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Update from our Executive Committee

- **Conservation and restoration of Ivanhoe Park War Memorial**



Tony, our Grants & Fund-raising Coordinator has been working for the past year, with the support of Balgowlah RSL and Northern Beaches Council, on obtaining a grant for conservation work on the WWII War Memorial in the Garden. You'll agree it is not in great shape and we thought it would benefit from some love.



The grant, made available by the NSW Veterans Affairs Department under the Community War Memorials Fund for conservation, repair and protection of war memorials throughout the State, was partially successful.

We received funds sufficient only for the restoration work on the obelisk and plinth by stonemasons working with Metropolitan Memorial Parks at Rockwood Cemetery.

NBC are prepared to restore the remainder of the memorial which will be the upgrade of the surrounds and garden beds.



Work has already commenced, as you will notice when walking through the Garden, and will be ongoing for several months.

- **Vandalized trees on the mend**

The Red Cedar that was damaged with an axe recently is on the mend and a sign has been installed alerting the community of the damage and offering a reward.

Not publicised previously but our small Macadamia plant was brutally snapped in half, but in a few months, it proudly defies the damage.



- **Report on the vandalized child care centre**

The Community Welfare team visited the old child care centre and was able to ensure that the homeless person was no longer in the building so on their advice Northern Beaches Council Facilities Department has had the building fully boarded/secured again. A great outcome because the building really is unfit for occupation and the homeless person was helped in finding a safer accommodation.

- **More good news about the child care centre**

Good news, finally, the removal of the child care centre will take place in the first quarter of 2024 – it has been delayed waiting for State Heritage's final approval.

- **Kudos to the NBC team:**

We work hand in hand with the Council, and a lot of the work that is done is not always obvious like the taming of the Morning Glory, the clearing of branches, dead wood, self-seeded plants, fixing drainage issues, and ensuring we have a working irrigation system to name of few.

Here are a couple of things you may have noticed when walking through the Garden the last couple of months.

Repair of the wooden bridge



Repair of damaged wooden edging in the Sensory Garden



*New fencing around Ivanhoe Park has commenced
part of the Masterplan for the whole of Ivanhoe Park*



And thanks to our amazing NBC gardening team



Important Dates for 2024

No Working Bees or Get-together in January as we all take a well-earned break.

Saturday, January 20: Fund-raising Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings Balgowlah

Saturday, February 17: The Saturday Working Bee – 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, February 20: The first Get-together for 2024.

Wednesday, February 21: The midweek Working Bee, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

We hope you'll come and support us at our Fund-raising Sausage Sizzle!
January 20 from 8:30 a.m.
@ Bunnings Balgowlah



We'll be at Bunnings Balgowlah serving up sausages and drinks to raise funds for our upcoming Propagation Project.

There'll be onions (on the bottom of the bread as per "Bunnings law") with sauces and mustard. And plenty of soft drinks. You can pay with cash or EFTPOS.

We hope you'll drop by and partake and of course have a chat with us about our upcoming plans for the Garden. And please tell your friends!

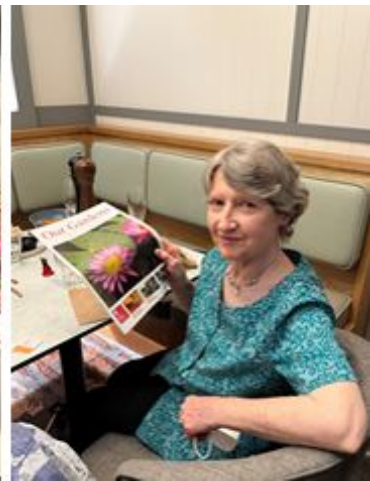
Looking for a few members to help at the Sausage Sizzle

Will you lend a hand at the Sausage Sizzle?
You can serve or sizzle, whatever takes your fancy.
Email us if you would like to volunteer for a couple of hours
alongside your Executive Committee.

Scenes from our End of Year Celebration

We gathered at The Manly Club on Gilbert Park for a few drinks, a few laughs, a bite to eat and at the end a presentation for our best dressed member. We also gave away a few lucky door prizes.





Wishing you all the joys of the festive season!

The Last Working Bee of 2023

Not surprisingly, our numbers were lower than normal on a Saturday but everyone was eager. The weather for our last Bee of the year echoed the days before – hot and humid – so, after signing in and inducting a first- time gardener, it was decided to limit our tasks to shady areas.



The pathways leading down into the Garden from Park Avenue entrance needed a tidy up. So the team set to work. Pruning, cutting back, weeding, removing dead vegetation.



There was additional clean up – still in the shade - and just a short walk to the Council truck waiting to be loaded up.



And a new hose – bought with our volunteer grant – to be assembled.



And so, we were done for 2023. We rested and snacked on Chrissy treats – lamingtons, mince tarts and chocolates – and discussed what's next for the Garden in 2024.



The Tree of the Month Project – Nature's chemist shop?



While researching this month's tree, we made a surprising discovery – its leaves, bark and roots are considered effective in treating common place ailments due to anti-inflammatory chemicals in the plant. Is this nature's own chemist shop, discovered and long used by indigenous people as a tradiitonal remedy? Discover the Red Ash for yourself.

Red Ash

Alphitonia excelsa

From Ancient Greek, *alphiton* meaning "barley-meal", referring to the mealy red covering around the hard cells in the fruit; *excelsa*, from Latin meaning "lofty" or "high", because of its tall habit

Also known as: Red Ash, Soap Tree, Leatherjacket, Coopers Wood



The wood of the Red Ash is straight grained and darkens with age to a bright red colour, useful for cabinetmaking, tool handles, building and for boat-building. The common name "Coopers Wood" came from widespread use for barrels and buckets.

Go to our webpage to find out more about our wonderful trees. This link will take you there: [Our Trees](#).

Around the Garden



Other News

- **Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens:** Their latest e-ucalypt newsletter. Click on the link to read: <https://mailchi.mp/54336b5375c5/e-ucalypt-news-20425889?e=b6c678fbbc>
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Keep up to date with happenings at Ivanhoe Park Botanic Garden
by visiting our website anytime

www.friendsivanhoeparkbotanicgarden.com

Or email us at

info@friendsivanhoeparkbotanicgarden.com

And please, Follow, Like and Share our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofIvanhoeParkBotanicGarden/>

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