

# BHS September 2021 Meeting

## MICHAEL PERRY BOTANIC RESERVE

### A botanical treasure brought back to life.

Dr Mark Ellis is the Technical Officer Conservation and Land Management with the Burnside Council. His roles include managing hills face restoration, the vegetation of the Council reserves and the Burnside Council Nursery that grows thousands of plants for these reserves.

Mark gave a most informative illustrated presentation about the three distinct elements of the Michael Perry Reserve in Stonyfell - the riparian zone (alongside creeks, streams, gullies, rivers and wetlands) of Second Creek, a restored hillside woodland and the historic garden dating from the 1860s. In pre-European times there were many types of original flora which well supported indigenous life. Early settler accounts describe *fields of flowers*. Permission given to include the photos from Mark's presentation.

#### Clifton Manor Estate

- 1842 - 80 acres purchased by Mr Harry Osbourne
- 1852 - The house built by George Simsey
- 1872 – 76 - Nathaniel Knox planted gardens
- 1934 – 76 - Dr Michael Schneider was the owner

#### Michael Perry Botanic Reserve - State Heritage Register - Local Heritage Place.

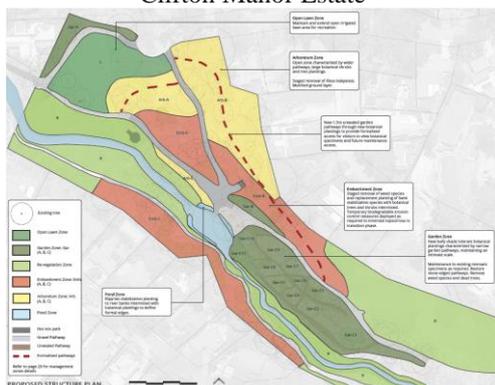
- 1976 - Estate was purchased and subsequently subdivided.
- 1977 - 5 hectares acquired by the City of Burnside
- 1980- Michael Perry Reserve declared open by the Mayor, Coralie Soward.



Clifton Manor Estate



Clifton Manor



Proposed Vegetation Management Plan



2021, looking across the creek to Clifton Manor

Michael Perry Reserve has 3 main elements – creek, historic garden and hillside woodland.

### Creek Line



In 2008 erosion restoration of the creek line was undertaken. In 2012, under the Council’s Michael Perry Vegetation Management Plan, non-native vegetation was removed, and original vegetation and native species were planted.



### Historic Garden

The garden is not being restored. An Historic Garden Adaptation Plan has been developed which sets the historical context and identifies key values. The plan aims to capture the essence of the garden and bring new life, through new historically and botanically themed plantings. It used to be a private estate and now it’s a public garden brought into a 21<sup>st</sup> century concept. The garden had Bunya Pines (remnant plantings of ancient conifers, retained) and feral plants – arum lilies, pittosporum, crack willow and black thorn (which have been removed). The new garden was planted with 250 species, 70 native, and it has irrigation, paths and edging. The labour was provided by teams from the Burnside Green-Army Teams 1&2 and Conservation Australia volunteers.



Garden 2021



Burnside Green Army volunteers



Conservation Australia volunteers

### Hillside Woodland

Few remnant indigenous species remain as the area has become infested by woody weeds. The aim is to restore the original vegetation.



Before



After



After