

St Mark's delightful gardens

Every Friday morning a group of friendly and enthusiastic volunteers, known as the St Mark's Gardeners, meet at St Mark's Anglican Church, Darling Point. The group aims to present St Mark's Church as a welcoming place by displaying beautiful and well maintained gardens.

It is coordinated by Di Coates, who has been a member of St Mark's for over 30 years. Di became involved in the gardening group soon after she joined and commented: "St Mark's Gardeners is a friendly, companionable group of volunteers who share a passion for gardening while enjoying each other's company. I am happy I can make a difference while doing what I enjoy."

The group meets from 9am at the Howard Lea Hall and garden together before finishing with morning tea from 11am onwards. In addition to the Friday gardening, another team member ensures the garden is watered appropriately. In 2019 the group were thrilled to be recognised as 'Winner - Best Large Garden 2019' in the Woollahra Garden Awards. The entry involved all the church gardens, with a particular focus on the memorial garden.

Volunteer gardener, Edwina Parsons, shared: "We regularly receive positive feedback about the garden from parishioners, visitors and local residents.

The memorial garden is particularly special, with the memorial wall reflecting a history of past residents of the Woollahra municipality. Families have also chosen plants in remembrance of their loved ones in consultation with our gardening coordinator Di Coates. All the seats and the majority of plants in the garden have been donated by members of our community or propagated by the gardeners. The memorial garden is a sanctuary where people can sit quietly and reflect."

Edwina concluded: "The garden we enjoy today has been years in the making and has been carefully and lovingly planned by Di Coates and our team. It represents the community-minded and inclusive nature of St Mark's."

For more information please visit <https://stmarksdp.org/ministries/st-marks-gardeners/> or contact gardeners@stmarksdp.org



Photos: Edwina Parsons

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