



Friends of the Bible Garden

# NEWSLETTER

April 2019



## From the President

Here we are at the end of a long hot summer. The garden has survived thanks to the hard work of the gardening Friends who have filled the roster, watered & tended the plants.

There have been working bees through the year which have been well attended & lots of planting, weeding & clipping has kept the garden looking tip top. Thank you to all who came & helped.

Stuart Spring & Trevor Holman again did a wonderful job in the pond, cutting back the papyrus, reducing the rampant iris & feeding the waterlilies.

The committee have been trying to establish a native bee hive in the garden, but it seems a lot of other people are also trying to. The cost of a hive & bees has gone up to between \$500 – 600 which is ridiculous & the waiting list is long. We will continue to pursue options in this regard.

Sadly our evergreen Holm oak succumbed to the hot winds during December. It was severely “lopped” in 2007 and started to struggle a few years later. It was decided not to remove it when the garden was rebuilt & a lot of care was taken to preserve its root run during the building of the parking platform & gardens. Despite feeding & extra water over the years, it has slowly been producing less leaves & more die back in the canopy.

It will need to be removed, but we are hopeful that the trunk & main branches can be saved, milled & seasoned, & the timber take on a new life as useful & decorative items.

This will take some time, but we will keep you updated. The new plant signs which have been organised by Jill Taylor & come from the USA are a great success, they actually seem to be staying with the plant they reference which is very pleasing. On the strength of this Jill has ordered more, so we have all the plants properly labelled. There has been some comment about biblical references not matching up to some plant labels. Jill tells me that there are about twelve versions of the bible & it's almost

impossible to match them all up. I know she has spent many hours cross referencing & I think she has done a great job.

Wildlife in the garden is abundant. A resident Eastern water dragon is often seen on the lower level near the pond. A large blue-tongue lizard has his home in the wall near the lemon tree. I've noticed some young bush turkey have payed us a visit & scratched up the mulch. Trevor & I found a beautiful slim green tree snake in the water iris, it seems he may have had our only frog for lunch !! The pond has some black native fish & the introduced goldfish have changed colour to avoid the kookaburras which we often see & hear. I'm sure we'll have a visit soon from a flock of Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos. They're very noisy & make a frightful mess tearing big pieces off the Stone Pines & tossing cones around the garden but we don't mind clearing up after them as apparently they are becoming endangered because of native habitat clearance.

I have decided to step down as President after three years & Stuart Spring will be stepping up from The Committee to take the helm. I will move to Secretary for 12 months & hope that we will be able to encourage some new people onto Committee to keep the team fresh & enthusiastic.

I would like to thank the Committee members for all their help & support over the last three years & the Friends who have looked after the garden each week & come to the working bees. Its due to you all that we get wonderful comments in the visitors book about how beautiful & special the garden is.

Our Annual General Meeting is being held in the garden on Saturday 27th April at 3pm. I hope you'll be able to join us & your welcome to bring friends along to hear more about the garden & the Friends.

Susie Holman  
President



Friends of the Bible Garden

President	Stuart Spring	02 9974 4635
Vice President	Julie Bennett	02 9974 5393
Secretary & Council Liason Officer	Susie Holman	02 9974 4986
Treasurer, Public Officer & Membership Secretary	Peter Kellaway	02 9974 4197
Garden & Roster	Julie Bennett	02 9974 5393
Sub Committee	Jill Taylor	
	Susie Holman	
Committee Members	Virginia Casey	
	Margaret-Ann Caillard	
	Stuart Spring	
	Jenny Cronan	
	Kylie Fergusson	

**2019 Memberships** are due for renewal -  
Forms are included.

You are invited to attend the  
Friends of the Bible Garden  
**Annual General Meeting**  
to be held in the Bible Garden  
on Saturday 27th April 2019 at  
3:00pm

Volunteers are needed  
for working bees and  
weekly garden rosters

Enjoyable work with other friends.  
Contact Susie Holman 9974 4986  
or Julie Bennett 9974 5393



## 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  
[ros.lindsay@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ros.lindsay@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au)

## 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 Stuart Spring Tel: 02 9974 4635 email [stuspring1@gmail.com](mailto:stuspring1@gmail.com)

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

PO Box 55 Palm Beach NSW 2108 Australia