



GARDEN DESIGN STUDY GROUP

ISSN: 1039 – 9062
 ABN: 82 428 110 028
Newsletter
May, 2021

115

STUDY GROUP LEADER / NEWSLETTER EDITOR

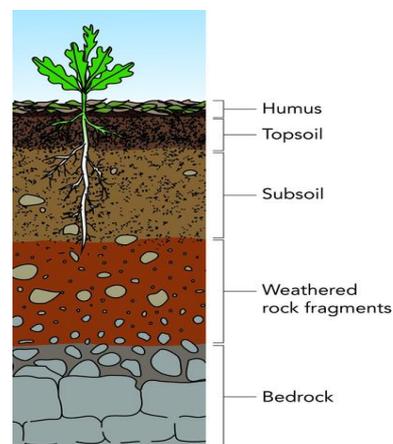
Lawrie Smith
 38 Sandpiper Avenue NORTH LAKES Q 4509
 ph: 0411 228 900
 email: displays@npq.org.au

Website: <http://anpsa.org.au/design/> or Google 'Australian Garden Design'

Newsletter Theme: 'What's Up Down Under?'

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A soil horizon is a layer parallel to the soil surface whose physical, chemical and biological characteristics differ from the layers above and beneath. Horizons are defined by obvious physical features, mainly colour and texture.

ANPSA Garden Design Study Group Newsletter

Published quarterly in February, May, August and November.

Copy Deadline: two weeks before the publication month, earlier submissions will be welcomed.

Newsletter Editor: Lawrie Smith, Phone: 0411 228 900 Email: displays@npq.org.au

There is no charge for Membership of GDSG annual period from July 1 to June 30
 Newsletters are distributed to all members only by email
 Please advise if you wish to change your contact details or to discontinue membership.

Newsletter timing & Themes

These are the 2021 Newsletter dates and themes:

Issue	date	Theme
116	August	"Pruning for Design"
117	November	"Visual Attributes of a Garden"

Issue	date	Theme
118	February	"Gardens in Shade"
119	May	"Design for Climate Change"

Please ensure to send your submissions at least two weeks before the publication month.

THE EDITOR COMMENTS

Hello everyone!

We asked what you think of the new layout used for the Newsletter #114. A number of positive responses were received from members all preferring the new format, so there seems to be a consensus that we continue with the new layout.

One reader who prefers to read the newsletter on screen, rather than print it and then face the problem of disposal or storage made the following observations. *“Arial is certainly an improvement on Calibri, but I found the two column format very difficult to read on screen. It involves a great deal of scrolling to and fro which I find tiring despite having glasses specially adapted to the computer screen. Comprehension is much easier in the straight-across-the page format.”*

As I review this edition the articles are a very mixed bag – ranging from what’s under the garden surface, to an Aussie Garden in London, and another in Holland, two more northwest of Brisbane, how the Great Sandy Region was saved and looking down from ‘on high’ to Australia’s suburbs! There’s even a few hints and home truths to consider and a challenge for us to ‘see the future!!’

“Pruning for Design”

Pruning, the theme for the August issue of the Newsletter, is something that we all find necessary in gardens to manage unruly growth or modify natural forms, including:

- pruning dominant stems of new seedlings to promote bushy growth;
- regular ‘natural’ tip pruning - like a grazing Kangaroo;
- up pruning to allow under planting;
- constant pruning for dense hedging;
- artistic living sculptures - topiary;

But how often do we consciously use pruning as a garden design tool? Our GDSG members would find it very helpful and interesting if you could share your *‘design with pruning’* ideas and experiences with us all through the Newsletter.

Newsletter #115 theme: *‘What’s Up Down Under?’*

In introducing this theme in the last newsletter I remarked that the words *‘What’s Up Down Under?’* conjures up many connotations and interpretations. It’s still not too late to share with our GDSG members some of your experiences and how you successfully dealt with both the problems and the opportunities presented by the unique subterranean world ‘down under’ the surface mulch. Perhaps my following words will trigger a few thoughts.

It is interesting and informative to walk around members’ gardens to appreciate the plant collections and observe the aesthetic qualities and characteristics of the various spaces and details that have been created. Almost without exception it is possible to gauge from a quick overview, if the designer has a knowledge of the relationships between soils and plants. The garden landscape will have a harmonious balance between the forms, colours and textures of the plants that reflects those also seen in comparable natural landscapes. The plants will all be healthy and collectively providing a garden environment that is welcoming and restful as well as being diverse and attractive. The plants will be establishing and growing well in soil conditions that give them optimum support, moisture and fertility.

