

Marion Griffin Garden – Initial Planting

Welcome everyone, to this auspicious event –
The establishment of the Marion Mahony Griffin Garden,
Located with the Environment Meditation and Healing
Garden here at Grevillea Park,
on the 152nd anniversary of Marion's birth!

Let us first acknowledge the traditional residents of this land,
the Ngambri and Ngunnawal indigenous peoples,
their elders past, present, and emerging.

I also acknowledge the contribution of the ACT Government,
Greening Australia and the Molonglo Conservation group, in
granting us use of this land, and in financial contributions for
buying plants and facilities such as these seats.

The Environment Meditation and Healing Garden is a project
of the Canberra Interfaith Forum, an association of the twelve
identified faith communities in the region.

You can see a plaque recognising these groups, near the Peace
Pole at the top of the garden up here. There's also a large sign
Over near the entrance to the Hospice Carpark, with some
information.

We established this garden twelve years ago, on the
initiative of Vernon Bailey AO, to celebrate our indigenous
flora, just as Marion Griffin did, to foster interfaith friendship,
and provide a place for passers-by, and Hospice residents,
staff and visitors to quietly contemplate the beauty of this

place. We know it's used for that purpose, because we find wheel-chair tracks in the path here, and the occasional beer can and cigarette-butts left behind.

So welcome to this place, the Canberra Interfaith Forum welcomes the Walter Burley Griffin Society, working with the Landcare ACT's Wellbeing through Nature Programme, to share in the appreciation of this environment, and maybe assist us nurturing this garden, and maybe spreading the woodchips!

We hope you enjoy this occasion, and we look forwards to working with you to establish and maintain the Marion Griffin garden here.

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