



- The History of Ivanhoe Park peaked a lot of interest
 - What's else happened at the Get-together
 - Our first 2021 Tour – a ramble in our own Garden
 - No Working Bee because of wet conditions
- The Tree of the Month Project – It's all about bush tucker
- See who our Guest Speaker at the April Get-together will be
 - Dates for upcoming Get-togethers and Working Bees

Our March 10 Get-together peaked lot of interest in the beginnings of Ivanhoe Park and grounds

A great turn out, 25 members and guests, some of whom enjoyed dinner first at the Manly Bowling Club Bistro, listened to Michelle Richmond, Library Local Studies Historian for Northern Beaches Council, describe the beginnings of Manly and Ivanhoe Park to where we are today.

Here's a snapshot of the very early years:

- The Gayamayagal (or Kay-ye-my) people occupied the Manly Area for thousands of years before the arrival of Europeans.

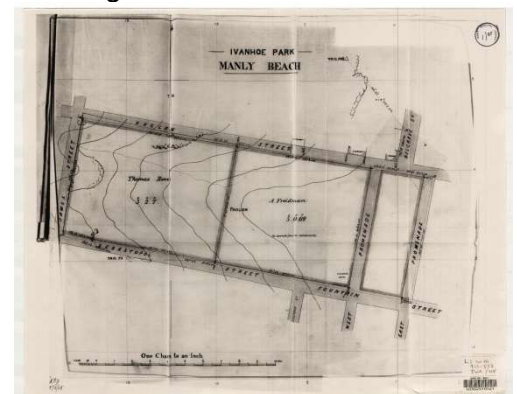


- In November 1789, during Phillip's tenure, Colebee and Bennelong were captured. at Manly. Colebee quickly escaped. But during Bennelong's captivity, Bennelong learnt English and wore European clothing. Phillip later built a hut for him at what became known as Bennelong Point.
 - After this, it seems that Manly and the Northern Beaches were left alone.
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- In the early 1850s, Sydney merchant and land speculator, Henry Gilbert Smith began to purchase and lease land in Manly.
- Smith promoted Manly as a health resort, and built the Wharf and the first hotel.



- Around 1870 following the end of the Intercolonial Exhibition held in Prince Alfred Park, Sydney, John Young held an auction of the valuable material associated with the exhibition and it appears that Thomas Heselton purchased three pavilions and re-erected them at Manly Beach on land known as Ivanhoe Park, that was still in the hands of Henry Gilbert Smith.
- In fact, the first known mention of the name Ivanhoe Park is when Heselton, Captain of the Manly Beach Steamer, advertised Ivanhoe Park "with large dancing pavilion 160ftx40ft to let for Boxing Day" (*Sydney Morning Herald* 6 December 1870, p8).
- Thomas Adrian was issued the first publican's license for the Ivanhoe Park Hotel in 1875.
- In 1881, the first Wild Flower Show held in the pavilion in aid of St Matthews Church, 2-3000 people travelled to the event from Sydney. Similar events were held up until 1899.
- The newly formed Manly Council (1877) and local residents continued to lobby the Government for the provision of a suitable public park and recreation ground in Manly.
- In 1883 a deputation met the Colonial Secretary, Alexander Stuart, requesting the government purchase the property known as Ivanhoe Park for a public recreation ground.
- In 1884 Abraham Friedman conveyed the eastern part of the park to the Crown for £6000 and Thomas Rowe sold the western part of the park to the Crown for £1500.
- So as of February 1884, Ivanhoe Park was owned by the Crown. The NSW Government called the park, Manly Park and Manly Council became the trustees of the park.



And the rest is history, as they say. Michelle's presentation covered too much to feature here, so if you're interested, you can view Michelle's entire presentation [here](#).

And don't forget to visit the Library's fabulous History Hub at <https://northernbeaches.recollect.net.au/>

Other news from the March Get-together

Midweek Working Bee: Unfortunately not enough members could make Monday, March 1 so we took a survey to see which day and time would be best suited. Results will be circulated soon. Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday have been suggested but we do need a minimum number of volunteers.

Seniors Festival Week: Tony Lewis gave a quick overview on how we will be involved with our Ivanhoe Park Walk & Talk event. You should have received your email invitation by now and we hope that you will join us. We are also looking for helpers on the day, so please email us to let us know if you can assist.

Three year memberships will soon be available: Starting with FY 2021-2022, we will be offering three year memberships in addition to our one year offering.

Yearly membership		Three-year membership	
Individual	\$25	Individual	\$70
Pensioner/Senior	\$20	Pension/Senior	\$55
Family	\$35	Family	\$100

Managing the trees in the Garden: The Executive Committee met with council representatives and members of the Trees Services Department to discuss long-term plans for managing the trees in our Garden. One outcome, you will notice immediately: most of the larger trees that were suffering because of whipper snipping now have mulch surrounding them to protect them from further damage.