Alternatively where plants have to tolerate incompatible soil conditions they lack vigour, become straggly, attract pests and diseases offering a consequent negative aesthetic and much more maintenance to endeavour to make them healthy and grow. That is why plant selection relative to soils (and other important elements) is fundamental to good garden design.

Before you select the first plant for a new garden be sure you know what is under the surface. It may be far from a natural situation, particularly in new residential areas where the soil profile may have been turned upside down with subsoil covering the valuable topsoil. Underground services will have traversed the block and potentially altered the drainage patterns by trenches collecting and conveying subsurface water away from future gardens or

maybe toward gardens – both create differing moisture problems for the root systems.

Natural surface water drainage will similarly be changed by the excavation for the house, driveways and the like. Think about all of these things at the outset of planning and design; that is the most economic time to plan and construct a drainage system that will maximise water harvest and retention for future gardens. Water availability is becoming threatened by climate change, so 'design with nature' to maximise use of what falls from the clouds.

The measure of acidity or alkalinity of the soil known as pH, is equally as fundamental as knowing the soil type and will dictate which plants will be most suitable for the conditions. Nature will always win so don't try to make major changes in pH, while it is possible, it is difficult and expensive. However it is likely that the most expense will be in the value of the plants you lose and the time you waste waiting for incorrectly selected plants to respond positively. Arm yourself with a simple pH kit and take topsoil and subsoil measurements across the gardens. Mark up a garden plan with the results and you will be able to map the extent of the various soil types with differing pH. You will be surprised, even in the smallest allotments with the subtle sometimes dramatic differences that exist. Potentially in relatively undisturbed larger gardens and acreages there is sure to be several soil changes.

Once the analysis is complete you will know the broad drainage patterns and the matrix of soil types you have identified in the garden - this mapping will be used as the continuing base for the physical, botanic and horticultural planning and design. What is under the mulch, in the topsoil and the lower subsoils has so much influence in dictating and informing which species are best suited to the particular chemical and physical qualities of the garden soils. In addition to this you will need to prepare other overlays to ensure that the garden design is influenced by related environmental, physical and functional impacts such as: local microclimate; air movement; seasonal sunshine and shadow patterns; circulation; specific use areas; views and

vistas; etc etc. These must not be overlooked but are subjects for a future newsletter.

In my new garden, now four years old, all of these design parameters were considered and drawings and planting plans done and followed. Not surprisingly no matter how hard you try, simple attributes are missed and down the track you find it is necessary to revise aspects, remove plants or change physical elements. As the garden vegetation matures the sun and shade patterns change and so the planting needs adjustment. Gardens may need to be enlarged or reduced. Garden structures, paving and other permanent elements may be introduced or changed. I've recently experienced all of this and more! However, the initial analysis done at the outset of design for the garden remains useful as a reference for soil patterns, location of underground services, positions of major structure trees, and even where valued special smaller plants are located.

Monitoring Water at Depth with VIA Chameleon Card System

Bonni Yee, Gold Coast

Bonni has been experimenting 'down under' a new garden area she has designed which incorporates recent technology to monitor soil moisture at depth to solve the problem of conserving water in this time of climate change and dwindling water reserves. . . . Editor

When watering our gardens, have any of you wondered how much is enough? How many mm or litres per square metre is enough water to get moisture to the root level? Wonder no more - now there is a simple way to measure soil moisture at root depth! The Chameleon Card System from CSIRO: see viashop.csiro.au/chameleon-card-system

After the 2019 drought in southeast Queensland, I decided to install two new 30,000L water storage tanks to supplement the 15,000L tank for the nursery. To do this, we had to excavate a pad for the two tanks in the typical poor clay/rock profile of my natural soil, so the tops of all tanks would be level. Excavation was completed in February 2020. And the tanks were installed by crane in

March. The front tank was one metre deep and the second almost at ground level. It then took us about a month to manually back-fill around the tanks with sand, weeds, compost + natural soil. For every planting location, we dug holes and used compost and soil additives to improve the poor clay. Large rocks were used as edging, Medium rocks were used for terracing. Small rocks were taken away, about 10 loads.



By late April 2020, we had planted a garden which would hopefully grow to hide the tanks! However by Aug 2020, there was a striking difference in growth: the side nearest the shed was thriving and the sides away from the shed were doing poorly - yet I had watered them all equally!



