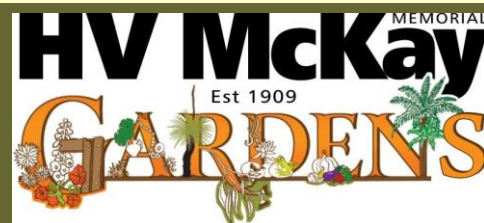


Newsletter

SPRING 2022



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

Email: contact@mckaygardens.com.au

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

Registration No A0050996B

Address: Friends of the McKay Gardens 120 Anderson Road, Sunshine, VIC 3020

President's Notes

Thank you to the Friends and supporters who discussed and wrote letters of support for our concerns about the state of the Gardens. The issues raised recently regarding management of the Gardens and use of herbicides are still under discussion.

The Friends hope that Council will demonstrate its commitment to the Strategic Management Plan devised in 2017 by following the plan as agreed to at that time and providing resources sufficient to enable this to be done.

There has been increased gardening activity in recent weeks, which we note with appreciation, and the Straight Six path now has its full complement of field stones. The Friends have recently assisted with the development of text for a new Interpretive panel for the Northern section of the Gardens, setting out the changes to this part of the Gardens over time.

Melinda Mockridge, President



The Festival is Back!

It's on Sunday 18th September from 12.00noon to 5.00pm at the HV McKay Memorial Gardens, 120 Anderson Road, Sunshine.

Come along and enjoy the Spring sunshine with family and friends. Bring a picnic and listen to the music. There'll also be a wizard and facepainting by fairies....

The H V McKay Memorial Gardens, formerly Sunshine Gardens, are yours to enjoy. The Friends bring this Festival to you to encourage use and appreciation of this State-listed Heritage Garden which they have fought to protect and promote since 2009.



Committee of Management

At the Annual General Meeting on 15 November 2021, elections were held for the Officers and Committee, with the following elected:

President: Melinda Mockridge

Secretary: Russell Smith

Treasurer: Helen Reid

General Committee Members:

Speroulla Christodoulou (Events Coordinator);
Neil Head; Robyn Flett

Planting day on 2 September

By Helen Reid, founding member of the Friends

It seems I was the only one who could attend the planting day at the Gardens on Friday 2 September. I did enjoy working with Sam, Tom and Tiah, and we made a lot of progress. I admire their gardening skills, and wish my garden could look as good as this when tended to. I struggle with kikiyu here in Sunbury and pleasingly, no sign of any rogue strong tendrils in the place where we were gardening, just mushroom compost. It was a little sad that the daffodils had to come out, but were replanted even in full bloom near the drinking fountain.

I will now be able to walk along the south walk and admire the camomile daisies that we planted, always reliant upon them actually growing, and that my planting methods were sufficient. Locals who passed by were bemused to see us working there and some said Hello. I like the fact that the ornamental flowering peach grown from cuttings are all beginning to display their buds bursting into bloom. I think it will look good at the Festival day 18 September.

The livestock in the gardens were busy. The birds, honeyeater wattle birds were not afraid of us until the digging machine went into action. Before that it was the echium that they hunted for nectar in. And I saw only one rat that was running across from bed to bed. And I saw a man walking his dog on a leash on his way to Albion. I used to see him a lot when I was working on the church garden and I would ask him to keep the dog on the leash, which he used to ignore. He seems to have mended his ways.

I ask Damien to pass on my respect for the work these three gardeners are doing in the McKay Gardens. I know they are disappointed when the thieving light fingers of Sunshine take their choice of the newly planted plants in the Gardens. It has been that way forever, probably. It is a constant fight for survival and tenacity.



**** President's Note **** We shouldn't forget that there has been damage to, and plants have gone missing, from the Gardens regularly since 1909. As Bill Bampton, former Head Gardener at Heronswood wrote in 2009:

Issues of public safety and property damage compound the challenges of the gardens. I don't think that many private gardens have to contend with newly restored garden beds being routinely set alight. Although it is easy to be nostalgic about the past, as early as 1910 the Footscray Advertiser reported, "Residents at Sunshine are highly indignant at the action, presumably of boys, in rooting up a number of the trees recently planted in the new reserve."

From *The H V McKay Gardens - An Industrial Garden 100 years on* (2009) *SunRRA Monograph no. 4*, page 12.



Next Garden Talk

The next Zoom talk organised by the Friends will be in October and given by **John Hawker, President of the Friends of Victoria Gardens Prahran.**

Victoria Gardens were formally opened in 1885 by Lady Lock (wife of the then Governor of what was the British Colony of Victoria) and were designed by landscaper William Sangster (best known for this work at Como House, Rippon Lea and the Daylesford Botanic Gardens).

In 1987, Friends of Victoria Gardens Inc was established and the group continues to play a major role in supporting the care and enhancement of this significant historic garden. To learn more about Victoria Gardens, visit the Friends website at <http://fovg.org.au/>

To register for the Talk, just email the Secretary (contact@mckaygardens.com.au) who will send you a Zoom link for the event.



Victoria Gardens Prahran

<https://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Community/Parks-and-sporting-facilities/Victoria-Gardens>

Work still to be done . . .

Everyone needs to help by keeping the Gardens well-maintained and safe from damage and loss. A lot of work goes into looking after these Gardens and we all need to help in keeping the finished product safe from damage.

A lot of work remains to be done, however, as we can see from these recent photos:



If you like what we do, join us!



The annual subscription is just \$10.00, and you can join by contacting the Secretary at:

Email: contact@mckaygardens.com.au

or send an email and electronic funds transfer to:

Name: Friends of the McKay Memorial Gardens
Bank: Westpac; **BSB** 033-085; **Account** 385640

If you REALLY like us – come onto the Committee to help keep the Friends Group alive and well!

More information is available from our Website <https://www.mckaygardens.com.au>



Previous Festival Highlights

