



- Updates from the Garden
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### Updates from the Garden

- **Another Successful Fund-raiser:** It was a brisk cool morning but once the grill was sizzling it hotted up and netted us a decent profit for our upcoming projects.

Thanks to our our hard-working team of Tony, Deanna, Nita, Dave, Lois, Lee, Robyn, Diane, Lynn, George, Judy, Chris W-S and of course Ron who rounded up the customers.



- **Save the Date for our AGM:** Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, September 25 at St Andrews Presbyterian Hall starting at 7 p.m. We will share reports and updates, vote to elect executive committee members and of course, raise a glass to celebrate the progress of the last year. Keep an eye out for the email containing nomination forms for executive committee members including vacant positions.
- **Our Tree Labelling Project:** We have now started our latest project – labelling our trees. Some may remember we undertook a similar project in 2019 but the labels were moved or removed as they were on a simple stake. We are now looking at installing more permanent signs which we anticipate will have a QR code included that links to our online database.

The first step: locating the trees – which we started at our Saturday Working Bee in August.

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## Important Dates for September & October 2026

**Saturday, September 19:** The Saturday Working Bee – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, September 23:** The Wednesday Working Bee – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Friday, September 25: Our Annual General Meeting – 7:00 p.m.**

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

**Tuesday, October 20:** Our Get-together – 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, October 21:** The Wednesday Working Bee – 9:00 a.m. to 11 a.m.

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## Our July & August Working Bees

### July

**Saturday Bee:** Great attendance today, with everyone working on the perennial garden – blowing leaves, trimming shrubs, weeding, and cleaning out the drain – as well as some weeding in the native garden.

Paul, our Council gardener today, brought the truck to the bottom red gate and loaded it up with the stacks of fallen palm fronds and weeds.

Ishbel manned the desk and then helped prepare a welcome cuppa for Chris M, George, Ron, Carrie, and Chris W-S.

Lois joined them in the Scout Hall to fill everyone in on the upcoming tree labelling project.

**Wednesday Bee:** Only two gardeners this Wednesday – Chris M, as supervisor and Ron, the receptionist – but they got down to work weeding the native garden.



*Note: We apologise for the lack of happy snaps for the July Bees – your newsletter editor/photographer was on holiday – and the team were too busy to stop and click.*

### August

**Saturday Bee:** A little drizzly for our Bee today but we had what we thought would be a multi-day task – locating the trees that we are planning on labelling. We needed to find the tree, take a photo of its ID tag and the tree itself and note its GPS location and make a note of that.



But technology reigned supreme this day when we cleverly found an app that took care of what we needed so, it took just the morning to locate 101 trees! There was a little time left to weed the native garden and rake fallen Bunya Bunya needles from surrounding beds. And Paul, our Council gardener, circled the garden clearing and trimming.



We then sat down in the Scout Hall to check on the tree maps and enjoy a cuppa, Lamington, and each other! Well done team: Dave, Anne, Tony, Chris W-S, Brandon, Ron, George, Lee and Max.



**Wednesday Bee:** Just a few of us today so we concentrated on weeding: Kerrie, Tony and Ishbel and a friendly Butcher Bird. We weeded around The Fernery mainly removing *Tradescantia fluminensis* (Wandering Trad) but located what we thought was another weed but after some quick online researching discovered it was a beneficial Australian ground cover *Commelina cyanea* (Scurvy Weed).



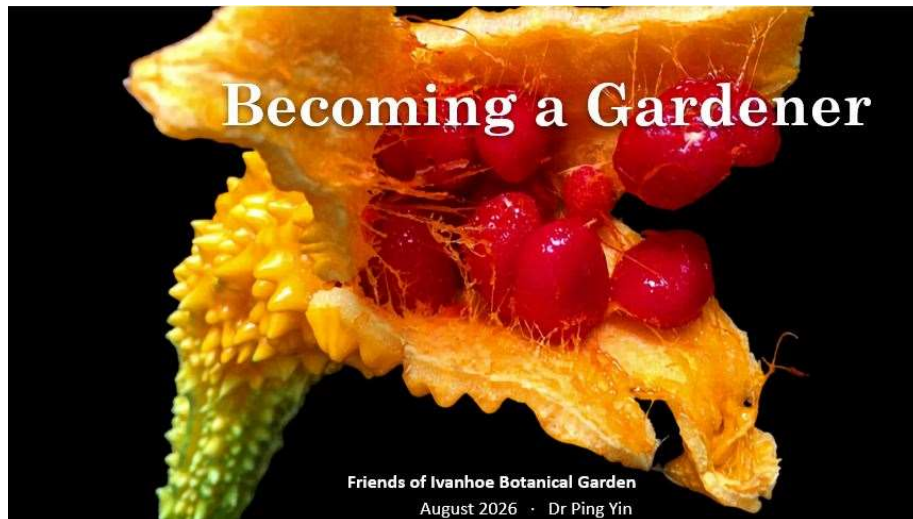
## What you missed at our August Get-together

Tony introduced our guest speaker this month, Dr Ping Yin.

