

**Phillips Landing Community Association # 270051
EC Meeting February, 2020**

Gardening Committee Report - Prepared by Pete Sheldon

Maintenance

Gardeners have been working closely with GC to prioritise **watering** to keep our gardens and lawns alive across December and January.

Due to the poor quality of soil and grass at The Eastern pool, watering was stopped so other more resilient areas of grass and gardens could be covered in the time available and within restrictions.

Committee requested additional watering volunteers early January and created a "register" of volunteers and has been co-ordinating with them to ensure the most vulnerable trees and shrubs are being watered sufficiently.

Sydney Water permits; Peter Smilek with GC made a supplementary application to Sydney Water for permission for volunteers to use hoses under the constraints and guidance of our contract gardeners permit.

SW then further required a Watering Plan to be submitted which GC & P Smilek drafted and was submitted – no formal reply to date.

Activities prioritized have been aimed at increasing the moisture content and retention on the most vulnerable garden areas by:-

Forking soil and mulch to increase water penetration.

Adding Wetting agent to assist soil absorption.

Topping up mulch where needed

Continuing to monitor stress areas and liaise with GC on volunteer watering activities.

Watering viable grass areas

Watering volunteers; As well as thanks to our 2020 volunteers from Lawson, Lindsay, Barrington, Alexander, Elizabeth, Chisholm, Borrowdale & Fitzroy, special thanks again goes to Bruno and Michelle for early uptake on volunteering prior to Xmas and their continued watering activities.

Naturally getting rain has taken some pressure off especially with hand watering.

Landscaping activities will be reviewed when we start to see more consistent lower temperatures, hopefully able to resume selectively early April.

Pete Sheldon
Gardening Committee PLCA
25/11/2019