



Friends of the Bible Garden

NEWSLETTER

February 2020



From the President

I am pleased to present the 2020 Newsletter of the Friends of the Palm Beach Bible Garden. What a summer we have had - A dry period that exceeds most of our recall and then some welcome but torrential rains. Through it all the Garden continues to thrive thanks to the relentless enthusiasm of a small band of (mainly ageing) devotees, determined to present the Garden to the many visitors who frequent this special place, continuously looking at its best.

Over 18000 people visit the garden each year — many on more than one occasion of course — for a brief drop in whilst walking the headland, but many for a considerable period of reflection or just enjoying the ambience. It is apparent that they also care for the Garden because the task of the Gardeners is more to do with keeping it at its best rather than repair. There are over 20 weddings or other family events each year — usually booked through the Northern Beaches Council.

In assuming the role of President from Susie Holman, I realised that there were very large shoes to fill from the previous Presidents of the “modern era”, Julie Bennett, Herminie Swainston, Jill Taylor, and Susie Holman — fortunately I have learnt that the role of president is for life, they all remain on the Committee until taken to a higher place — and even then they still influence the way we do business.

In the last 12 months we have lost a number of stalwarts of the Garden who were major influencers of where we are today.

Firstly, Gerald Robinson, the son of Hercules Robinson, our Benefactor, who maintained an active interest in the Garden throughout his life and was present at the 2019 Annual General Meeting, together with others of the family.

Secondly, His Honour, Judge Bryce Ross-Jones, who as President of the Palm Beach Whale Beach Association, was an active Committee Member of the Friends of the Garden and played a major role in establishing our current incorporation and the Plan of Management, under which we work within Local Government stewardship, as currently overseen by the Northern Beaches Council, successor to the Pittwater Council.

Thirdly, John Swainston — life partner to Herminie, a tireless worker and champion of so many interests within the area — of which the Garden was but one.

And finally -Dr Stuart Taylor — who, with his wife Jill, was and is tireless in his interest and work in and for the Garden. Today we

owe much to him that is lasting— the Cross, the Biblical derivations of the plantings and much more.

The Community and the Garden has been well served by the contribution of these gardeners and their legacy remains with us — growing every day!

It is apparent that the average age of gardeners is not diminishing although we are very pleased to welcome a number who will be the future of the Garden — but more Gardeners are always needed.

We have been pleased to enlist a few during the year but if you are interested or know someone who may be able to be convinced — please let us know — the work is light and the reward is in Heaven!

Recently we have taken advantage of some of the lightweight battery powered tools that are now available, mowers, clippers, trimmers and blowers which together have enabled us to “age in place”. We need to continue to make the work manageable so that the task of gardening is a pleasure -not a burden.

The results have been rewarding and the Garden is consistently presented in excellent condition despite the North Easterlies and occasional arid conditions.

A significant contribution was made during the year by Anna Chavez, a local painter, who volunteered her time to restore the Teak Benches and the Cross. It is only when you see the result of restoration that one notices how we age!

We are also grateful to the Bauer Group in repairing two of the teak benches that are the oldest and that acknowledge the legacy of Hercules and Beatrice Robinson.

The Native Bees that arrived in 2019 — a gift of the Pizzey family, are doing well - despite a Brush Turkey event- knocking over the hive. We are not expecting honey for a year — the honey representing Mead — a drink of the time of Christ.

The Committee are very appreciative of the support of the local community and in particular our neighbours in and around Mitchell Road. They are at times very patient!

Our Annual General meeting will be held in the Garden on Saturday 28th March 2020 at 4pm. We hope you will join us on this occasion.

Stuart Spring - President



Friends of the Bible Garden

President	Stuart Spring	02 9974 4635
Vice President	Julie Bennett	02 9974 5393
Secretary & Council Liason Officer	Scott King	
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	
	Jenny Cronan	
	Kylie Fergusson	
	Margy Roberts	

2020 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 28th March 2020 at
4:00pm

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

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

www.palmbeachbiblegarden.org

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