

Garden Committee Report 20th March 2024

The heat and rain have meant that the lawns and gardens have required regular mowing and hedging to deal with the growth that has occurred. Rodd, the gardening contractor noticed army worms attacking the lawns in early March. He immediately sprayed and returned twice more that week to ensure that their spread was contained. Don and Linda have kept a check in case more army worm activity occurs. More army worms have been found to be present in other areas of the garden. Consequently, the gardeners sprayed again this week on 18th March.

Some work in the grounds has been undertaken by Liz and Bert Hall. Most of their focus has been clearing behind the fence line that backs onto and is part of Ruddock Park. They have also removed dead limbs from a flowering plum and weeded and removed native irises from the garden next to the basketball court.

Maraya and other hedging have been removed from the pool area to meet current compliancy requirements. The hedge below the Clubhouse verandah and next to the BBQ has been removed. Nandina was found growing under this hedge. Being easy to maintain, 2 new plants were added. (Additional pool fencing has yet to be approved. Linda has weeded and trimmed Star Jasmine growth in front of the Pool Cabana. The Star Jasmine has been hedged alongside the path from the Clubhouse towards Webbs terrace.

Other work undertaken includes:

- Removal of agapanthus on the western side of the tennis courts as it had been overtaking the bromeliads. The bromeliads were divided and replanted and the area mulched.
- Suckers around the golden elm tree have been removed, as well as from around the hydrangea and basketball court gardens.
- Some time and effort have gone into the native garden including weeding and grooming the Pig Face. A dying shrub was replaced with a dwarf banksia. Native ground cover, complements of Hornsby council, was also planted there.
- A low growing grevillea was planted in the garden bordering the Pool Cabana. Sacred bamboo has been removed from these gardens. We believe the bamboo is now under control and low growing shrubs will be planted in their stead this winter.
- Spent sunflowers from the garden on Webbs Terrace have been removed and new seedlings have been planted.
- The Roses continue to be deadheaded and sprayed for black spot.
- In addition to the gardeners spaying the paths for weeds, we spray the pool pavers and the tennis courts surrounds,
- Additional mulch has been spread in several garden areas.