



Friends of the Bible Garden

# NEWSLETTER

February 2026



## 2025 saw further maturation of the Palm Beach Bible Garden as an important icon within the Northern Beaches of Sydney. We lose sight of the importance of the Garden until we speak with the visitors to the Garden, as they marvel at its beauty and tranquility and its important place in the wonders of the Northern Beaches.

The last year has been free of the dramatic developments of the last few years which saw major tree removals, new plantings and additional railings and stonework - all of which are now just an intrinsic part of the Garden.

One feature that is perhaps a sign of the times and ageing of the Garden and those who tend the Garden, is the retirement of some of the more senior "gardeners" and whilst there are new gardeners joining the ageing workforce, the result has been and is likely to require, in the future, somewhat more attention from contractors for some of the heavier tasks.

These particular tasks include pruning, removal of older plantings as they reach the end of their life span, and other heavier tasks. Fortunately with the support of the Northern Beaches Council Officers and through our own capacity to fund some work, the Garden is magnificently maintained.

A highlight of the latter part of the 2025 was a small concert held in the Garden, early one Saturday and Sunday, in November as part of the Northern Beaches "Deep North Festival". This involved the performance by Anthony Albrecht of a number of musical items composed by JS Bach, played on his 350 year old Cello.

There were over 40 members of the Northern Beaches Community who enjoyed this unique experience, which makes us consider how the Garden can become further involved in aspects of community life, other than

weddings and other personal events.

We estimate that there are well over 10,000 visits to the Garden each year, of course many are repeat visits, but it is a recognition of the important place that the Garden holds both in our lives as well as a place of retreat within the hectic pace of life on the Northern Beaches.

An interesting development during the year was the sale of the "cottage" under the access way below the Garden. In its earliest life, this "cottage", which can be seen from Palm Beach, was the home of Deaconess Beatrice Robinson, our founder's sister, who was one of its earliest gardeners together with our founder, Gerald Hercules Robinson.

This property was recently purchased by the owner of a home further down the laneway—that was the original site of the home of Gerald Robinson and his wider family thus restoring the closeness of the relationships of the laneway. We have accepted a greater role in maintaining the area in front of our lowest level as part of our future stewardship of the Garden.

This last year has also seen us develop a closer relationship with the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, based in Canberra. This was, in part, precipitated by the impending loss of a very inspiring booklet published by the Centre, of which our founder played a significant role in its establishment.

An example of the information in the booklet includes the Olive tree, which is mentioned after the Great Flood, when



Noah sent out a dove from the ark, and which returned with a leaf from an Olive in her beak. Our Olives play a prominent position in the Garden framing the steps to the lower levels. We have offered to join with the Centre in the reprinting of this very valuable reference to plants and trees referenced in the Bible and found in the "Holy Land". If you are in Canberra, the Centre and its Garden, is worthy of a visit.

This year has also seen us join the Garden Clubs of Australia. A principle reason apart from the wealth of knowledge that exists in that organisation, is that we have taken up insurance coverage for our gardeners, through their scheme. That we have survived this long without a formal scheme, without problems, is somewhat of a relief to say the least.

During the year Julie Bennet indicated that she needed to take leave of her duties in the Garden and is presently on 'long service leave'. Julie's contribution since the Garden's inception in its modern format, has been enormous and we wish her our great gratitude for her contribution thus far.

Jill Taylor, who with her late husband Stuart Taylor were major

influences in the establishment of the "modern" Garden and its plantings and layout, and its first president, has also indicated that she wants a period of 'long service leave' from the Committee, although her influence is still very much close at hand. Jill remains as 'senior consultant' to the committee.

New to the Committee is Mr. Robin Debenham who has accepted the role of Honorary Treasurer.

At the time of preparing this newsletter, the Committee comprises:

Jill Taylor	Mark Hancock
Virginia Casey	Jenny Cronan
Hilary Laidlaw	Robin Debenham, Treasurer
Councillor Rowie Dillon	Scott King, Secretary

We look forward to welcome all Friends, both old and new, to our Annual General Meeting to be held in the Bible Garden on Saturday 16th May, 2026 at 3PM.

**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 16th May 2026 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)