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Our Trees and our Volunteers – the focus of our May Get-together

Our Trees

Lois Clarke, the team leader on our Tree Project, presented an update on the progress of the research done by our small group of interested members since the project's formation in September 2020.

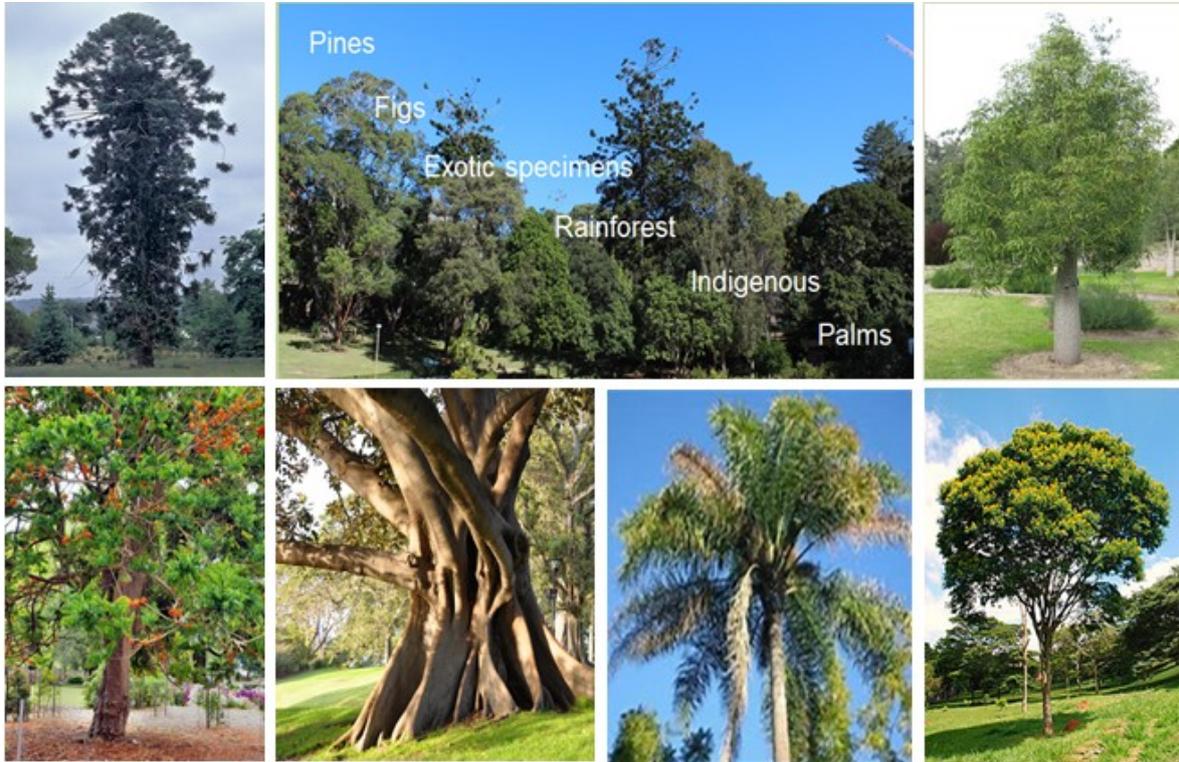
So much of the history of the trees was unknown, so it was exciting that as part of the ongoing research of the trees it was discovered that:

- Henry Gilbert Smith was responsible for planting the Norfolk Pines along the oceanfront in the 1850s.
- In 1877 the Mayor of Manly, Thomas Rowe, asked the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Charles Moore for advice on street plantings who recommended planting Norfolk Pines, Morton Bay Figs and Port Jackson Figs, some of which we still see around Manly today.
- Manly Council appointed a permanent gardener, J C Frazer, for Ivanhoe Park in 1885, who we believe was responsible for the planting of some of the legacy trees such as figs and pines as well as building many of the sandstone garden beds and walls in the upper section of the park.



- Ruth Paul, who was working for Manly Council in the late 1980s, was responsible for the decision to plant such a wide variety of trees in Ivanhoe Park and what is now the Botanic Garden. She undertook a planting project to create a woodland effect around the Scout Hall and along Park Avenue as well as planting many of the rainforest trees and palms.

To date we have only researched approximately half the species growing so it is an ongoing project, but the first goal of researching the trees listed as High Value as well as the single specimens – 54 trees in total – has been achieved.



This important project not only assists the Northern Beaches Council with the long-term planning for the Botanic Garden – what needs to be done to preserve our large heritage trees, succession plantings and on-going management – but also the future direction of the garden.

We still have more to research and add to our data base but this will take time to complete. You can see what has been done each month in this newsletter as well as on the Our Trees webpage where we are assembling this data base.



Our Volunteers

To celebrate our volunteers during Volunteers Week, a complimentary beverage was served as well as lucky door prizes of the latest "Our Gardens Magazine", the Garden Clubs of Australia's magazine.



