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Updates from your Executive Committee

- DA approved for the demolition of existing child care centre building



Figure 1. Approximate location of proposed works

The Development Application for the demolition of the existing redundant child care centre building and the installation of landscaping has been approved!

The demolition of the childcare centre building looks like it will take place during the first quarter of 2023 (weather permitting!). The area, initially, will be turfed with grass so that the drainage issues are addressed before the future planned landscaping can begin. This will involve creating a versatile area of open space that can accommodate events.

Also approved was the landscaping, installing of interpretative signage, seating, lighting, and interpretative paving in the north-western corner of Ivanhoe Park that historically formed part of the Ivanhoe Loop (former tram track). This is scheduled for a later date after the open space area is finished.

This is all thanks to the efforts of our members, residents and of course, the Northern Beaches Council to seek to enhance the heritage values of the Garden while providing much needed public open space.

- **Work on sandstone bridge and pathways – completed**

It may have taken a while because of the inclement weather but the reconstruction of the sandstone bridge and the pathways leading to and from it have been completed.



- **Tree and Vegetation Management Plan ongoing**

Planting plants from the Vegetation Management Plan is progressing during our Working Bees, in fact, we have started a test project under the Bunya. It's a large, barren and rather ugly area where nothing seems to thrive so we're experimenting with *Hedera helix* or common ivy. This evergreen plant thrives in shady areas, in forest clearings as well as on cliffs and slopes where the soil is fertile and moist. It seemed ideal to plant it here because it stays green all year and makes an attractive ground cover. This area has a defined border so if successful we can easily manage and ensure that the ivy does not spread to other parts of the garden.



Save these Important Dates

January: We will be taking a break from all activities this January though the Executive Committee as always will be working behind the scenes with planning for 2023.

February: Our monthly Get-together will continue after our holiday break. We'll confirm date, time and speaker in January.

Saturday, February 18: The Saturday Working Bee is from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, February 22: Our midweek Working Bee is from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Our November and December Working Bees

The November Bees:

Both November bees were busy and well attended by our enthusiastic members: David, Tony, Toni, Lois, Alex, Tania, Chris, Simone, Lloyd, Chris M, and brand new members, Laura and young Harrison.

We tended to the flourishing Sensory Garden, weeded, cut back hedges and overhanging trees along the pathways, mulched, as well as organized and inventoried our storage room.





The December Bee – our last Bee for 2022:

Gathering clouds did not stop us gathering for our last Working Bee for 2022.



Toni and Alex added Midgen Berry (*Austromyrtus dulcis*) in the native garden and then moved onto the beds beside the bowling green and added more Lepechinia.



Tania, Jake and Daiki faced down the invasive Monstera smothering the rock shelves and won!



Meanwhile, Chris removed more Monstera from the Clivia beds and then pitched in with the clean up. After watering, Tony also joined in. It was a monster effort by our team.



As a reward for all the hard work, we fired up our new urn and served up tea and coffee alongside the delicious Lamingtons supplied by Robyn.



The Tree of the Month Project – a tree immortalised in song



A popular pastime during the summer months is catching colourful floral displays from, no not the Jacaranda, but one of our natives – the Illawarra Flame Tree. Its brilliant scarlet bell-shaped flowers grow in clusters at the end of the branches so the entire tree is enrobed usually after the leaves have dropped. A spectacular sight that even inspired a song by Cold Chisel called *Flame Trees*.

Flame Tree

Brachychiton acerifolius

From Greek: *brachys* –short, and *chiton* – a tunic, a reference to the coating on the seed; *acerifolius* having foliage like the genus *Acer* (maple)

Also known as: Illawarra Flame tree, flame tree, lacebark tree, kurrajong



The large seeds are rich in protein and taste like peanut. Indigenous Australians ate them either raw or roasted after removing the irritating hairs that surround them in the pod. They are nutritious, containing 18% protein and 25% fat with high levels of zinc and magnesium.

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

What we've been up to

- **Trivia from our November Get-together**



Sandy had a lot of people stumped when she hosted our Trivia night. Would you have known the answers?

Try your luck with these few questions:

Q: What was Bantry Bay used for in the days of early settlement?

Q: What statue was sculptured by convicts in Manly?

Q: What town in England did Henry Gilbert Smith aim to copy?

Q: What was the name of the shipping company that travelled between Sydney and Manly?

Q: In what year did the Queen open the Opera House

Q: What was the year of the last tram to run in Sydney?

Q: Where did Edmund Barton live between 1888 and 1890?

- **Bunnings Community Christmas Market**



We participated in Bunnings Community Christmas Market alongside other community groups, 10 classic cars, a choir that entertained us all evening, a reptile show, a sausage sizzle (yes we did indulge), an ice cream truck (that too!) as well as lots of activities for the kids. Great fun talking to locals about Ivanhoe Park Botanic Garden.

- **Our end of year celebration at The Manly Club on Gilbert Park**

We were few but we were merry. We grabbed our (free) drink and relaxed in The Lounge. Then the wait staff took our dinner orders and we settled into easy conversation. It was a lovely evening and it was unfortunate that our numbers were diminished by injuries, holidays and Covid. We hope to meet up with everyone again in the New Year and out best wishes to you and your family.



Around the Garden

The Native Garden



The Sensory Garden



Along the pathways



A Special Thanks

We'd like to thank Tony for his dedication and enthusiasm as the Working Bee Supervisor for 2022. We couldn't have done it without his leadership.



Other News

Where do I recycle batteries now that Aldi has gone? On the first Sunday of the month, Zali Steggall's team are at Manly Markets Sydney Road, collecting batteries, ink cartridges, clothing as well as handing out lots of great information about recycling efforts in our area.

Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens: Read their latest e-newsletter [here](#).

Garden Clubs of Australia: Check out their website, always an interesting read. Click [here](#).

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

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