

ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS  
**GARDEN DESIGN STUDY GROUP**



NEWSLETTER No. 38

May 2002

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Treasurer/Membership: Bryan Loft

***Please note:- Membership renewal form enclosed***

Dear Members,

Autumn, the season for gardening, is here — as soon as those autumn rains come .....

The timing of this Newsletter is awkward for Melbourne members, as it is just too late for me to be able to remind (or tell) you of two significant events. One is the International Flower and Garden Show which is on from April 10 to 14. We'll be discussing some of the garden/courtyard designs at the Melbourne meeting, so those will be reported in the next NL. As for the flowers, the display of the Australian Plants Society will again be surrounded by masses of garish 'colour and movement'. It's quite depressing, except for the APS display which is always magnificent and very popular. **Helen Morrow** is again responsible for this splendid display.

The second event is a Greening Australia Seminar (Thurs 11/4) introduced by a free public lecture (Tuesday 9/4) by Dr Joan Iverson Nassaeur. A report on another paper by Dr Nassaeur is on page 5. The Seminar includes a number of eminent speakers, including Paul Thompson. I'll be attending and will *try* to write a brief report before this Newsletter goes out.

Your subscription for the next financial year is now due. Please help us by renewing your membership straight away. I think warning you ahead (as we've often done in the past) can be confusing to members ("*have I paid already or not???*"), so this year we're not doing that. It's a case of **PLEASE DO IT NOW**. It does make it so much easier for the treasurer and, later on, for those posting out Newsletters. Please add your comments to your subs, form - what I like / don't like about the NL, and also garden design tips / warnings - we'd really like to hear from you, one and all.

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**NEXT MEETINGS**

*Please see details of these meetings on pages 17-19*

**NE VIC: Saturday April 20 - Jan Hall's**

**MELBOURNE: Sunday May 5 • Diana & Brian Snape's**

**SYDNEY: Sunday August 19 - Arthur Dench's**

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**CORRESPONDENCE extracts**

I think members have given up writing letters - and even emails are thin on the ground (or in the air). Even just a line or two will add to the interest of our NLs. Counting a phone call as correspondence, **Geoff Simmons** Qld raised several matters of general interest.

- The first was a question of whether we should be encouraging the growing of species of plants, such as grevilleas and orchids, rather than hybrids. Many gardeners with no particular interest in Australian plants will happily grow the showy hybrids in their gardens but, in line with the Flora for Fauna movement, we should probably be concentrating more on the original species. They may not be as spectacular but this will help conserve those species, and local species are preferable for local wildlife. What do members think?
- Geoff commented that in his experience *Leptospermum petersonii* (Lemon-scented Tea-tree),

mentioned recently, is not good as a hedge plant as it becomes sparse at the bottom as it grows. We have found that it responds well from low down when cut back quite heavily, so I'd be tempted to try it in a hedge. I think pruning would keep it compact. What experience do members have with this?

- In south-eastern Australia many of us are full of praise for groundcover plants, to smother weeds, retain moisture, etc. However Geoff says that in his area in Queensland groundcover plants are too much trouble and not worthwhile. See his article on page 8.

- Geoff's last point followed on an article on low rainfall and I agree with him that recent weather and climate patterns are worrying. We may not have definite proof that global warming is taking place, though the records of the last century do support this. Ever since the burning of coal in industry began, the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has steadily increased. We would be foolish not to heed the warnings.

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### News from London - gardening activities in allotments

Nicky Rose Vic

The allotment is not the most pretty place in the world, but it is in the wide open. Occasionally a bird will catch my eye, a goose flying over, a crow dipping itself in a tub of water or scrounging around a neighbour's compost heap. Most of the allotment holders are very elderly. They come from all nationalities but those surrounding our plots are mainly Greek and Italians. I went to see my niece's allotment in Wales and there the average age was much younger and they were mostly Welsh. A truly social atmosphere there. She does not have to do a lot of digging as one of her neighbours has kindly rotary hoed her plot. She is able to set her seeds in someone else's greenhouse. All very nice.

*I can picture Nicky in her allotment. Not exactly garden design, but some of the elements . . . .DS*

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### Australia Day Speech

Dr Tim Flannery

*I'm sure many of you heard (or read) Dr Tim Flannery's thoughtful and provocative Australia Day speech. The following are just a few extracts I have chosen as being most relevant to us. (My underlining.) DS*

".... Our history and our ecology reveal just how superficial those roots (*in this continent*) are, for they reveal that most of us still live as people from somewhere else, who just happen to inhabit - sometimes unsustainably, ignorantly and destructively - this marvellous continent . . . ."

"For most of the past two centuries we have believed that we could remake the continent in the image of Europe - turn the rivers inland and force the truculent soils to yield. We even knowingly introduced pests - from starlings to foxes and rabbits - in our efforts to transform this vast Austral realm into a second England. . . . That arrogant colonial vision left a fearful legacy, for it actually made people feel virtuous while they dealt the land the most terrible blows."

Already one of every ten of Australia's unique mammals is extinct, and almost everywhere - even in our national parks - biodiversity is declining. Australia's soils are still being mined - salination will destroy most of Western Australia's wheat belt in our lifetime if nothing is done - while our rivers are in great peril and sustainable fisheries everywhere have collapsed . . . .

"Yet despite all this, there are signs that things are changing for the better. Today, as the Australian environment subtly teaches those who listen to it, Australians are undergoing a radical reassessment of their relationship with the land. The way we use water is slowly changing. . . ."

