



- **Year-end Wrap Up!**
- **Important Dates for 2026**

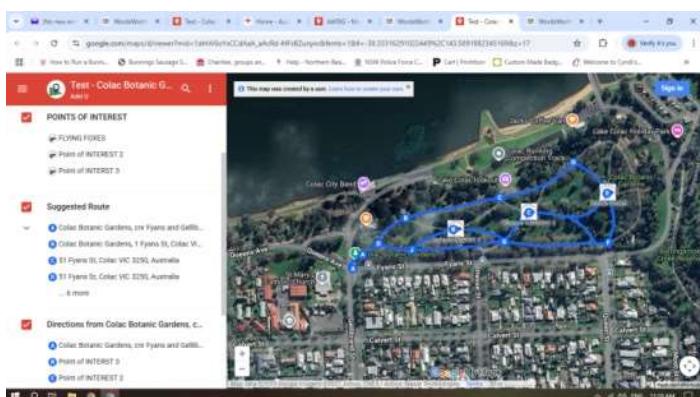
A busy end to 2025 and plans for 2026

Like you, we took a well-earned break in January but your Newsletter Editor didn't want you to miss out on the very busy November and December progress and activities, so here we go.



War Memorial landscaping upgrade: After weather delays, Council completed the landscaping upgrade of the War Memorial. The sandstone edging was expanded and edged with beds of Rosemary.

So many ways to enjoy our new central lawn: Not just strolling and picnicking, this local tai chi group can be seen here on a regular basis.



We'll be looking for volunteers for our new Tree Project: As we outlined in our June Get-together, we're looking to create a digital map that links to our existing tree database. We'll be looking for volunteers to assist us sometime in 2026.

Our November and December Working Bees:

November

Saturday Bee: Another day adding to the natural beauty of our Garden. Tania headed the team of Chris W-S, Lee, Patricia, Anne C, Emma, and Ruby to add plants supplied by Council to three different areas.

1. Along each side of the new stairs that lead to the central lawn.



The Plants: *Ctenanthe Grey Star* – has striking leaves with the maroon reversing to silver-grey pinstripe leaves; *Alcantarea imperialis Rubra* (Giant Bromeliad) – a large-sized head-high rosette of deep green, flushed and shaded at the tips and beneath with red-maroon-purple; *Philodendron Rojo Congo* – big-leaved beautiful foliage plant with dark green leaves with a glowing copper tone to them; *Stromanthe sanguinea 'Tricolour'* – dark green leaves with white variegations and pink undersides of the leaves.

2. In the bed below our large fig where, after clearing the area of a *Monstera* and its giant roots, *Asplenium australasicum* (Birds Nest Ferns) were planted and watered.



3. In the bed bordering the pathway near the sensory garden, a row of *Acacia cognata limelight* (River Wattle) was planted. This is a compact form of *A.cognata*, an all year round plant with graceful weeping foliage.



To finish up, general maintenance: weeding the perennial garden and tackling the overgrown beds edging the bowling club.



Wednesday Bee: Hot day and small team but Viktoria and Lee go stuck in – moving our “fairy circle” of tree trunks back to where it was after it was mysteriously moved to other parts of the Garden.



The spiky dead foliage from the Bunya Bunya was raked and gathered, followed by a good sweep to reveal the beautiful stone terracing.



December

Saturday Bee: Our last Working Bee of the year was held a week earlier because of the holidays. We concentrated on the Native Garden in the south-west corner because it hadn't been worked on for a few months and needed some love.

The team, Max, Toni, Tania, and Tony, was headed by Chris W-S. They produced bags and bags of weeds, cuttings and dead foliage.



Want to join us at our Working Bees but don't want to garden?