I read about the VIA system on a CSIRO blog site. I ordered and installed 3 sensors in this area: one in the “good” area and the other two in the poor areas. The sensors are buried ~24 cm deep, or average root depth. The sensors are connected to wires above ground and held up on posts for easy access. Using the Chameleon



Reader card, I just insert the two end wires into the card and press a button on the card and a light on the card turns BLUE if there is

enough soil moisture for root uptake (meaning don't water), GREEN if soil needs water soon and RED if it is too dry for root uptake - water right now!

Now I can tell in minutes what the moisture level is in 3 different spots. The Chameleon Card showed clearly that the poorer areas were not getting enough water!!! Now that I am watering according to the indicator lights on the Chameleon card, the plants are all thriving! Knowing the actual soil moisture at depth I know what is happening 'down under' and have solved this garden's moisture problems and more importantly conserved substantial water.

***Banksia integrifolia* – small leaves**

Lawrie Smith, Brisbane

For the first time I have been able to grow Banksias well since establishing our new garden at North Lakes four years ago on coastal moist sandy loam overlaying clay subsoil!! This *Banksia integrifolia* has reached



4+ metres and seems to be thriving but I suspect there is something wrong 'down under' as the leaves although healthy are half the usual size of naturally grown specimens. The soil pH is 7 – 7.5 possibly slightly too alkaline, and some time ago I



applied Iron Chelate to correct minor yellowing of leaves and they are now the natural green with occasional leaves turning orange and falling. It has displayed its first flush of flowers of marginally smaller size than expected. Low phosphorus fertilizer is applied as needed, maybe not as often as I should? Wondering if other members have had a similar problem and what their solution might be. Most of the other Banksia species in the garden are also healthy but show similar symptoms.

The Little Ice Age.

Jeff Howes

Lawrie,
If you want to stir (as editors are want to do) the Global Warming debate amongst our GDSG members, then maybe you can consider the following?

The Little Ice Age, most critical period of temperature deviations from the statistical mean was roughly from 1570 to 1680. During this period the reduction of average temperature was about 2 degrees Centigrade, and apparently there is no real consensus to why it happened. Ocean currents and salinity were affected, polar ice caps and glaciers grew rapidly and there were more severe storms, weeks of rain, years of summer drought and much much more.

The Little Ice Age led to momentous changes in society particularly in Europe and many other countries. So, should we be worried about reaching a 2 degrees Centigrade rise in the mean global temperatures as we are apparently on track to do? If so what will the results look like?

A quick 'surf' of the internet reveals that in the 100 year period after 1570, the nations of Europe were unsettled with wars, changes of dynasty and civil unrest. However, it was also an age of discovery with Dutch seafarers first visiting Australia or 'New Holland' in 1606 Willam Jansz (Cape York) and in 1616 Dirk Hartog (Shark Bay). Christopher Columbus sailed west in 1492 and discovered America followed by the Portuguese, Spanish and English.

Lawrie

New Australian Garden in the Dandenong Ranges

Adapted from 'The Age' Newspaper

The Acting Premier of Victoria announced in March that the Government would contribute the final \$2.8 million needed to allow the Australian Garden, planned by landscape designer Phillip Johnson, to go ahead at Olinda, in Melbourne's east. This sum is in addition to \$1 million the state government had already given to kick-start the project, with philanthropists providing \$340,000. The project

is now awaiting Shire of Yarra Ranges planning approval. Twenty-five workers, including horticultural students, will start construction in November and it is possible the garden could open by May 2022.



The garden at Chelsea 2013

Phillip said that he was "over the moon" and "very excited" that he could now replicate the exhibit that won him and collaborator Wes Fleming the best in show title at London's prestigious Chelsea Flower Show in 2013. It had been his dream while designing the Chelsea piece "to complete the full cycle and bring it back to the place that inspired me, back to the Dandenong's".



The proposed garden at Olinda

The Acting Premier and state member for Monbulk, chairs the Australian Garden's committee, said the public garden would be a massive drawcard for the Dandenong Ranges and will attract visitors from around the country and the globe. APS Victoria President Chris Clarke said the garden should be looking great in time for Victoria hosting the ANPSA Conference in 2024.

Set on 4000 square metres of the former Olinda Golf Course, it will be more than 20 times bigger than the Chelsea piece, which the Queen and Prince Harry toured in London. The garden, will be a new addition to the Dandenong Ranges Botanic Garden, and could help lure tourists back to the Dandenongs, where businesses were hit hard by the COVID-19 travel restrictions.