Ping brought along a display of seeds, herbs and plants from her garden and a tasting of an unusual and quite delicious *Solanum muricatum* (pepino melon), a species of evergreen shrub native to South America, grown for its sweet edible fruit.



Ping shared her journey about how she became interested in gardening – partly influenced because growing up in China her family and community were all involved in growing food.



In Sydney it began when a large gum tree in her garden had to be removed. As a result, there was an area available that needed to be cleared out, so she started a new garden and became inspired to grow her own food.

● WHY I STARTED

## A project of personal growth

*Growing is as much about the grower as the garden.*

- 1 Curiosity & creativity**  
A place that gave my curiosity, creativity and analytical thinking somewhere to go.
- 2 Observation & connection**  
Watching closely — and connecting to nature and to other gardeners.
- 3 Ability rise to challenges**  
Every season brings pests, weather and setbacks — puzzles that sharpen how I think and adapt.
- 4 Simple pleasures**  
Beauties, changes, the seasons and weather, sun, rain, soil and plants.
- 5 Food, exercise, fulfilment**  
The everyday rewards of growing your own — nourishment in more ways than one.

Ping's background in Chemistry allowed her to apply this training to gardening, focusing on the challenges and solutions of growing plants.

## A TURNING POINT

# A project that got me through a tough period

The garden has been somewhere to put my hands and my attention. It asked for care, and it rewards the work.

1

### Somewhere to be

A steady place to return to, whatever the day held.

2

### Something to tend

Small daily acts of care with visible results.

3

### Someone to grow with

Connections to other gardeners along the way.

To her, gardening is a source of pleasure, seeing how plants change and the rewards they bring. She mainly grows food and has a native bee hive. She likes to grow vegetables and fruits that are not generally commercially available. Ping also produces natural skin care products from her garden.

## THE REWARDS

# What the garden gives me



### Beauty

Colour, form and the small daily surprises of a growing thing.



### Rhythm

The seasons and weather — sun, rain, soil — set the pace.



### Food

Fresh, home-grown produce straight from bed to table.



### Exercise

Honest, restorative work outdoors for body and mind.



### Connection

To nature, and to a generous community of gardeners.

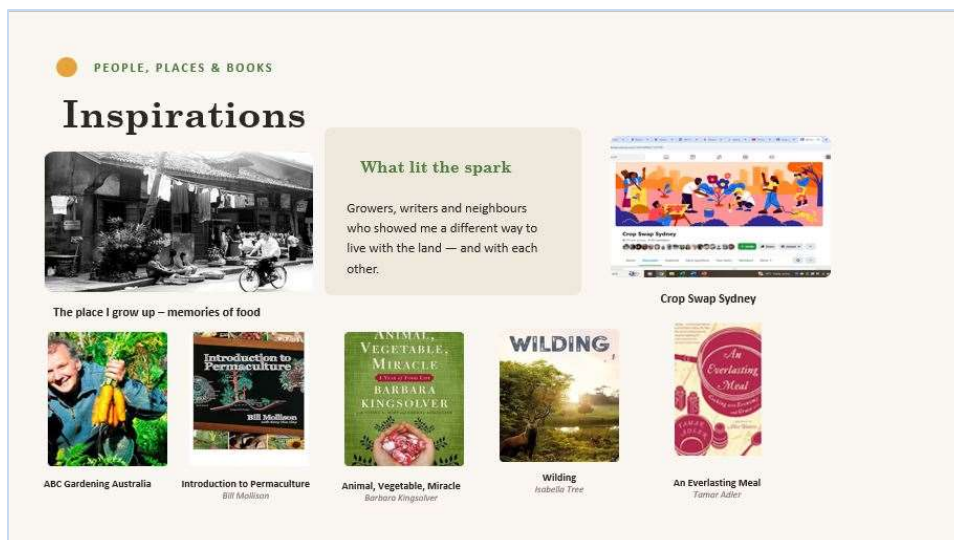


### Fulfilment

Care given and returned — a quiet, lasting satisfaction.

Over time Ping has planted 150 species of plants mostly from cuttings and seeds. She exchanges plants with other gardeners, belongs to *Crop Swap* and visits the gardens of other gardeners.

Ping also talked about the importance of Biodiversity and how re-wilding can improve land that has been cultivated as nature takes over. She then introduced us to some of her book influences, especially *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life* by Barbara Kingsolver.



For Ping's slide show: <https://www.friendsivanhoeparkbotanicgarden.com/other-news>. To watch her delightful movie taken behind the scenes of her Gardening Australia TV appearance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VGCSWVT4V-Q>



### A great turnout this evening



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## Other News

- **Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens:** Read their monthly e-ucalypt newsletter here: <https://us15.campaign-archive.com/?u=b1463fb90d44dd5ed074102f8&id=7c123f8333> and <https://mailchi.mp/0b8b085f20d1/e-ucalypt-news-21552738?e=b6c678fbbc>
    - **Friends of Brisbane Botanic Gardens** feature interesting podcasts on the home page of their website ([www.fbbgsa.org.au](http://www.fbbgsa.org.au))
  - **Garden Clubs of Australia:** Always interesting articles: <https://gardenclubs.org.au/>
  - **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/>
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