



Friends of the Bible Garden

# NEWSLETTER

March 2017



## From the President

Last year marked 50 years since the Bible Garden was created by Gerald Hercules Robinson. How fortunate we are that he undertook such a huge project & has left us with a wonderful legacy. The garden has evolved over these years with Beatrice & the family taking over the care of the garden after his death & eventually handing it over to Pittwater Council in the care of the Friends.

To mark this 50 year milestone the Friends purchased two new teak benches & had plaques made for them, they sit either side of the table on the lower terrace. We have also planted a Mulberry Tree in the garden beside the Evergreen Oak.

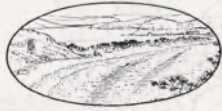
When you visit the garden you will notice new sandstone stepping stones leading down to the paved area by the pond. This slope was becoming worn & quite slippery. Russell Phillip and Charlie Mort did a wonderful job. The first step is a block of sandstone Charlie sourced from St Stephens Uniting Church in Macquarie Street. It was hand-cut by convicts & dates from 1835.

This summer has been hot & dry which has really tested the garden. Thanks to our team of rostered Friends keeping the water up & the drip irrigation which is now on all levels, the garden has flourished.

The large African Olive below the garden on the right was removed by council during the year.

*The Bible Garden  
was established by  
Gerald Hercules Robinson  
in 1966*

*Deaconess Beatrice Robinson  
served as curator and  
trustee from 1972  
until her death in 1994*



## Friends of the Bible Garden

Permission was kindly given by the Playousts and it has given us a more expansive view of Palm Beach.

The donation box at the top of the steps continues to be a source of revenue for maintaining the garden, people are very generous. The Visitors Book continues to be a blessing & a curse. We love reading that our visitors come from all four corners of the world & write such positive comments & obviously enjoy their visits. Then we have those who deface the pages with inappropriate comments & drawings, despite us providing paper for these activities. The parking signs on the fence beside the car park seem to be quite effective & deterred long term parkers this summer.

We have had fewer weddings this year as we have requested council to only book one wedding a weekend. The majority are in the summer months when our long suffering neighbours are

in residence & the traffic, people, music & noise, often on two consecutive days, was a little too much to bear.

During the recent storm we lost one of our acacias, it fell across the lawn between the shed & the olive tree without damaging any plants. Our neighbour across the road, Simon May rang to tell us & kindly offered to bring his chainsaw down & cut it up for us. With help from Stuart Spring, Trevor Holman & a young man visiting the garden it was stacked on the parking apron & eventually removed by the council. We have decided not to replace it as the other one is strong & healthy. Apart from lots of leaves & pine needles blowing about we did not suffer any other damage. The committee voted to buy a battery blower. It's been a great success and has made cleaning up much quicker & more efficient, we opted for the quietest model.



I would like to thank all the people who work so hard to make the garden look its best. The hard working committee, rostered Friends each week & the Friends who come & work at our quarterly working bees.



## Friends of the Bible Garden

President	Susie Holman	02 9974 4986
Vice President	Julie Bennett	02 9974 5393
Secretary & Council Liason Officer	Margy Roberts	02 9974 3664
Treasurer, Public Officer & Membership Secretary	Peter Kellaway	02 9974 4197
Garden & Roster	Julie Bennett	02 9974 5393
Sub Committee	Jill Taylor	
Committee Members	Susie Holman	
	Virginia Casey	
	Margaret-Ann Caillard	
	Stuart Spring	
	Robyn Mayman	

**2017 Memberships** are due for renewal -  
Forms are attached.

You are invited to attend the  
Friends of the Bible Garden  
**Annual General Meeting**  
to be held in the Bible Garden  
on Saturday 13th May 2107  
at 2:30pm

## Volunteers Welcome

### Gardening, Newsletter & Mailouts

Enjoyable work with other friends

Contact Susie Holman or Julie Bennett



## BOOKINGS

The Bible Garden can be reserved for  
weddings, baptisms and other celebrations.  
Contact Northern Beaches Council Reserves  
and Recreation Officer 02 9970 1340 or go  
[www.northernbeachescouncil.com.au](http://www.northernbeachescouncil.com.au) then  
Pittwater then Recreation Parks & Reserves.

## About the Bible Garden

The Bible Garden is located at 6A Mitchell Road, Palm Beach NSW Australia.  
The Bible Garden is open to the public every day from sunrise to sunset. It is cared for by  
volunteer members of Friends of the Bible Garden Memorial Inc.

For information contact Susie Holman Tel: 0416 268 337 email [susieah@me.com](mailto:susieah@me.com)

[www.palmbeachbiblegarden.org](http://www.palmbeachbiblegarden.org)

PO Box 55 Palm Beach NSW 2108 Australia