The Olinda version will retain elements from Chelsea such as waterfalls spilling into a billabong, rockeries and a centrepiece waratah flower sculpture designed by architect Dylan Brady. There will be views over the Yarra Valley, picnic areas and winding paths, and more than 30,000 plants from 426 Australian species including bottle trees, tree ferns, banksias, grevilleas and the endangered Wollemi Pine.

Mr Johnson said that the Dandenong Ranges were known for their exotic gardens, with “lots of azaleas and rhododendrons and hydrangeas”. However he wants to convey to visitors that it is important in their own backyards to use sustainable plants that are suited to climate change, and that native plants can be beautiful.

His aim is *“to inspire people to connect to the beauty of nature. And I think with what we’ve all gone through during COVID, we crave getting out of lockdown to get into nature. We realise how important our gardens are, for our mental health.”*



Photos were taken by Bev & John Hanson.

In May 2013, Bev and John were “fortunate enough to visit the Chelsea Flower Show on its centenary when the Australian exhibit, designed by Phil Johnson, won best in show. We were blown away by the spectacular design using huge rocks, to create waterfalls, billabongs all with meandering paths through countless Australian plants.”

A video about the garden is found here: - <https://peopleandparks.org/project/chelsea-best-in-show-garden/>

Message from ‘Merrigum’

Liesbeth Uijtewaal, Holland

Thank you for the GDSG newsletter. Lovely to see contributions by friends of mine - or at least people I know - and to read a lot of interesting information.

Thank you so much for your positive comments with respect to my attempts to grow Aussie natives, it means a lot to me. And, absolutely wonderful to see the parent of my *Buckinghamia*! You did mention it was a profusely flowering specimen and so it is, what a beauty. There's still no roots on my 2nd of November cuttings and I put in another 'lot' (three pieces) a couple of weeks ago. In the end it should be possible to propagate the plant I'd say, some way or another. I read the seed should be fresh to germinate so I suppose the seed you brought won't be any good anymore even though they're still in the capsules which may help. It was - and still is - rather difficult to open them and extract the seed, I seem to recall you did mention they weren't ripe yet when you collected them. There's still some heavy equipment left on Bert's work benches so I could give it a try again 😊.

Recently I ordered some seed from a German (!) seed merchant when I was looking for the stunning *Barklya syringifolia* I saw on the ANPE Facebook page I think. They did list this species and I also ordered *Eucalyptus miniata* from them.....very daring since these two may not like our climate at all. What do you think? *Buckinghamia* does occur on higher altitudes which might explain it doesn't mind our climate, I'm not sure about the other two. Cold winters and sunny days (heating up the greenhouses) that often comes together, won't be so much of a problem, but the winter we had so far was rather dark so temps inside the greenhouses wouldn't get above 3C very often. A larger rainbow Eucalypt *Eucalyptus*



deglupta dropped dead last winter, probably too cold, but that one might require even more tropical conditions?

Lovely for you to have cooling sea breezes when it's hot. We haven't had much snow really. Last week I woke up in a white world but by the end of the day most snow had disappeared again. It's getting quite rare now!



Snow on the glasshouse roof shades the plants

BTW I read that the February edition 2022 of the newsletter will be about shady gardens.....just like my bush area! I might send you some pics for that (should I be a member of the SG for that? Feel free to add me) if you like.

Leisbeth we would be very pleased to have you as a member of GDSG, so I have added you to our membership – a very big Aussie welcome to you!
Lawrie

BOOK REVIEW

Lawrie Smith

'Living on the Coast' Kathleen Macarthur
Kangaroo Press 1989. ISBN 0 86417 258 3

"Why are you reviewing a book that was published thirty two years ago and most likely out of print" I hear you ask. Principally because here in Queensland we have just farewellled Barbara Henderson the founder and leader of the Wallum Study Group who was a great friend of Kathleen and co-conspirator. Together they successfully engendered community awareness and action

to ensure that large tracts of these coastal sandy areas of the Sunshine Coast and further north, now commonly referred to as the Great Sandy Region and Cooloola were preserved against sand mining and encroaching housing sprawl.

Those of you not familiar with the Wallum heathland which extends from northern NSW to Central Queensland, including the off shore sand islands, may not realise that this special community is a national and international treasure trove of native plants and wildflowers, with World Heritage status comparable with those similar environments of Western Australia. In this book Kathleen McArthur recounts in her typical, forthright and picturesque language not only the significantly successful political 'fights' for preservation of these environments but also reveals her talents for botanic illustration that rank with those of Ellis Rowan and Marianne North.