Other points of interest at the May Get together



- Cr Pat Daley OAM attended our meeting and after hearing of the recent vandalism in the garden, put forward the idea of setting up a Neighbourhood Watch which will be discussed in conjunction with GMRF.
- Bunnings have several employees interested in coming into the garden to work with us on a mid-week Working Bee – stay tuned.
- The Plan of Management for the whole of Ivanhoe Park is almost ready to be present to Council.
- Storage facilities update. Walls and flooring have been completed, lighting and power points are being worked on but we will be ready to move in soon. As you can see from our before photo, it has been quite the challenge!



Our May Working Bee



A small but industrious group laid down mulch on the embankment and beds we had already cleared at the top of the garden.



And then set to work on decimating the Morning Glory that overwhelms so many of our plants.



One of our team was a little thirsty and it turns out so was the wildlife that popped its head out of the tap when he was filling up his water bottle.



Around the Garden

Unfortunately, we had another round of dumped rubbish and plant vandalism in early May. It was reported to the Police and the Council who cleared everything up early next morning.

Stay tuned please about what else we can do to prevent further attacks.



But we can still find beauty wherever we look.



The Tree of the Month Project – Non-indigenous Deciduous Trees



Ivanhoe Park Botanic Garden is also an arboretum in that it has many trees that are not local to the area or even to Australia. The idea behind these plantings was that visitors could see trees without having to travel to their place of origin.

This month we're featuring some of those non-indigenous trees – the Box Elder, Eastern Cottonwood (both American hardwoods) and the European Ash.

These three trees are also deciduous that is, they lose some or all of their leaves for a part of the year. A little unusual to see these trees here because Australia has very few native deciduous trees. Deciduous trees get clues about when to lose their leaves like the length of days, temperature and moisture whereas in Australia, trees have had to evolve to be more versatile in our climate.

Box Elder

Acer negundo

Acer from the Latin means maple; *Negundo* – on the basis of its pinnate leaves

Also known as: Box Elder, Box Elder Maple, Ash-leaved Maple, Black Maple



The names "box elder" and "box elder maple" are based upon the similarity of its whitish wood to that of boxwood and the similarity of its pinnately compound leaves to those of some species of elder. Other common names are based upon this maple's similarity to ash, its preferred environment, its sugary sap, a description of its leaves and its binomial name.

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

Eastern Cottonwood

Populus deltoides

The common name of cottonwood comes from the seeds that contain hairs that resemble cotton when open

Also known as: The Necklace Poplar, Cottonwood Poplar



The seed capsules of the female produce silky white hairs when they split open. For many people, the fluff from cottonwood trees is a nuisance. Some people describe the tree as the most hated tree in America. The light white fluffy fibers can accumulate in yards, get into homes, block drains and gutters, and clog up filters.

European Ash

Fraxinus excelsior

Fraxinus from Latin meaning ash tree; Latin word *excelsus* meaning lofty or high

Also known as: European Ash, Common Ash



The wood is widely used for joinery and carpentry because of its high flexibility, shock resistance and resistance to splitting. It is the traditional material for bows, tool handles, especially for hammers and axes, tennis rackets, and snooker cue sticks, and it was extensively used in the construction of early aircraft.

Our next Get-together is on Wednesday, June 9

Learn all about bees and why bees are so important to our environment.

Our Guest Speaker this month will be Vince Schnyder, President of Northern Beaches Beekeepers Inc.

You can check out Vince's bio [here](#).

Grab dinner at the Bistro beforehand or just a drink before joining us downstairs at 7pm.



Dates for our upcoming Get-togethers and Garden Working Bees

2021 Monthly Get-togethers
Held the 2nd Wednesday of the month

**Our Annual General Meeting
will be on July 14**

Month	2 nd Wednesday	Time
June	9 th	7.00-8.30pm
July	14 th	7.00-8.30pm
August	No Get-together	
September	8 th	7.00-8.30pm
October	13 th	7.00-8.30pm
November	10 th	7.00-8.30pm

Month	3 rd Saturday	Time
June	19 th	10.00-12.00pm
July	17 th	10.00-12.00pm
August	21 st	10.00-12.00pm
September	18 th	10.00-12.00pm
October	16 th	10.00-12.00pm
November	20 th	9.00-11.00pm

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.

News

- **Roses by the Seaside:** The 2021 National Rose Championships and Conference will be held in Kiama at The Pavilion Kiama, 2 Bong Bong Street, Kiama on Saturday, 16th October 2021 from 12pm – 5pm and Sunday, 17th October 2021 from 9.30am – 4pm.

Details on the Rose Society of NSW website <http://nsw.rose.org.au/roses-by-the-seaside>

- **Stony Range Regional Botanic Garden:** They are looking for empty jars suitable to package up their bush food jams which will be sold at this year's Spring Festival.

Email them at: stonyrange@gmail.com

- **Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Garden:** Lots of interesting news and facts are in the PDF attached to our Newsletter email.

Note: the links don't work in the PDF but you can email them for your own copy if you're interested at info@friendsbotanicgardens.org

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
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