



Friends of the Bible Garden

NEWSLETTER

February 2023



2022 was a remarkable year as we endured one of the wettest periods on record and certainly in the life of the Palm Beach Bible Garden. We had undertaken a major returfing of the garden in early February and for a time the Garden had never looked better, with the expanse of untrammelled lawns setting off the vibrant garden beds perfectly.

Sadly the Garden did not last long in that state.

The combination of the ensuing rains combined with the foot traffic over the new and saturated lawns did not augur well and it was not possible to maintain the splendour for more than a few months.

Most areas of the lawns are now regrowing well as the weather has been more conducive in late 2022 and early 2023 and we can only hope for a continuance of these conditions. Whether we can ever have a complete cover of lawn -given the number of visitors -remains to be seen. Visitors to the Garden remain quite diverse and it was a pleasure to meet a visitor from Poland during the year, who had learnt of the Bible Garden from a friend in Ukraine. Perhaps if Mr Putin visited the Garden, much in the World could be put right. An invitation has been forwarded.

There was also a surprise gathering of Seventh Day Adventist Clergy found one Monday morning, holding a retreat in the garden. The photo tells the tale- in part. We continue to recruit new gardeners to the weekly roster but sadly some have had to curtail their activity -but all in all we have maintained enthusiastic support as we go forward.

A high point in the Garden's year has been the restoration of the path on the western side of the garden, together with new

landscaping and garden beds that lead down to the lowest level. This makes for a much improved vista from the entrance to the garden and allows for an



easier progression, drawing visitors to use the path rather than the lawns to reach the pond and viewing level.

This stonemasonry was undertaken by Charles Mort, who had undertaken the original major restoration of the Garden in 2012 and was funded by the Northern Beaches Council through funds held by the Council on behalf of the Bible Garden. These funds have been accumulated over the years from weddings and other functions booked through the "Open Spaces" Department of the Council. We have an excellent relationship with all the Council Officers who are very mindful of the constraints of the Garden when making bookings or assisting us with decisions.





Friends of the Bible Garden



Functions range from weddings and engagements to memorial events but all gatherings are highly respectful of the space in which they are held!

The Council also funded two new items of furniture during the year, a teak table situated beside the pond, adding to the ability for small dining events and a new two seat teak bench, on the middle level.

Many come to the garden not just to walk through and enjoy the view but also to take the opportunity to picnic, and and reflect. The furniture is well used and generally respected by the visitors.

Sadly the Native Bees that were installed in 2020 have "left" the Garden but hopefully we will see them return in the next 12 months.

There is slow progress in the progression of the Development Application for replacement of "Sister Beatrices's Cottage" under the ramp, below the Garden—maybe 2023 will see a furtherance of this project.

Following the retirement of Councillor Kylie Ferguson



in 2022, Councillor Rory Amon accepted the Council's appointment to the Committee—perhaps we might have our first member of Parliament, later in 2023.

Finally, I would like to again acknowledge the Committee of the Friends of the Bible Garden who give so much of the time to the Garden both on the Committee and as gardeners.

As we head to the Annual General Meeting, to be held in the Garden at 3pm on Saturday, 1st April, 2023, I am sorry to record that Margy Roberts will be standing down as a Committee Member after a sterling 8 years. She will continue as a gardener, of course!

She is irreplaceable but we will try!

The Existing Committee who have delivered for the Garden for many years and are in place as at the time of writing this newsletter are:

- Jill Taylor
- Julie Bennett
- Margy Roberts
- Virginia Casey
- Peter Kellaway
- Councillor Rory Amon
- Scott King
- Jenny Cronan

**Stuart Spring
President**



You are invited to attend the Friends of the Bible Garden
Annual General Meeting
to be held in the Bible Garden on Saturday 1st April 2023 at 3:00pm

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

PO Box 55 Palm Beach NSW 2108 Australia