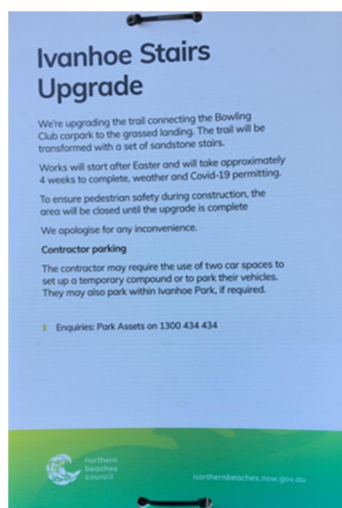




- **Stage One of the Masterplan implementation is complete!**
 - **Working Bees are a go! With safety first in mind**
 - **What's happening in your home garden?**
 - **A visit to a Friends-supported garden in Port Macquarie**
 - **Don't miss out! Still time to buy native plants**

Stage One of the Masterplan implementation is complete!



You may have noticed signs announcing the Ivanhoe Stairs Upgrade in the north-west corner of the Garden.



Work started after Easter when safety fences were constructed at the top and bottom of the trail connecting the Bowling Club carpark to the open grassed area adjacent to Raglan Street at the end of the old tramway route.



The sandstone pieces that were delivered on site weighed $\frac{1}{4}$ tonne or 250 kg. each

The very experienced stonemason, a specialist in working with heavy stone, used a tracked buggy to move the stones around and down the slope.



The upgrade was needed to ensure the safety of those entering the Garden via this rough trail as you can see from the before and after photos here.

Leading up from the car park

Before



After



Leading down to the carpark

Before



After



The upgrade, completed on time in spite of Covid-19 restrictions and rainy weather conditions, is just the start of the next exciting stage due to be completed by August. This next stage will celebrate the historic tramline that once travelled along this section of Ivanhoe Park using landscape works including interpretative elements and well as improved entry, paved areas and shaded seating areas.

Working Bees are a go! With safety first in mind

Starting at our next scheduled Working Bee on Saturday, May 23, Northern Beaches Council have advised us that we are now able to resume our regular monthly Working Bees in Ivanhoe Park Botanic Garden in line with the current restrictions in place aimed at reducing the impact of the Corona virus.

This means that we can have a maximum of **ten** persons gathering to work in the garden at any given time. And will be **limited to members who have already had their Council-provided health and safety induction**.

Because of this number limit, we will be scheduling volunteers on a first-in first-served basis. So if you have been inducted and are interested in working in the Garden, you **must** email us at info@friendsivanhoeparkbotanicgarden.com. Should you be amongst the first 8 to notify us (there is already one Council representative and one person from FIPBG planning to attend which brings the number of 10), you will receive an email of when and where to meet and on arrival be briefed on the safety and mode of working then directed to a section of the Garden in which you will work.

The Working Bee will run for approximately 2 hours and you will need to bring along the following: Fluoro Vest, your own tools, gloves, shoes or boots, long sleeved shirt or blouse, hat, sunscreen (if needed) and hand sanitiser. It is suggested that you bring your own face mask if you wish and your mobile phone.

These limitations will be in place until we advise differently. And please do not turn up at the Garden unless you have been notified via email.

Please read and consider the following guidelines from Council:

Council has advised that gardening at Ivanhoe Park is permitted for the purpose of exercise for FIPBG members, undertaken in accordance with the current government guidelines/advice (see below). Note that this could change if the Government advice changes.

Council has asked that we consider the following points:

- Our parks including Ivanhoe Park remain open at the moment.
- Volunteer maintenance of Ivanhoe Park is not needed by Council as our Operations team are maintaining this park and other parks
- Exercise such as gardening is permitted though there are restrictions and specific restrictions (advice) for those at higher risk of infection.

COVID-19 presents a more serious risk to:

- *people aged 70 years and over*
- *people aged 65 years and over with chronic medical conditions*
- *people with a compromised immune system*
- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples 50 years and older with one or more chronic medical conditions.*

The latest advice from the Australian Government is accessible here:

<https://www.australia.gov.au/>

The specific NSW advice about gatherings is here:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/what-you-can-and-cant-do-under-rules>

What's happening in your Garden?



Waiting for the Agave to flower

To watch the flowering of the 15 year plus Agave in my garden needs patience and time (which we all seem to have plenty of these days), but why?

Well, this species of agave, *Agave attenuate*, is sometimes known as the lion's tail, swan's neck, or foxtail for its development of a curved inflorescence, but its more common name is "century plant" because it supposedly takes a century to bloom. However, if you pamper it with rich soil and ample water, it can be 15 to 20 years sooner.

The flower, pictured here, has taken about 6 weeks to get to the height of about 2 meters. When fully mature the flower will be about 4 meters long with masses of small yellow flowers on the Foxtail stem.

I can already see that the leaves are beginning to die while all the babies on the stem are fast growing which is quite normal as Agaves are monocarpic, meaning they die after flowering. They are easy to grow and can make a sculptured centre piece to your garden and are wonderful to watch as the days pass slowly by.