Kathleen traces many of the international influences that informed and enriched her career and encouraged her participation with zoologist David Fleay, author and poet Judith Wright McKinney in establishing the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland WPSQ. This book really is a who's who of the fifties and sixties in Queensland that outlines the often bumpy ride to have the unique natural environment understood and appreciated, and in so doing brings back many memories of those early local SGAP members who were involved along with Kathleen.

The successful struggle against development and sand mining in Cooloola north of the Noosa River, was a major catalyst that gained

community support for, and appreciation of conservation. As a result, the preservation of this vast sand plain, the huge coastal dune complex and subsequently the World Heritage listing of Fraser Island, best defines Kathleen's career. Certainly her book provides a comprehensive and interesting commentary of politics and industry verses the environment that pulls no punches. It is an historic record as well as the story of so many people who engaged in community support to achieve (not always successfully) the preservation of these precious coastal environments.



The Great Sandy Region

As you might expect Kathleen was associated with the early days of the formation of SGAP and I found that observations she made about our society in 1957 still resonate today. *"... this is a splendid organisation doing invaluable work, of mostly gardeners, each with a personal approach rather than an ideological one."* In a personal letter to Kathleen, Mr Swaby our SGAP founder, explained *"... no doubt our support for preservation exists, but that is not our special job. There are in each state special bodies for preservation. Others should not clutter up their fields; but when weight of numbers is wanted for special approach, SGAP shall swing in."*

These words I think speak volumes for ANPSA and the Garden Design Study Group - although our principal focus is on establishing attractive gardens of native plants, it is the research of species we observe in preserved natural environments that allows us to identify the special physical and horticultural attributes they offer in design.

While, Kathleen's book does not speak directly of garden design, it certainly gives a detail overview of how important the natural environment remains as an integral element of contemporary lifestyle in the twenty first century. There is no doubt that within the pages of this book there is significant encouragement to encourage us to continue supporting the ever accelerating struggle against the destruction of nature as our population expands increasing the demand for finite residential land.



Unfortunately there are too few people of the calibre or with the vision of Kathleen MacArthur. I believe that all members of ANPSA and particularly those of us in GDSG should aspire to take every opportunity to share with the wider community, our knowledge of plants by demonstrating their desirability as garden subjects. Surely of all community groups we are best placed to do this. If you have a passion for preservation of our flora then search for "Living on the Coast" at a library or in a rare bookshop – you will be enthralled!

First Excursion for twelve months

Our southeast Queensland members made the most of our first meeting since COVID-19 and in February drove two hours northwest of Brisbane to two very different gardens.

Erica Richardson's 'Field of Dreams'
 Harlin, Brisbane Valley
 Erica said: "I call our garden the 'Field of Dreams' as it is 55 acres of previous cattle grazing land which we are slowly turning back

to native gardens and bushland. Aside from my 100% off-grid tiny house, there is a spring-fed creek and a gully area with some very old *Melaleuca (Callistemon)*, *Xanthorrhoea* and native orchids.

Not a great deal of garden to look at yet, but I would love everyone's thoughts on how to tackle the design & planting. Visitors can park anywhere near the house as there is endless space on 55 acres of grass."



A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Our group all arrived close to time and after a cuppa in the breezeway commenced to investigate Erica's 'dream site' in the sunny, hot and humid conditions. We agreed that she certainly has a task ahead to revegetate the site but has made a great start. As we walked around members freely shared suggestions about establishing the new garden landscape, observing that establishing and maintaining a garden is such a rewarding activity that keeps us young!!



When inspected closely, the extensive grass areas revealed a number of gems in massed display and as Erica has found out already, in cultivation these small native species are so appropriate for inclusion in an interesting sustainable and wildlife friendly garden





'Designed with Nature'. So far she has found and transplanted *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* and *Eremophila (Myoporum) debilis* but there are many others competing with the grass, yet to find and treasure.



Those of us who ventured down to the creek were astounded by the unexpectedly huge 'ancient' *Melaleuca viminalis* possibly some the largest specimens of its type we have seen.



Dendrobium linguiforme covered one of the branches, Erica photographed it in flower last September. We questioned whether the attractive understory shrubs nearby, festooned by thousands of small white flowers was *Bursaria spinosa*



'Black Thorn' as we could find no spines. Later at the Benfer's similar specimens suggested they could more likely be *Bursaria incarnata* 'Prickly Pine'. There were a few tall *Xanthorrhoea sp* perched on the steep creek banks showing signs of what must have been a hard life in these dry surrounds.

