

## THE HSOC'S NEW DEMONSTRATION GARDEN AT BRUCE

Although we have had the new garden site at Bruce for some time, due to circumstances beyond our control, we have been unable to work the soil. Despite that, members of the Daffodil Association NSW/ACT set out five raised beds there in May 2010 and planted daffodils. In May 2011, two more beds were added so at least something was growing on site!

Heritage fruit trees were transplanted from the Weston garden last year and planted as an espaliered divider between vegetable area from the perennial one.

In July this year work got underway for the HSOC and a substantial shed has now been erected with attached porch and shaded area. A rose arbor and tunnel were dismantled from the Weston garden and re-located to the new garden, facing the proposed perennial gardens, and thanks to all those HSOC members who helped with this task.

As we have been unable to work the site, weed control became a priority and Allan Moss, our garden manager, organized a bobcat and driver to remove all the rubbish and bring in improved soil to spread around the boundaries for the planting of hedging.

We next sourced hedging plants from a number of nurseries and a working bee was arranged for 27<sup>th</sup> August, to plant them out. Plants included rosemary, teucrium, curry plant, santolina, escallonia, rhapsodolpis, variegated box, euonymus 'Tom Thumb', Pittosporum, Japanese Box, Coprosma, Chaenomeles, Forsythia, pittosporum, callistem, philothecas, grevilleas, westringia, correa, crowea, prostanthera, as well as climbers Star Jasmine and pandorea pandorana 'Snow Bells'.

The back fence is shaded by existing eucalypts so camellias, michelia and osmanthus were planted there, though we have more plants to acquire before we finish the hedging, given that the hedges are planted in 5 metre lots, with smaller plants forming a double hedge to take full advantage of the site and be able to show a good range of plants.

Hand watering has been done regularly but we hope to soon have automated drip irrigation.

Thanks to the small band of folk who planted out the hedges, we were most encouraged and the garden seemed to be 'on its way' by the end of the day. However, birds and other wildlife have been busy in the garden too! Some plants have been 'pruned', some have been nipped off at ground level and will need to be replaced. The 'cuttings' have been salvaged, where possible, and we are hoping to strike at least some of them. Waste not, want not! Netting is being placed over plants most at risk. Interestingly, the camellias have not been touched!

Working bees are set for the last Saturday of each month, unless another fixture of the HSOC such as a flower show conflicts. If you are on our contact list for emails, you will be advised of any changes. All HSOC members are welcome to join us, so do come along and help us grow this garden.

For information on the garden, 02 6254 3292 or [contactus@hsoc.org.au](mailto:contactus@hsoc.org.au)