



Fetherston Gardens Newsletter

Winter 2011

Welcome to Fetherston Gardens

Welcome to our second newsletter of the Fetherston Gardens Friends. If this is the first time you have heard about the new Fetherston Gardens, the Arboretum and woodland garden, they were acquired in 2010 when the CIT School of Horticulture was relocated to the new Horticultural facilities at Bruce Campus. The original CIT gardens in Weston were first established in 1974, and the new Fetherston Garden community has set about the restoration and recovery of lost species. In the future the Arboretum and gardens will be preserved for community use.

Thanks must always go to the wonderful volunteers who have spent time retrieving and discovering lost plants and paths. Every working bee uncovers such marvelous finds, and much rejoicing happens when trees have been rescued from the clutches of the ivy.

We are grateful also for the significant contribution from Territory And Municipal Services. TAMS has been busy with the tree conservation in the Arboretum areas and many trees will be given structure, pruned, shaped and mulched, to enable new growth and health, and providing a safe space to use and enjoy in the future.

The garden is evolving, and like all living gardens, they change and develop over time. The Fetherston Gardens have had many changes over 36 years, adapting to the changing trends in horticulture. The design and structure of this garden is unique in the Canberra landscape. Many varieties of plants have been planted with wisdom and foresight, and made available for CIT student research projects.

Some plantings we now know are listed on the ACT Weeds List and we will need to remove these, for our ridges and buffer zones to stay protected. In this edition of the newsletter we have a weed species and tree profile of plants growing in the gardens and in the Arboretum. We hope you enjoy our winter edition, keep warm, and we welcome you to join us each month in the garden.

Kind Regards,

Lesley Pattinson

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The love of gardening is a seed once
sown that never dies
~ Gertrude Jekyll



Winter Edition
Volume 2 2011

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Our Working Bee Volunteers



Thank you to our working bee volunteers. On the last Sunday of every month volunteers gather and work together, creating spaces where plants once grew, and have now been lost to the ivy and other weeds. Every working bee in the garden is making a huge impact on the weeds and it is wonderful to have all the ivy removed from the trees in the woodland garden. The last of the Autumn colour has finished and the structure of the trees, branches and stems, open up the views to distant vistas unseen in the woodlands during Summer and Autumn. New work has started on our Production Beds in earnest. We had a beautiful May day to dig, and prepare the beds for Spring

As we move into Winter with the ever changing garden, we will be enjoying warm drinks and hot food at our working bee Sundays.

Thank you to Rotary and the Weston Creek Community Council who provided us with a hot BBQ and salads. It was a wonderful way to finish our morning in the gardens. As always, you are most welcome to just turn up and join in the restoration project. I have included the last autumn photos for you to enjoy, and thank you for the wonderful contribution you have made in the gardens. Happy winter gardening.



Thank you Weston Creek Rotary Club



March 2010



May 2011

Winter Dates for your Calendar

You are most welcome to join us on the following dates for our Winter cleanup in the gardens. All working bee are held the last Sunday monthly.

Sunday 26th June
Sunday 31st July
Sunday 28th August

Start time: 10.00am–1.00pm.

Location: Heyson St Weston, close to Streeton Drive, turn into Islamic school entrance. Please bring your own drinks and snacks, tools and protective clothing.



A Fetherston Gardener



June 2011

The garden in years gone by...

I only learnt about the existence of Fetherston Gardens recently and quite by chance one morning as I was listening to the ABC Gardening Show, when the first working bee was advertised. Since then I have been a regular volunteer and I find that it is rewarding, to see paths and smaller plants uncovered and garden beds become more defined as the ivy is pulled away. I tend to stick to ivy removal, as without a lot of gardening experience, I don't have to be concerned about pulling up rare plants by mistake!

I have only seen the gardens in this overgrown state, with long grass, lots of ivy and blackberries gone wild. And I wonder what they must have looked like when they were maintained regularly. How do you restore the gardens so that they retain a link to their past but also embrace a new future for the gardens and community?

To help in the development of a new master plan for the gardens we are searching through the Weston CIT School of Horticulture archives. So far, some original plans have been found and it is interesting to see in these plans aspects of the garden that still remain today.

However, we are trying to track down more information about one particular older plan, date unknown, drawn up by Thomas Gordon, Earth Design Associates, 54 Weston Street, Yarralumla, sometime in the early 1970's. A search of some of Canberra's archives (and the usually helpful Google search) has not yet proved fruitful in finding Mr Gordon or Earth Design Associates. However, it would be great to find out more about this particular design. If anyone out there has any information that could help us please get in touch. We would also be interested in other plans, or photos that show the garden as it used to be.

I am excited to be part of this local community project, to work with other 'Fetherston Gardeners' to restore the garden and to learn more about plants and garden design along the way.

Melinda Clark



The Weston School of Horticulture site has been the ACT and region teaching centre for Horticulture for over 30 years and we would like to document and record the past histories and future stories. If you have old photos or memorabilia of your days as a Teacher, Technical support staff, or student studying Horticulture at CIT, or have connections to the old gardens, we welcome your contact with us to share your story.

You can contact us directly: fetherstongardens@gmail.com.au or the WCCC Weston Creek community Council.

2011 Volunteer days at Fetherston Gardens

29th May
26th June
31st July
28th August
25th September
30th October
27th November
18th December

Issue 3 of the Fetherston Friends newsletter will be Spring, Edition 3 2011. We welcome your news and information.

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Plant Profile

Botanical name: *Liriodendron tulipifera*

Common name: Tulip Tree

Height: A large leafy tree to 16m



Tulip trees have tulip shaped lime-green leaves that turn yellow in the Autumn. The flowers produced are conical cluster of samaras, an unusual green/yellow. This tree does require protection from our hot drying winds in Summer.



Fetherston Gardens May 2011

Community News

Weston Creek Community Council. WCCC. Meetings are held at 7.30 pm the 4th Wednesday of the month at The Weston Club, Liardet St, Weston Creek. www.wccc.com

Cactus and Succulent Get-Together Canberra 2011



Gold Creek Tourist Resort
O'Hanlon Place Gold Creek
Village Nicholls ACT 2913
(off the Barton Highway)
Friday, 30 September to
Sunday, 2 October 2011
Mailing address and enquiries

Mrs Jennifer Rowland

14 Castles Place

Melba ACT 2615

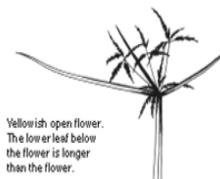
Tel: (02) 6258 7691

Email: jdrowland@home.com.au

Fetherston Weed Watch

Umbrella Sedge - *Cyperus eragrostis*

A strongly tufted evergreen perennial sedge. A common plant throughout most of Australia. It often occurs in dense clumps and likes wet areas. Umbrella sedge can grow year round. Umbrella sedge stems are triangular in cross-section, strappy, and up to one metre tall. The flower head is umbrella-like. This is a common weed in the garden beds and needs to be removed to reduce seeding.



"Gardening is a way of showing that you believe in tomorrow."