DEALING WITH CLAY SOILS

The extensive basically level site forming the 'Field of Dreams' is cracking grey clay with some shattered rocks under and on the surface. It looks reasonably fertile. Erica has dug several small depressions to mound up the clay soil into adjacent garden mounds, formed basically in irregular crescents about 300-400 mm above the ground. The intent is to provide more suitable mounded growing conditions and hold rainwater for a time, which will slowly absorb into the lower root zone of the garden mound.



This is an excellent idea and could be expanded across the site areas, in an aesthetic patchwork of linked 'drainage swales' to harvest the surface runoff, direct it and concentrate it in the areas to be revegetated. A series of 'planted swales' related to contours, could provide a distinctive and interesting pattern of vegetation across the wide open grassland for a number of years until the windbreaks and forest areas develop an interlocking canopy. This concept could be based on the 'Keyline' method of water harvesting for revegetation on similar sites which is very successful. Refer to:

<https://www.permaculturenews.org/2013/02/22/before-permaculture-keyline-planning-and-cultivation/>

DIG SQUARE HOLES!

We reminded Erica that when planting in these clay soils to always dig square holes (not round). This will ensure that root circling and resultant instability does not occur and roots will be attracted to naturally grow outwards into the hard clay top & subsoil.

Ray & Wendy Benfer 'Garden for Wildlife'
Blackbutt, South Burnett Region

Ray & Wendy said: "Having a diverse range of local native plants is the focus of our 'Land for Wildlife' property of 23 acres, and we will highlight some that are hosts for the many butterflies that visit. A number of the smaller plants that grow naturally in the paddock have been incorporated into the house garden.

Also, if anyone would prefer not to drive up and back in one day, we can offer some accommodation. There is a flat at the end of the house (queen bed), and a 2-bedroomed cottage next door (double bed in one room and a single plus some bunk beds in the other room)."

ARRIVAL EXPERIENCE

It was not until Carmel and I were leaving on Saturday morning that the best part of the garden was encountered as we walked away from the house after saying goodbye and thank you, exiting out through the main entrance to the front garden! I always consider that in garden design first impressions are the most lasting – Ray and Wendy have created a truly magical entrance that really says 'welcome' and strongly illustrates that their garden is a haven for wildlife. But this entry pathway does far more than that.



Firstly, it has a bold timber garden seat that reflects the timber industry of Blackbutt and invites you to sit awhile in the shade to look and listen to the landscape. Your eye is immediately drawn diagonally across the garden to focus attention on the eye-catching



stone sculpture with water playing over that announces the entry porch and veranda. Once you leave the timber seat you are enticed along the meandering flagstone pathway through a beautiful and diverse range of small native species on each side.

You know immediately that this is a plant collector's garden and a haven for wildlife, signalled by the clouds of butterflies progressively disturbed as you progress. On arrival at the front veranda and entry pergola, you look back over the garden to be impressed by the extensive plant collection massed along several other flagstone pathways, each enticing further exploration. I am wondering how many other members missed this impressive garden arrival experience because in walking from the several car parking areas they arrived at the back and sides of the house rather than the front.

After lunch and the GDSG meeting, Wendy escorted a small group through these 'collectors gardens' all suitably signed with clearly presented signs.

A WALKABOUT GARDEN

About a dozen other members followed Ray generally in single file around the winding narrow bush pathway providing close inspection of hundreds of mature, advanced and newly planted species displayed



throughout the extensive forest setting. This is a "Bush Garden" just as nature intended with fallen trunks and branches providing wildlife



refuge and a thick carpet of leaf litter conserving moisture. Most of the species are of local provenance and for each Ray has

a story to tell that enthral the listener. So much so that we took the best part of two hours to do the walk!

This experience was only partially dampened as those toward the end of the line were not able to hear the commentary. A message we must learn for groups of this size is to have the guide in the centre of the line with six visitors each side – then the commentary would be heard by all.

PLANT COLLECTION 225

You will be overwhelmed at the plant collection in their garden. The alphabetic plant list of 225 species you will be given provides genus, species, common name & family as well as butterfly food plants. Many of the species are signed throughout the gardens so you will spend as much time as you have in exploring.