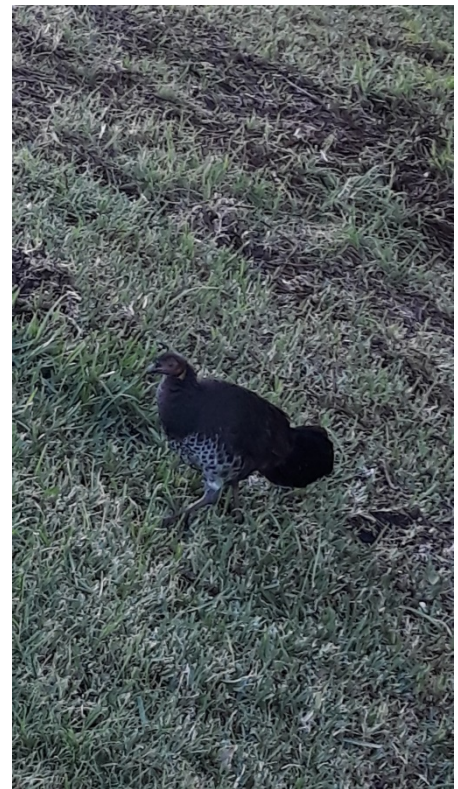
- Sandy Hudspith

Can brush turkeys fly?

Over the last several weeks our downstairs neighbour has taken up feeding the local sulphur crested cockatoos. The birds are intelligent and apparently communicative so the word has gotten around and they now arrive each day in considerable numbers. My neighbour only uses good quality seed so I presume the birds' health is not being adversely affected. However the quantity of seed required to feed the ever increasing throng is considerable. Because the birds are neither economical nor thrifty, their messy eating habits result in much seed ending up on and in the lawn.

This has attracted the attention of a large brush turkey which often now makes its way into our yard and spends its time raking the lawn apart to access the spilled seed. This has caused me some concern as it is my job to maintain the grass which is looking much the worse for wear since the turkey became a frequent visitor. So, my most recent activity in my garden (or yard) could best be described as "watering the turkey". On jet setting, the spray from my hose gun is capable of reaching all parts of the yard from my rear deck and the turkey came quickly to understand this. These birds are generally reluctant flyers, but as soon as this turkey sees me he takes to the wing and heads to the yard of the house next door. I can't always be there when he comes to visit so my deterrent value is limited.

- Tony Lewis



The turkey does fly but it's too quick for me to capture in a photo!

A visit to a Friends-supported garden in Port Macquarie

While trolling the internet as one has a tendency to do these days, I read that a Friends group in Port Macquarie received a funding grant of \$95,000 from the NSW Government in March this year for upgrades to their Garden. It reminded me of my visit to that very Garden, discovered by accident when walking from the town centre on my way to a whale watching site.



Called Mrs York's Garden it uses native littoral rainforest and coastal headland species to create a beautiful headland Garden overlooking the Hastings River mouth. It was originally maintained by Port Macquarie resident Bertha York in 1963, however, after her death, it was neglected for the most part. That is until the formation of the Friends of Mrs York's Garden.



That is until the formation of the Friends of Mrs York's Garden.

Over the past five years, the area has been transformed into a place of natural beauty. As you stroll along Mrs York's Walk, winding through flowering gardens, following the natural pathways dotted with interpretative signs and then along the boardwalk, you can really appreciate the time and effort this group of volunteers have made.

- Liz Howe



There's still time to buy a native plant

We've sold quite a few but we still have plants available. If you were wondering what the Unknown plant was from last month's newsletter, well no one guessed what it was – it's a *billardiera scandans*.

Please let us know if you are interested in purchasing one (or more) of the plants listed below at the stunningly bargain price of \$6 per plant and we will send you Direct Deposit details and how you can collect them safely.

And special bonus offer – if you join Friends of Ivanhoe Park Botanic Garden, you will receive one plant for free!



**brachyscome
multiflora**
Rocky daisy

Perennial. Small purple
daisy shape flowers

No. available: 1



billardiera scandans
Appleberry

Ground cover,
small shrub

No. available: 9



prostanthera incisa
Mint bush

Small shrub

No. available: 5



**pandorea
jasminoidies**
Bower vine

Vigorous grower,
ground cover or trailing
on a trellis or fence

No. available: 3



daviesia ulicifolia

Gorse bitter pea

Small to medium shrub
with red and yellow
small pea shape
flowers

No. available: 2



leptospermum

squarrosum

Peach blossom tea tree

Bush 1 - 3 meters

No. available: 1



hibbertia scandens

Snake vine

Vigorous ground cover

No. available: 6

Each plant is contained
in a 90mm pot

Only \$6 each

If you become a
member of Friends of
Ivanhoe Park Botanic
Garden, you will get
one plant free!

Everyone, please take good care of yourself and stay well.

Keep up to date with happenings at Ivanhoe Park Botanic Garden
by visiting our website anytime

www.friendsivanhoeparkbotanicgarden.com

Or email us at

info@friendsivanhoeparkbotanicgarden.com

And please, Follow, Like and Share our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofIvanhoeParkBotanicGarden/>