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Updates from our Executive Committee

Annual General Meeting: We wrapped up another successful financial year with some exciting progress in the Garden at our recent Annual General Meeting. It was one of the coldest evenings so far but still well attended! After an opening address and acknowledgement of country, the floor was opened up for our two special guests to address the meeting.

- **James Griffin MP, our Patron:** James said how pleased he was to see the progress that has been made in the Botanic Garden with the assistance of the Friends of Ivanhoe Park Botanic Garden and the support of NBC. He then presented a copy of a Community Recognition Statement (CRS) that he introduced in the NSW Parliament recognizing our commitment that goes well beyond garden care: “heritage, community, and environmental preservation is all at the heart of everything this wonderful organisation does and I am proud to serve as Patron and support their ongoing efforts.” He then acknowledged President Lloyd Keen, Grant and Fundraising Coordinator Tony Lewis, and the entire team of volunteers for their passion, generosity, and ongoing contribution to our local environment.



- **Scot Hedge | Manager, Park Assets – Planning Design & Delivery:** Scot who is responsible for the Capital Works and Renewals Program outlined in the Landscape Master Plan for Ivanhoe Park, updated us on some of the works in progress at the moment: interim landscape works and plantings which includes the work done on the new central area; new handrails especially those on the sandstone steps leading down from the old tramway to the bowling club; landscape concept plan for the old playground area which will go on Public Exhibition in August; and Wayfinding and Heritage signs.

He also reported that the NBC Teams speak highly of the FIPBG and how they enjoy working with the members in the Garden.

The Executive Committee nominations were read and voted upon and all existing members will continue. Two new positions were taken up as well from two of our newest members Brandon Joel, Assistant Events Coordinator and Jessica O'Neill, Membership | Social Media Coordinator.

War Memorial Landscaping: We have been working on improving the War Memorial area and landscaping is the next step. The area surrounding the obelisk has had road base laid ready for sandstone pavers. Soon after, there will be a rosemary garden planted and a sandstone path linking up the main pathway.



Grill'd Success: We won! So thanks to everyone who bought a burger and added a token to our jar at Grill'd Balgowlah during the month of June. Even the Executive Committee participated by holding our July Committee Meeting there.



Important Dates for August 2025

Saturday, August 16: The Saturday Working Bee – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 19: Our Get-together at The Manly Club on Gilbert Park from 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 20: The Wednesday Working Bee – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Save the Date for our Spring Festival on Sunday, October 12!

Our July Working Bees

Saturday Working Bee:

Our Planting Blitz of the new central area couldn't have fallen on a more perfect day. Working with Northern Beaches Council we were tasked with new plantings across two separate areas – The Fernery and The Mound.



After checking in and collecting tools, our team gathered to watch a demonstration of best practices of planting the various ferns and shrubs.



Three truckloads of plants were waiting for us to be loaded onto wheelbarrows or into waiting arms and taken to the new central area.



The plants were carefully placed ready for us to dig in.





Then the planting began in earnest with our teams working in both The Fernery and on The Mound, followed by watering and fertilizing.



Mayor Sue Heins came by to watch the transformation. She chatted to the Gardeners, our President and Working Bee Coordinator, she even joined in the planting and stopped briefly for a cuppa.



In just under five hours, 457 plants – yes they were counted – went into the ground in a longer than normal Working Bee that included smoko breaks for a cuppa and a well-earned sausage sizzle for lunch. A huge thank you for a huge effort from our Gardeners, administrator/baristas and our BBQ master: Jozy, Anne, Jane M, Lee, Max, Chris W-S, Chris M, Pat, Toni, Brandon, Jessie, Ishbel, Lois, Paul and of course our NBC team of Scott and Andy (and the Mayor of course).



Wednesday Working Bee

A substantial rain overnight took care of the watering that was planned for our Wednesday Bee, but there was still clean up to do. The proposed stone flag feature pathway from the central area through The Fernery to the existing pathway leading up to the old tramway was staked out by Tania. This was then cleared by Chris M by raking leaf litter and mulch from the route onto the new plantings. Next up, Ron cleaned up the messy Strelitzia in The Fernery while Chris M wheelbarrowed the vegetation up to the old tramway ready for Council pickup.



Gardening in pots – everything you need to know – the topic at our August Get-together



Unlike traditional gardens in the ground, gardening in pots, also known as “container gardens”, can provide excellent learning opportunities for people with limited gardening experience or space, particularly when access to a traditional garden is not possible.

Our Guest Speaker at our Tuesday, August 19 Get-together is Daniel Rosenbaum from The Garden Pot Workshop who will show us how gardening in pots can be used as a garden substitute on apartment balconies, patios or areas with poor soil and that pots are ideal for people in rental situations to begin a collection of plants that can travel from place to place.

We are also planning on your being to buy succulents to start your own container garden!

Starting at 7:00 p.m. in The Lounge but please, join us beforehand for drinks and dinner. At the Manly Club on Gilbert Park.

Around the Garden

Here are a couple of the ferns we planted in The Fernery this month — *Dicksonia Antarctica* (soft tree fern), *Pellaea rotundifolia* (button fern and cliff brake) and *Alcantarea imperialis Rubra* (giant bromeliad)



We also spotted *Acacia longifolia* starting to make an appearance and a couple of kookaburras chillin’.



Other News

- **Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens:** Read their monthly e-ucalypt newsletter here: [https://mailchi.mp/ce583b75ff64/e-ucalypt-news-21545864?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/ce583b75ff64/e-ucalypt-news-21545864?e=[UNIQID])
 - **Garden Clubs of Australia:** Always interesting articles: <https://gardenclubs.org.au/>
 - **GCA's 30th Biennial Convention in Albury:** October 13-18, 2025. As a member you can register for this on the GCA website. Please organise your own travel and accommodation. <https://gardenclubs.org.au/convention/>
 - **Permaculture Northern Beaches:** Keep up to date on their upcoming events: <https://www.permaculturenorthernbeaches.org.au/events>
 - **Bunnings Balgowlah:** Check out their Garden Corner Workshop events: <https://www.bunnings.com.au/stores/nsw/balgowlah>
 - **Good for Manly:** For topical talks and news, head here: <http://www.goodformanly.com.au/>
 - **Everything Orchids:** Check out their calendar of events: <https://orchidsocietyNSW.com.au/shows/>
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