

Church News

A Special Garden in Hurstville, Australia

BY NORMAN HELDON

You might be interested to know that at the Hurstville Church we have a New Church garden, quite a big garden, with a variety of flowers, shrubs and trees, and also figures of animals and birds. Close to all these are attractive signs that give botanical information where appropriate and all explain spiritual correspondences. There is also a large angel figure and one nearby of a small boy and girl holding a book obviously meant to be the Word. Part of the sign reads, "When little children read the Word the angels experience an even deeper perception and delight."

We have a tennis court also, hired most days, and quite a few players have enjoyed wandering around and reading the signs.

Further notes from the church Newsletter entitled: FREE PUBLICITY

In September a journalist came to play some tennis at our church tennis court. He was surprised and delighted by the beauty of the gardens at the back of the church building "in the middle of suburbia." As he strolled slowly through the garden, taking in the natural foliage and sampling the poetry and the quotations from the Writings displayed on small wooden signs, he met the gardener, 89-year-old Norman Heldon, the church member who, along with some other parishioners, was responsible for the transformation of what had been a wilderness.

The journalist, Ben Hewett, wrote a very laudatory article for the October issue of the prominent Sydney gardening magazine *Burke's Backyard*, replete with beautiful color photographs of the garden and Norman Heldon ("an old Digger," as he called him) clad in his gardening clothes. The article closes with the address of the church. In the article, the journalist wrote: "I will never forget Norm nor the wonderful pearls of wisdom that touched my spirit that day....I headed home, reminded that gardening is about getting in touch with the natural world and, perhaps, the spiritual world."