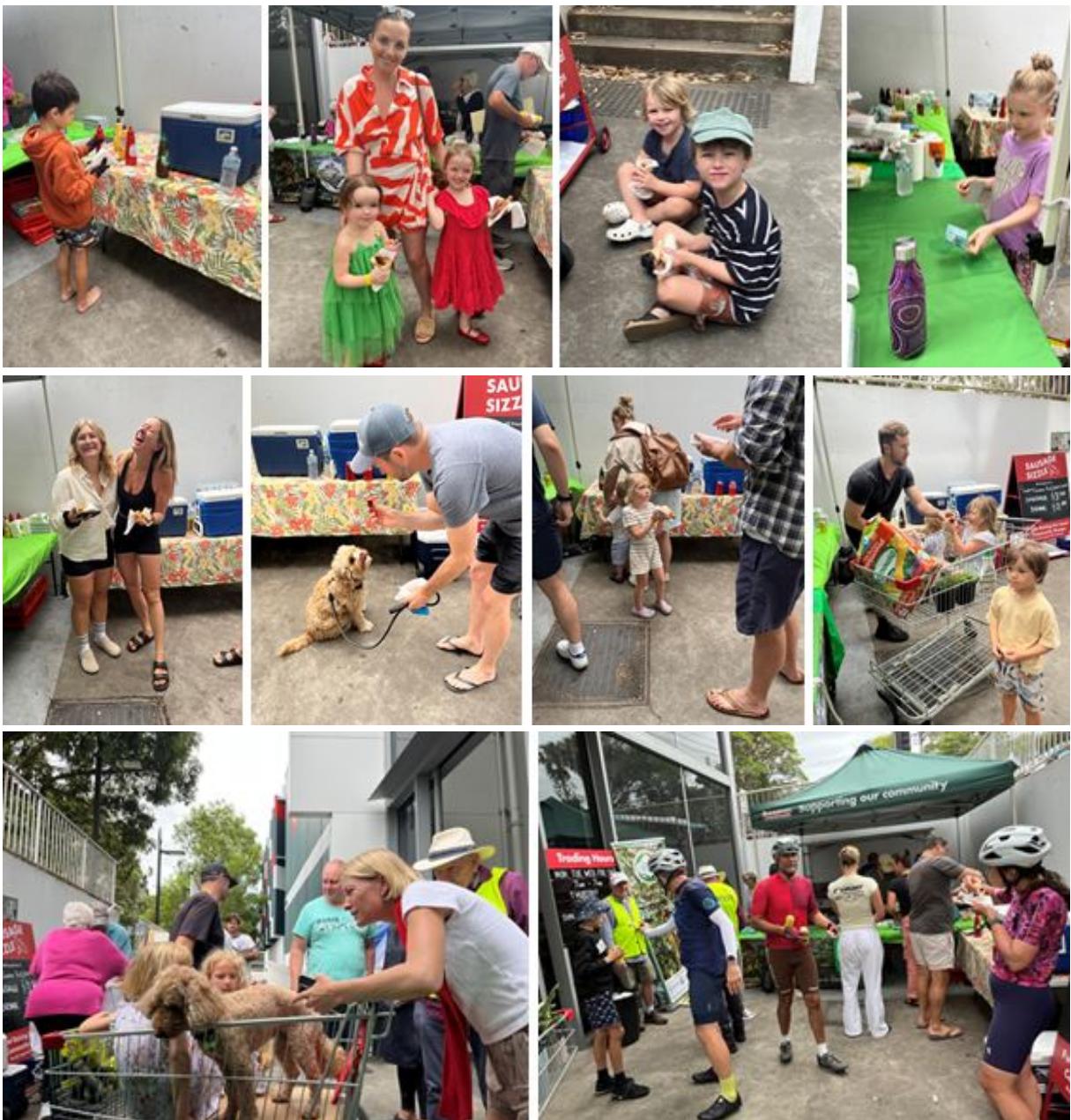
Well, no problem, we're always looking for a few members to help with our administrative tasks on the day – signing in gardeners and the tools they need; chatting to passers-by about our work; checking inventory; and helping with making the cuppa at the end of the Bee. Let us know if you're interested.

The December Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

The smiling team from Friends of Ivanhoe Park Botanic Garden sizzled up sausages at Bunnings at the beginning of December. Our thanks to our grill masters (Chris W-S, Tony and David); cashiers (Ishbel, Nita and Denise); and our servers (Judy, Lynn, Brandon and Jess) and our President, Lloyd.



Not only did we raise funds that enable us to continue our work preserving our wonderful Garden for the future, we raised awareness of the Garden and our organization. And fed quite a lot of people!



Our end of year celebration

So many members joined us for our fun-filled celebration – was it the free drink? Or the amazing door prizes? No, it was definitely the chance for us to toast our success in 2025.





Important Dates for February 2026

Tuesday, February 17: Our first Get-together of 2026 at The Manly Club on Gilbert Park from 7:00 p.m.

Saturday February 21,: The Saturday Working Bee – 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday February 25, The Wednesday Working Bee – 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

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