Gardens. Thank you to all the volunteers who represent us at this event.

Tony King Curator's Report & Photos

My favourite time of year is autumn, with mild days and a hint of coolness in the evenings. The summer began more summery than normal with heat wave conditions over the long weekend, which meant plenty of watering around the Gardens. Unfortunately, we had some irrigation issues which stressed the lawns, but they are bouncing back now.



The Grey-headed Flying foxes are still present, but their numbers have dropped off significantly in the last few weeks as they move to other food sources. The Little Corellas are letting us know they are around, creating more noise than any of our electric equipment or new Toro workman!

The milder weather brings plenty of visitors to the Gardens and we seem to be getting more people from outside the district using the space, including plenty of parents dropping in during school swimming carnivals.

We are busy starting to cut back plants across the Gardens including grasses, deciduous plants (like the Philadelphus and Flowering Quinces) and deadheading plants as they finish their flowering flushes.

We have given all the Buxus and Photinia hedges a trim, and they will get done again before the end of autumn. The Sensory Garden beds will be cut back as plants slow down including the Nepetas, Rudbeckias and Asters, which gave a great display this season. The Lavenders have already been done after starring for a month or so with great flowers and fragrance.

Some work will be happening in the Catalogue Garden over autumn, with lots of cutting back and clean up to give us a good display come spring. I find the older plant types within the beds to be good performers. We have cut back a lot of the beds in the Garden for Life too, which will return our efforts later in the year. The zero-depth water zone is still being used by young children in hotter weather, with fantastic visitation over summer.

The Climate Matched Living Collection looks great right now, with lots of colour still in the beds and some trees just beginning to drop leaves to allow more light in during shorter daylight hours. There's plenty of work along Summer Walk as we clean up after summer flowering, which means cutting back Sedums and Euphorbias along with some of the Salvias.

The Elm Forest is starting to drop leaves, and we should see the bulbs start to pop through shortly. This area has not been disturbed too much this year, so I look forward to a good display. The Maple Grove is already showing signs of colour and many species are beginning to drop summer foliage, which looks great even though it creates a bit of clean-up work for us.

The Bill Cain Collection suffered a few losses over summer, probably because the rain on Boxing Day which really saturated the soils. We will look to reprofile the beds and replant to bring this bed up to speed by spring.

In February, the Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) Victoria Committee came to visit the garden and discuss the Care for the Rare Collection.



Secretary's Report Evelyn McAdam

I absolutely love this time of year, reaping the rewards of vegetables and fruit being harvested. Our trees, shrubs and smaller plants are winding down to have a rest, after displaying a summer of growth and colour.

In our Botanic Gardens, it is time to tidy up some of the garden beds. As a volunteer, it is a perfect time to share ideas with each other during our gardening sessions, learning new pruning and propagating tips. The soil is still warm and there is always a spot that needs a new plant to fill it. Our garden beds showcase plants that just might fill that void. The chatter as we garden together is heart-warming and therapeutic.

Come and join us in our beautiful Botanic Gardens.

We welcome new volunteers who would like to join like-minded people of various degrees of experience, from those wanting to learn more, to those with a certain expertise. We meet the second Thursday of the month from February through December at 9:30 am at the Maple Pavilion.

Gardening Day

April 11th

May 9th

June 13th

Become a Friend

Join like-minded people each month for gardening, friendship and learning in the beautiful Botanic Gardens.

We extend a warm welcome to Barb McCubbin who has recently joined the Friends of Sale Botanic Gardens. We hope she enjoys our gardening days as much as we do.

Contact Heather 0413 919 537 or the Secretary or Editor via email friendsofsalebotanicgardens@gmail.com

Editor Dianne Honey.

Thank you everyone for your contribution.

Upcoming Event Garden Tours

Attend a free guided tour of the Sale Botanic Gardens. Tours operate on the second Thursday of each month, except January 10:00am-11:00am. Meet your tour guide at the main entrance in Guthridge Parade.

Private tours are also available by appointment. Phone 5142 3237 to book a tour or 0413 919 537



The Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (A.A.F.B.G) is a national network providing a forum for communication, information and promotion between its members, related botanic gardens groups and the community.

You can locate all member gardens on their new map on their website



Council acknowledges the Gunaikurnai People as the Traditional Owners of the land that is now the Wellington Shire