To those who missed this visit to Ray and Wendy's garden they asked me to say they are pleased to welcome NPQ and GDSG members staying overnight, it just takes a phone call to arrange. Carmel and I can assure you that

you will enjoy the garden and the company of the hosts. Make sure you have dinner in the 'Bunya Nut Café' in Blackbutt and be astonished at the massive timbers used to construct it, not to mention the great country foods! Due to the elevation many mornings will greet you with mist and fog as rays of sun

shafting through the foliage and trunks – beautiful!

PLANTS IN DESIGN

Thespesia populnea

Coleen Keena



Peter Bevan has tried a couple of times to strike the *Thespesia* but without success so far. That's not surprising given the length and severity of the drought here. We had our first good rain a couple of weeks ago – we had 38 mm. Geoff and I took cuttings to Pete following this so here's hoping. I can't believe the difference in the appearance of the *Thespesia* following the rain. We'll keep giving Pete cuttings until he is able to strike them. The *Thespesia* flowered during the drought and there were a lot of pods but I haven't seen any that are anywhere near large enough to contain seeds.

PAST NEWSLETTERS - EXTRACTS

(Issues 49 to 52)

The GDSG Newsletter index on the ANPSA website is a great way to search out specific ideas and recommendations offered by members in relation to garden design over the years since the first Newsletter in May 1993. There are many gems of inspiration similar to the following excerpts below that are worth repeating as they are still as relevant today as they were when first published.

Make sure you read the full article for these references as well as other articles on the GDSG Newsletter archives section of the ANPSA website.

<http://anpsa.org.au/design/des-news.html>

Newsletter #49 February 2005

Small Delights *Diana Snape, Vic.*

Small delights Diana Snape Lovers of Australian plants sometimes feel almost apologetic about the prevalence of Australian shrubs with small leaves and small flowers. We shouldn't! Last week Brian and I went for a walk near Lome and I was fascinated by the textures of steep hillsides of shrubs, with contrasting trunks of occasional trees. Small leaves and small flowers predominated and the effect was most beautiful.

Australian Plants in the Designed Landscape *Anne Latreille*

The versatility of Australian plants in gardens - and the way Australian gardeners have ignored them colour, form, detail and seasonal variety, from the noisy brilliance of Sturt's desert pea to the quiet elegance of tiny snow daisies and flannel flowers. "There's an Australian plant for any purpose in your garden"

Explore the Relationship of Plants and People *Alistair Hay*

Mount Annan's great centrepiece of intensive horticulture, the Terrace Garden, has been described as a temple to taxonomists, and a labyrinth of abstruse concepts, its maintenance the stone of Sisyphus..... it was and is a bold achievement. Horticulturally it has been a nightmare ...

Newsletter #50 May 2005

Richard Clough, architect, landscape architect and educator *Jo Hambrett, NSW*

Professor Clough finds both the oft repeated mantras; that early colonial gardeners disliked and were intimidated by the native flora, and that they tried to recreate a British landscape in the colonies, baseless and annoying!

It Works! *Win Main, NSW*
"The trouble with Australians is they won't take risks, not when it comes to gardens. Most prefer to cling to plants of European origin-box hedges and cottagey flowers, when they could be celebrating native plants that suit the climate and soil."

Central Coast Weekend Feb 2001
It was an absolute feast of gardens and garden design - Mt. Penang Gardens, Gosford; "Wildflower Place Nursery with Nola Parry; "Rainridge" Tom & Anne Raine Garden; "Morvah" David & Betty Price garden; Anne & Peter Turner cottage garden; Audrey Taggart's wildlife habitat garden;

Musings of Mt. Penang *Suellen Harris NSW*

The Mt Penang Gardens is not without its critics. It's new, it's modern, it's been professionally landscaped and it's been given considerable grant money by the state government, \$8.7M to be exact.....

Newsletter #51 August 2005

More than Garden Etiquette *Chris Larkin, Vic.*

..... The ethics of gardening may be seen as burdensome if you concentrate on the negatives; the things you should not do, or that you should try not to do or that you should try to do as little as possible.....

Visiting the Chinese Garden, Sydney *Diana Snape Vic*

..... Other views or vistas in the Chinese Garden are of course more extensive, most including at least a glimpse of the lake. The whole garden is never visible from any one point, even from the teahouse on the first floor of a building. Do we tend in Australia to want to see greater expanses of our gardens at once, rather than separating different sections?

Growing Native Plants for 30 years on Clay Soils *Jeff Howes, NSW*

Initially I did not undertake any soil improvements or raising of garden beds, I just planted native plants that I liked because they had attractive flowers. I soon learnt that most

of the plants had no hope of growing in my soil and aspect and I lost many of them, especially *Grevillea*. This taught me a valuable lesson (and nearly sent me broke) so I started to select plants that would grow in my soil and local conditions.....