Our first 2021 Tour – a ramble in our own Garden

On Friday, March 26, we embarked on our Members Only Garden Ramble Tour through the Garden with our guide, Fenton Beatty, Manager, Tree Services, Northern Beaches Council. Fenton was the Parks & Reserves Manager in Manly for 30 years and, with the Parks & Gardens teams, managed the maintenance and progression of the Garden up until 2017.



He revealed that the gardener in the 1880's was responsible for planting the original trees like the Pines and Figs – these are the largest and oldest trees that you see in the Garden. This gardener also put in the stone garden beds in a formal garden style.



It was quite an informative ramble. From the red gates, looking over to Sydney Road at the original large trees, then up to the Rainforest gully.

Fenton worked with Ruth Paul, a horticulturist, who started with Manly Council in 1988. Ruth worked with Craig, a staff gardener who was Italian, students and local residents from the Ivanhoe Park Precinct. Together they were responsible for clearing out the overgrown areas of bamboo and banana trees to make way for Ruth's plan of planting rainforest trees in the gully and around the Scout Hall partly as a trial to see what would grow and could be used for street trees in Manly.



The next stop was on the stone terraces as discussions were had about the old pre-school and Scout Hall and the drainage problems we are still experiencing. In fact, the drainage, ponding water and mosquitoes at the base of the gully/stone channel were an issue at the time that Ruth was working for Manly Council.



We then walked onto the old Tramway and stopped at the Blue Quandong where there was still some bright blue fruit on the ground. Petals were dropping off the Quandong flowers as we spoke of the work and planting that was done after the trams were discontinued.



No March Working Bee because of wet conditions

The Big Wet arrived on the day of our March Working Bee but that didn't stop Tony Lewis of our Executive Committee from venturing into the Garden to capture the following photos.



The Tree of the Month Project – It's all about bush tucker



We have several species of bush tucker producing trees in the Garden but we are featuring only two this month – the Blue Quandong and the Davidson Plum – because we only have one of each of them.

Blue Quandong

Elaeocarpus grandis

elaia = Olive tree (Greek), *carpos* = a fruit;
grandis = tall or large

Also known as Blue Quandong, White or Silver
Quandong, Blue Fig or Coolan



The bright blue fruits have a tangy, bitter flavour and meagre flesh and are best when slightly over-ripe and soft. The fruit's skin needs to be separated from the green flesh before using. Quandong fruit is still a popular bushfood in Aboriginal cuisine and European settlers were also known to use them in jams and pies.

Davidson Plum

Davidsonia pruriens

Davidsonia after J. E. Davidson
Pruriens from Latin meaning an itching sensation,
a reference to the hairy surface of the
leaves and stems

Also known as Davidson's Plum, Sour Plum,
Queensland Itch Tree



The Davidson plum has long been a food source for Indigenous Australians and for colonial settlers since the early 1900s. It was wild harvested for many years, and the popularity of the fruit as an ingredient for a range of food products, has seen the establishment of commercial plantations since 1990.

Go to our webpage to find out more about these two trees. This link will take you there: [Our Trees](#).

Guest speaker at our April Get-together

Australia's Memorial Walk at North Head – a fitting subject so close to Anzac Day



The Speaker at our Get-together on Wednesday April 14 will be Ron Ray, OAM.

His topic will be the people honoured in Australia's Memorial Walk at North Head. If you're unfamiliar with the Walk, it is a paved pathway made up of inscribed pavers with the names of servicemen and women who defended Australia in peace and war.

This virtual tour will look at some of the stories, units, families and individuals commemorated with pavers laid in the Memoria Walkway.

Read Ron Ray's bio [here](#).

Dates for our upcoming Get-togethers and Garden Working Bees

2021 Monthly Get-togethers

Held the 2nd Wednesday of the month

Month	2 nd Wednesday	Time
April	14 th	7.00-8.30pm
May	12 th	7.00-8.30pm
June	9 th	7.00-8.30pm
July	14 th	7.00-8.30pm
August	No Get-together	

Month	3 rd Saturday	Time
April	17 th	10.00-12.30pm
May	15 th	10.00-12.30pm
June	19 th	10.00-12.30pm
July	17 th	10.00-12.30pm
August	21 st	10.00-12.30pm

2021 Garden Working Bees

Held the 3rd Saturday of the month, subject to weather and air quality.

We'd love to see more volunteers working with us in the Garden, so please email us and let us know if you are interested. You do need to be a financial member to be covered by our accident insurance. On the plus side, you will be inducted for free on your first session and you will be joining a happy and dedicated crew who are really making a difference in Ivanhoe Park Botanic Garden.

Keep up to date with happenings at Ivanhoe Park Botanic Garden
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