



Fetherston Gardens Friends

Welcome to Fetherston Gardens. Going back 40 years, these gardens were originally designed and developed as the CIT school of Horticulture, which was opened in 1974. The upgraded gardens have been named after the first and longest-serving Head of Horticulture, Tony Fetherston.



They contain a well-established arboretum, extensive woodland gardens, a secret garden, a native garden, and a new Gallipoli garden constructed in 2015.

Over these years the gardens had been developed by staff and students. The campus had been the centre of Horticultural teaching and learning for the ACT and surrounding regions.

The gardens have had many landscape changes over the years with new gardening styles and the latest in gardening techniques practiced. Lots of experimental plantings have been trialed and tested, and today we see the legacy of those who planted and nurtured the gardens over these last 40 years.

The gardens are now maintained by volunteers. The original Weston TAFE/CIT School of Horticulture located on this site was closed in 2009 and relocated to Bruce CIT. The gardens fell quickly into disrepair and so when saved from a housing development the Fetherston Gardens Friends was formed in 2010. The Fetherston Gardens were officially opened to the public 12th October 2013. The site allocated was 3.5 hectares.

Gardens are always growing and changing and given this process, it is fitting for a team to attempt to restore and renew these gardens again. Fetherston Gardens is a richly diverse and a unique site in Canberra, and so the need to retain them and return them back to the community was vital.

Every tree and shrub on this site had been touched by ivy, and also by the caring hands of our volunteers. At times we wondered why we would tackle such a mammoth task. But the gardens survived us and all odds, we turned a corner and somehow that ivy menace gave way to new plants, truck -loads of mulch and new opportunities for growth.

We have the valued support of the Weston Creek Community Council - WCCC, the ACT Government – TCCS and Defence Housing Australia -DHA site located on Fetherston Ridge and together we are connecting to provide a unique public space here in Weston Creek.

Our volunteers meet twice a month, the 2nd Wednesday and the last Sunday of the month to restore, regenerate and renew these gardens. We always welcome new volunteers, no gardening experience required.

Fetherston gardens are now part of our wider community and we look forward to welcoming all who visit. Tony Fetherston's legacy lives on in this unique and special place in Weston Creek

"Gardening is an exercise in optimism. Sometimes, it is a triumph of hope over experience."

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