



Friends of the Bible Garden

# NEWSLETTER

March 2025



**The most significant event of 2025 has been the removal of the 60 year old Stone Pine on the lower, eastern side of the Garden. It was chosen and planted by Gerald Hercules Robinson, our founder.**

Stone Pines are widespread through the Holy land and are mentioned in the Bible at Kings 6:16.

The removal was necessary because of the slow death of the tree over the last year, with all the attendant risks that subsequently developed as time went by. The Council have now had the tree removed in its entirety, with the exception of that portion of the tree that is below ground level.

The remaining Stone Pine is very healthy-they live for upward of four hundred years.

The improved view from the higher levels of the Garden and parking area is striking. There is a photo of this expanded vista across the top of the newsletter.

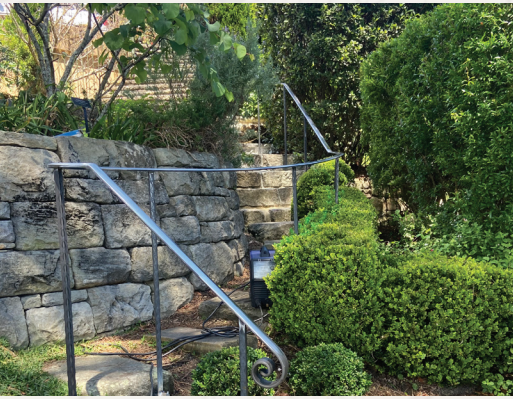


2024 has seen further enhancement of safety for visitors to the Garden, with the installation of an extension of the wrought iron railing from the main staircase, down the western pathway, leading to the two lower levels (image overleaf). The Council has funded the work through the income received from weddings and other events held in the Garden.

We regret that it has taken so long to see the need for the extension of the railing, but the appreciation that has been shown by some of the less agile visitors has proven it's value. The railing does not make a lot of itself or restrict access to the area through which it passes, so access for the maintenance of the adjacent garden bed and the pomegranate is not a problem.

The Bible Garden remains very popular for weddings and other celebrations, even the occasional wake! Attendance is unfortunately limited to 40 people due to the limited parking and size of the spaces within the Garden but with over 20 events a year, mainly from the Spring through to Autumn, it all seems to work, with little adverse impact on the Garden. The new Fig (Mark 11:13), although the only plant cursed by Jesus, is thriving and already bearing fruit.

Two new Mulberries have been planted and are doing well. They will both be maintained at no more than 2 metres high and the mulberry fruit removed, prior to fruiting for two years, in order to restrict their growth. Left alone they would become very large trees, reaching over 5 metres



and rapidly obstructing the views from the roadway as was the case with the Mulberry they replaced.

Sadly the Apricot suddenly died during the summer and has been removed but will be replaced with another in the near future.

As many would be aware, the cottage under the access way on the western side of the garden is for sale. We were very satisfied with the plans for the redevelopment of the cottage but the owner, Roger Bain, has decided not to proceed and the property is now for sale. We wish him every best wishes and hope that the future of the site will be in as good hands as we have experienced, under his care.

The cottage was part of the original estate and provided accommodation for Sister Beatrice Robinson, our founder's sister, who was a stalwart of St David's Anglican Church Palm Beach, and an original curator of the Garden.

The Committee of the Friends of the Garden have continued their custodianship and care with diligence and we have been pleased to welcome new, younger members, joining the gardening team in recent times.

It goes without saying that there is still plenty of space on the roster for those interested and gardeners are not asked to undertake anything that exceeds their capacity or interest. Increasingly we are using contractors for the heavier or higher tasks—height that is!

The average age of gardeners has recently plummeted

following the recruitment of a young woman, aged 19 and we hope this trend continues!

The Northern Beaches Council remains interested in and caring of our work and the future of the garden however they have struggled to maintain a Councillor representative on the Committee of the Friends, as provided for in the constitution. We have always valued the Councillor representative's interest and hope that the position will be filled in the coming year.

Jenny Cronan, the Council Officer with whom we have had most dealings, has now retired from Council but will be maintaining her interest as a gardener. We have placed great value on Jenny's support from the very start of the existence of the "Friends" and wish her well in her retirement and as a "Bible Gardener".

The number of visitors from all parts of the world continues at a very high level, with over 18,000 visits a year. Their contributions, in the donation post at the top of the stairway, gives evidence of the value that they place on their experience. At the time of preparing this newsletter, the Committee comprises:

Jill Taylor

Julie Bennett

Virginia Casey

Peter Kellaway, Treasurer

**Stuart Spring, President**

Scott King, Secretary

Hilary Laidlaw

Mark Hancock

You are invited to attend the Friends of the Bible Garden

## Annual General Meeting

to be held in the Bible Garden on Saturday 12th April 2025 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 the 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)