

# FETHERSTON GARDENS FRIENDS' NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2015

The Fetherston Gardens Friends (FGF) have been active over the winter period removing woody weeds, ivy and blackberry and have our dedicated team of volunteers to thank for the regenerating work, giving of their time and skills to many garden tasks.

We continue a wonderful partnership with TAMS, Parkcare, Weston Creek Community Council (WCCC) who fully support our volunteer commitment enabling work to continue in the gardens. Defence Housing Australia (DHA) site works were completed on Fetherston Ridge with the opening of new Defence Housing. The FGF are working together with DHA to build community ties with our new neighbours on the Ridge.

The gardens have additional new seating and picnic tables sited at vantage points around the gardens and the new irrigation system has seen the garden plantings thrive.



We have new entrance signage from Heysen St into Fetherston Place and a lovely story board highlighting Tony Fetherston located in the woodland garden. The FGF became a recipient of an ANZAC 2015 Centenary Grant from Dept. Veteran Affairs DVA and we are in the process of preparing for the landscaping works to begin late September. More on the Gallipoli Garden project soon.

The FG Friends proudly accepted a nomination from ACT ParkCare to attend the ACT Volunteer of the Year awards. The recognition award has been encouraging for us to continue on with the restoration work. Thanks to TAMS and Parkcare who support our volunteers and the work achieved in the gardens.

The Fetherston Gardens Friends welcome you, and invite you to join us as we continue with the project of restoring these gardens. We welcome your stories, photos and memories of the gardens over its long history.

Lesley Pattinson  
fetherstongardens@gmail.com



## 2015 Working Bee Dates

August 12, 30                      September 9, 27  
October 14, 25                     November 12, 29

Location: Fetherston Place, off Heysen St Weston



“A weed is but an unloved flower.”

~ Ella Wheeler Wilcox



## DEFENCE HOUSING AUSTRALIA ON FETHERSTON RIDGE



DHA has been generous with their time and expertise to assist the Fetherston Gardens Friends in fundraising ventures and widely promoting our Friends volunteer work in the gardens. They have been active in the community, advertising and supporting the Fetherston Gardens and promoting opportunities for all to come and enjoy the outdoor space that living in our community offers.

Our volunteers recently held a display and information stall alongside DHA on Fetherston Ridge. The committee engaged a BBQ with support from Mal and Dennis of Weston Creek Rotary at the DHA Land auction. DHA presented FGF with a generous cheque to support the work of the volunteers and new garden projects. DHA have sourced and funded the printing of our FGF brochures. This has enabled us to share the garden story further.

Thank you to Coral from DHA marketing and the DHA team who share our vision for the gardens and our community.

Neighbouring together with DHA has enabled us to build new friendships with the team and work together to promote our volunteers and our Weston Creek community. Together we can share our skills, build networks, support our neighbours, the new families living in Fetherston Ridge and promote the Fetherston Gardens as a wonderful community asset for all to enjoy. And we can even cook up a great sausage....

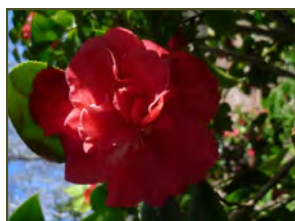
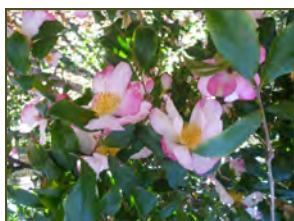
## FETHERSTON GARDENS' CAMELLIA COLLECTION

Fetherston Gardens has a varied collection of Camellias that have survived over the years and Stephen Utick, our Camellia expert has identified some treasures in the garden. Stephen's thorough research and knowledge of the species will enable a researched, labelled collection to be maintained and additional plantings added to the collection. Thankyou Stephen for your labelling and maintaining these precious old plantings of Camellia.

Pictured here is *Camellia 'Coral Pink Lotus'*. Originated in California in 1955 - now very rare in Australia. Dark pink veins and centre white streaking.



It was a joy to have Janet Lawrence, Tony's daughter who was visiting last month from Brisbane. Despite the bleak rainy day, Stephen had just fertilized and picked some blooms to share. These were a loved plant species of Tony Fetherston's. There are many varieties yet to be documented and recorded for our Camellia collection. Pictured below are some blooms located in the woodland garden.



