



- Highlights from the last 3 months!
- Important Dates for 2025

**It's been a busy three months so here's a quick catchup.**

**The 2025 Peace Run to Manly.** The torch bearers ended their run with a ceremony and tree planting in the Garden with Mayor Sue Heins and members of FIPBG.



**Sprucing up The Fernery:** One of our wonderful council gardeners reassembled the stone wall in The Fernery.

#### **Daniel Rosenbaum on the subject of Container Gardens**



Our Guest Speaker at our August Get-together was Daniel Rosenbaum who entertained us with his path to his current passion.

Incorporating Product Design and Ceramics, his interest in photography mostly of plants, flowers and finding abstract forms in nature and rocks, he started constructing planter boxes from various materials. He realized that he needed to propagate plants particularly succulents to fill them as well as seeing the importance of connecting humans with nature and the greening of cities. Daniel studied Horticulture and has now opened a nursery and runs Botanic Art / potting classes as well as garden and landscape design at The Container Pot Workshop.

Many of us took advantage of the succulents Daniel had there for sale.

## Our August and September Working Bees:

A surprisingly hot Saturday in August saw us break into two teams tackling the perennial border and beds alongside the pathways adjacent to the bowling club. First we weeded and prepared the soil for planting. What was planted? Three Jane McGrath Rose bushes (attractive old English style rose), *Gazania* (daisy-like flower heads in brilliant shades of yellow and orange) and *Cineraria* (a velvety-soft lacy silver foliage plant). The Wednesday bee was cancelled due to torrential rain.



Our two September Bees were focused on freshening up our Garden in preparation for our October Spring Festival.

There were very few gardeners on both days, but a mammoth effort as we planted a huge range of soft-wooded perennials, herbs and flowering plants around the Garden and in the Sensory Garden – over 100 just on the Saturday!



The list of what we planted: *Brachyscome* "Mauve Delight", *Calamagrostis* "Karl Foester", *Doodia aspera* (Rasp Fern), *elichrysum angustifolia* (curry plant), *Liriope muscari* variety, *Myoporum parvifolium* "Purpurea", *Osmanthus diosmifolia* "Red Gingham", *Pelargonium inodorum* (native Pelargonium), *Pelargonium sp unknown* (with coral flowers), *Plectranthus argentatus*, *Prostanthera rotundifolia*, *Stromanthe* "Tricolor", *Salvia* "Compact Blue", *Viola hederacea*, *Westringia fruticose* "Zena" (native Rosemary), Oregano, yellow Petunias, Purple Basil, Thai Basil, Thyme, and Vietnamese Mint.



**Safety update:** Railings were finally installed on the stone stairs from the Garden down to the bowling club car park.

**Guided Garden Tour for War Vets Gardening Group:**  
We hosted a lively group from the War Vets gardening group for a tour around the Garden.

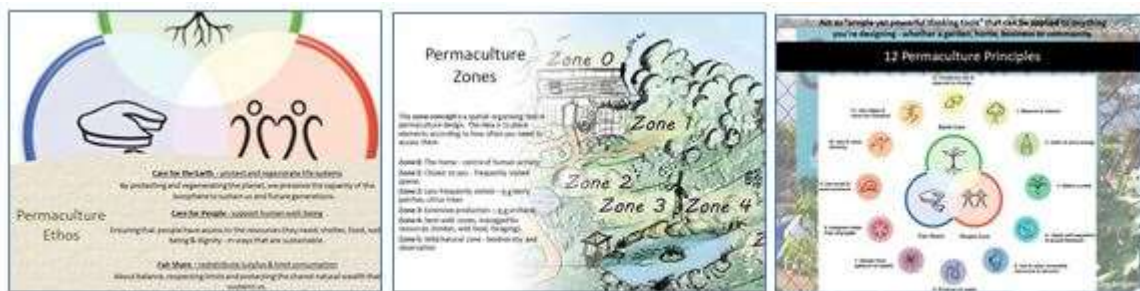


### Ruth Hansen with an introduction to Permaculture

At our October Get-together, Guest Speaker Ruth Hansen, the Coordinator of Permaculture Northern Beaches (PNB), presented a large group with a fascinating look at how Permaculture works with nature to create healthy environments and how we can participate here on the Northern Beaches.



Ruth covered the origins of Permaculture, its Ethos and Zones, introduced the 12 Permaculture Design principles, as well as explained who PNB are and what they do. View her full presentation [here](#).



**New stone steps leading to the the central lawn:** As part of the ongoing landscaping plans for the central area, the old dangerous steps and pathway leading down to the lawn were upgraded. Work and vegetation plantings are still to come, but here is the progress so far.



## And last but not least – our Spring Festival!

There were many busy months planning, organizing, promoting, and finally the day arrived and all those efforts by our executive committee and wonderful members paid off.



A welcoming speech by Lloyd, our President, and a big thank you from Mayor Sue Heins for our organization, our members, our volunteers and of course, the council gardeners who were invaluable in helping set up the area.



Tania, our Working Bee Coordinator, introduced our Garden Ambassador, Paul Nicholson who is the Manager of Volunteers at the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney. Paul spoke to us about the importance of our garden and of volunteers in particular and then took questions from the audience. Afterwards he roamed around the festival speaking to people and also joined our plant stall with Sandy, giving great advice to potential buyers.



Some members (alongside a few family members) and executive committee manned our stalls, from sizzling sausages, selling plants and raffle tickets, not to mention handling the very important EFTPOS transactions, guiding historic and botanic tours and welcoming visitors.



Even more members worked tirelessly entertaining our smaller visitors in the kid's zone that was located in the grassy area of the sensory garden next to the playground where we scattered picnic blankets.



And there was plenty to entertain them: a treasure hunt through the garden with fun prizes at the end, potting a nasturium seed to take home, creating mini masterpieces and the ever popular face painter, plus loads of games like darts, quoits, shuttlecock and and building blocks.



There was also more to enjoy: two free yoga classes by Emily Rose, delicious tastes from Curly Honey, even more delicious smells from Summer Candles. The CWA's world famous Devonshire Teas were served and two of our supporters, Northern Beaches Council and Community Bank Freshwater | Bendigo set up educational stalls.



And let's not forget The Chris Thorp Family band providing great sounds all day long.



The day ended with families relaxing on the lawn, others sitting on straw bales to chat and listen to the music while others got up to dance.



We were excited and delighted to see such a unanimously positive response from our community as we introduced them to the new central area and lawn and its future possibilities.

And we have so many people to thank for the success of our 2025 Spring Festival: Northern Beaches Council for their continuing support; Community Bank Freshwater | Bendigo Bank for a funding grant; for various donations from Bunnings Balgowlah, Kennards Balgowlah, Officeworks Dee Why, Mounties Group, The Manly Club on Gilbert Park, StudioPlum Landscapers, Naked Wines, The Fairlight Butcher, Dive Centre Manly, Dripping Wet Surf Shop, Aqua Vitae Day Spa, and Georgia at Bare Beauty House Salon.

And of course to our wonderful members, especially Tony Lewis who organized the day so brilliantly.

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## Important Dates for November & December 2025

**Saturday, November 15:** The Saturday Working Bee – 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**Wednesday, November 19:** The Wednesday Working Bee – 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**Saturday, December 13:** The Saturday Working Bee – 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**Tuesday, December 16:** Our Holiday Celebration at The Manly Club on Gilbert Park from 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 17:** The Wednesday Working Bee – 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

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