Newsletter #52 November 2005

'How Formal Should your Garden Be?

Chris Larkin, Vic

In the previous article on the same subject, Jeff Howes links the level of maintenance undertaken in a garden to "the degree of formality or neatness of the garden". I must say I'd never thought of formality in terms of maintenance,

Suitable Trees for the Streetscape

Diana Snape, Vic

I know we have looked at this in the past so it might be worth checking old NLs. Species will depend so much on the particular climatic areas of course. Another aspect could be considered the futility of planting trees which will obviously grow far too tall underneath power lines. So as well as a list of trees we also need a list of small trees or large shrubs suitable for under pesky powerlines.

Climbers Continued Leigh Murray, NSW

Some of my experiences with vines/climbers have been similar to the maintenance headaches described by Paddy Lightfoot in 'Native Vines - Friend or Foe?'They are not, however, low maintenance plants. They all need training through and up supports, and tip pruning from an early age.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Coming 'Garden' Events – check out the ANPSA Website for specific details and other garden activities

Please send any information for 'Garden events' in your region to promote in the next Newsletter

Warm welcome to our new members

We look forward to your active participation in your study group

Liesbeth Uijtewaal, Holland; Margaret Rogers, Mornington, Vic; Sue Gwilym, Eltham, Vic; Mary Bowie, Sunshine Coast Q; Bonnie Yee, Gold Coast

Current Membership: 194

Treasurer's Report – April 30, 2021

General account:	\$ 3,960.40
Expenses:	\$ 0.00
Term Deposit:	\$ 27,949.21 (incl interest of \$392.36 - reinvested for 12 months to January 25, 2022)
TOTAL:	\$ 31,909.61

There is no charge for Membership of GDSG and the quarterly Newsletters are distributed by email.

The Newsletter for the ANPSA Garden Design Study Group is published quarterly in February, May, August and November.

Copy Deadline: two weeks before the publication month, earlier submissions will be warmly welcomed by the Editor.

Newsletter Editor: Lawrie Smith AM
38 Sandpiper Avenue NORTH LAKES Q 4509
Phone: 0411 228 900
Email: displays@npq.org.au

STOP PRESS



Native Plants Queensland held their Autumn Plants Market in the picturesque Samford valley NW of Brisbane on April 24 – the first since 2019, thanks to COVID-19.



It was a resounding success with almost 1,200 people attending and purchasing 6,500 native

plants - lots of new native gardens!

God observes "The Suburbanites"

God: Saint Francis, you know all about gardens and nature; what in the world is going on down there? All I see below is a patchwork of millions of small green rectangles and no flowers!

St. Francis: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. They are called the Suburbanites. They started calling your wildflowers "weeds" and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

God: Grass? But it is so boring, it's not colourful. It doesn't attract butterflies, bees or birds, only grubs and sod worms. It's temperamental with temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want grass growing there?

St. Francis: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

God: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

St. Francis: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it has grown a little, they cut it....sometimes two times a week.

God: They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

St. Francis: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

God: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

St. Francis: No sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

God: Now let me get this straight...they fertilize it to make it grow and when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

St. Francis: Yes, sir.

God: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the winter when we cut back on the rain and turn down the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

St. Francis: You aren't going to believe this Lord, but when the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money for water so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

God: What nonsense! At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep the moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves become compost to enhance the soil. It's a natural circle of life.

St. Francis: You'd better sit down, Lord. As soon as the leaves fall, the Suburbanites rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

God: No way! What do they do to protect the shrubs and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

St. Francis: After throwing the leaves away, they go out and buy something called mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

God: And where do they get this mulch?

St. Francis: They cut down the trees and grind them up to make the mulch.



God: Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore! Aeons ago, I had planned the creation of a perfect no-maintenance sustainable world-wide garden. The

plants were variously designed to grow in any type of soil, withstand drought, and multiply with abandon. The multitude of flowering species, each uniquely native to specific world regions, would produce nectar from the long-lasting blossoms to attract butterflies, honey bees, and flocks of songbirds into the garden.

By now I expected to see a vast landscape of colour and fragrance. It is no wonder that the climate of the world is changing!

Lawrie: I could not resist sharing this story with you as it describes so clearly how far we as a civilization have departed from the natural environment – now is the time to change or face the consequences.