“The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn.” ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson



## FETHERSTON GARDENS FAMILY FUN DAY

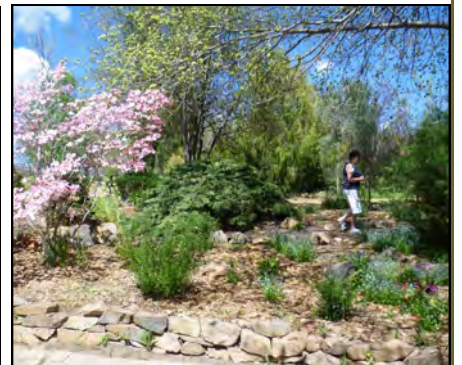
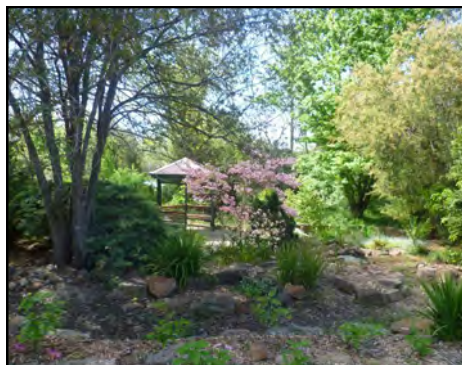
New residents of Molonglo and Weston Creek enjoyed our first Family Fun Day, held in February with the generous support and funding of DHA. Coral Griffith from DHA Marketing ensured the smooth running of the day with her event management skills. The day was enjoyed by the community with stalls and attractions for the family. The petting zoo and jumping castle were a hit with the kids, along with a Rotary sausage sizzle and a visit from some Canberra Raiders. We are delighted to work together with DHA in organising the event and to meet many new residents.

Thanks to WCCC for willing hands in setting up, with the provision of marques and also TAMS ACT Smart Recycling for the provision of water stations. Our FG volunteers were kept busy with garden tours, stall information, receiving entrance donations, and welcoming the public. It was a big event and the gardens held up well with over 400 people attending. Thanks to all the stall holders who participated in making our first Family Fun Day a fabulous community event.



## THE SECRET GARDEN BEFORE AND AFTER IVY

The volunteers have recently ventured deep into the Secret Garden, now the removal program of dead trees is complete. This area had become Tarzan friendly with many exotic weedy vines and more ivy for us to tackle. Excess Bamboo has fed the Pandas at the Zoo instead of landfill. We have an ongoing arrangement with the Zoo when it grows back. This area will be the main focus over the coming spring. Privet and blackberry have had the upper hand in this area over the last few years, so a replanting program is in the planning. We have started mulching out this extensive area, to limit weed growth.



The top area of the Secret Garden has many planted bulbs and the Cornus have bloomed well last spring. There has not been the ivy regrowth as expected. Some old pathways with their stone edges winding through, are yet to be redefined and gravelled. More planting will occur next season.



# OUR VOLUNTEERS IN FETHERSTON GARDENS



Our volunteers have made significant changes in FG these last 12 months. While it is impossible to recap all the garden working bee activities over 12 months, each specific area of the garden has now been attended to. Floriade bulbs from 2014 have been dug, saved and replanted. Beds have been mulched and new plantings continue. Fetherston Gardens has a wonderful group of volunteers who return every month to contribute to the maintenance of these gardens. The gardens are an ongoing project and we extend an invitation to you to come and join us in the gardens. We meet the 2nd Wednesday and last Sunday of each month from 10.00 am. The Wednesday group meets for 2 hours only and the Sunday group meets for 3 hours . We enjoy a scrumptious morning tea break mid way. You are always welcome and not obligated in any way to stay the time allocated. We have tasks for all abilities and no gardening experience is required. Just bring your own gloves and wear sturdy footwear.



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**Bruce CIT Arboriculture**  
 Students engaged in some tree climbing and Arbor work on the woodland trees over winter. The students assessment and work on these large exotic trees has been much appreciated. There is diversity of tree species in FG for students knowledge and skill building. Thankyou to CIT staff for supporting the work and students in returning to the old CIT campus for training.



**The Horticultural Society of Canberra**  
[www.hsoc.org.au](http://www.hsoc.org.au) 6231 77  
 GPO Box 1388 Canberra ACT 2601



**ACT**  
 Government



[www.tams.act.gov.au/parks-conservation/parks-and-reserves/find-a-park/urban-parks/fetherston-gardens](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/parks-conservation/parks-and-reserves/find-a-park/urban-parks/fetherston-gardens)

Our **TAMS crew** worked over the winter to move the Islamic School /FG boundary fence back to allow for work and emergency vehicle access along this narrow pathway. Thank you to the Islamic school for this access. It has already enabled large tree removal equipment to safely access this area. The area will be planted to soften the boundary fence with climbers.



*The Fetherston Gardens Friends are very grateful for your written contributions. We would welcome any photos, memories and stories you would like to share also. Please contact us at: [fetherstongardens@gmail.com](mailto:fetherstongardens@gmail.com)*