"Nothing seems to rouse the passions of some Australians so much as disparaging roses, lawns, plane trees and the like. Yet I really do think that they are a blot on the landscape. If gardens are a kind of window on the mind. I see in our public spaces a passion for the European environment that indicates that we are still, at heart, uncomfortable in our own land. If we can see no beauty in Australian natives, but instead

need to be cosseted in pockets of English greenery, can we really count ourselves as having a truly sustainable future adapted to Australian conditions? . . . ."

"A series of changes needs to occur both in government policy and in the hearts and minds of all Australians before we have a secure future here. The single most important change is the need for all Australians to achieve true environmental sustainability. . . ."

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As you would expect, articles in and letters to newspapers in Sydney and Melbourne showed varying reactions.

A response to Tim Rannery's speech was written for the *Sydney Morning Herald* by Geraldine O'Brien. It included the following comments, reflecting very different attitudes.

- Colleen Morris, a heritage consultant specialising in gardens and landscapes, referred to "this fascist approach to gardens". She said "most Australian gardens had evolved as a mix of native and exotic species, many of which (including such "honorary natives" as agapanthus and jacarandas) continued to be used because of their suitability for the Australian climate." She believed that many successful gardens now blended the two (i.e. "native" and "exotic").

*I must admit that the idea of agapanthus as an "honorary native" appals me! Please see Gordon Rowland's response below. DS*

- A curator with the NSW Historic Houses Trust, Dr James Broadbent, said gardening was as much a part of our cultural heritage as the decorative or fine arts. . . . There was an important part of our development in which the garden was seen as a structured thing, as evidence of 'civilisation', in contrast with the 'wilderness'.

- The director of plant sciences at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Tim Entwisle, said there were some plants, native and exotic, that should never be grown, including lantana, privet, asparagus fern and Cootamundra Wattle. The question, he said, was whether a plant was local to an area or not. . . . "You should take a plant on its own merits. Most roses in a suburban garden will not escape to the wild and don't require massive amounts of water. If you're living in the middle of urban Sydney you're already in an altered environment."

- A Ku-ring-gai councillor, Andrew Little, who recently chaired a council committee on landscaping on private properties, said revised rules required houses within 100 metres of bushland reserves to plant 80% of the garden with native species. Houses within 300 metres had to have 50% natives and beyond that the requirement was for 25%. The aim, he said, was to preserve biodiversity and habitat continuity but exotics could coexist in some areas with native species, although not in the poor soils on Hawkesbury sandstone where their competition would ensure the natives' decline.

*I think one enormous problem is the number of people financially involved in some aspect of gardening - horticulture, design, history - with vested interest in maintaining the status quo, where their experience, interests and livelihood are grounded. Change does not come easily! DS*

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The following letter was in the *Sydney Morning Herald*:

*"Tim Flannery speaks so much good sense that I was aggravated by his denunciation of lawns and roses. They demand too much water, do they? Of course, water is a critical resource, but it isn't like gas, coal and oil - it is a renewable resource. Is not Flannery dressing up an aesthetic botanical prejudice in environmentalist clothes? I like Australian plants. I like lawns and roses. Let's not engage in obsessive ecological cleansing. We've embraced multiculturalism. Give responsible multi-environmentalism a fair go."*  
Richard Wright.

## From 'Gumnuts'

Following is the text of a letter sent to the Sydney Morning Herald in response to one of Tim's critics. The letter was written by **Gordon Rowland** NSW of Indigenous Landscape Design Associates (Gordon is a member of the GDSG and was the first leader of the Sydney group, before Jo Hambrett).

SMH published a shortened version of the letter....

*"Commenting on Tim Flannery's description of roses, lawns and plane trees as 'a blot on the Australian landscape', (SMH 25.01.02) Colleen Morris claims that 'gardens are important parts of our cultural landscape which need to be preserved.' She ignores that gardens provide many of Australia's worst environmental weed species, including African olive, camphor laurel, lantana, privet and willow. (The full list of invasive garden introductions is much, much longer.)*

*She also ignores that conventional lawn grasses need abundant water, artificial fertiliser and chemical herbicides, and that some, such as buffab and kikuyu may become invasive, as may hundreds more exotic grasses, all part of our 'cultural' landscape. With regard to plane trees and the multiplicity of other tree species introduced from every corner of the globe, their haphazard distribution throughout the built landscape trades visual unity - the vital ingredient of good design - for chaos and confusion.*

*As Professor Michael Hough remarked in his 1994 paper, 'Cities, Towns and Natural Processes': "The exotic vegetation that replaces indigenous plant communities in urbanising regions disassociates us from the rhythm and diversity of the natural landscape and a sense of the place, and we are the poorer because of it."*

## DESIGN

### Messy Ecosystems, Orderly Frames

Greening Australia Seminar:

This very worthwhile Seminar looked at the questions "Why doesn't everyone plant indigenous plants? Why do people think the bush looks messy? How can we get more people involved in accepting and planting indigenous?" These are crucial questions for anyone involved in revegetation and turning around the loss of biodiversity.

The Seminar recognized design and psychology as being important to the appreciation of indigenous plants. Speakers were prominent academics, environmental psychologists, designers, revegetation experts, environmental planners and someone from the Dark Side (marketing). Dr Joan Iverson Nassaeur was the keynote speaker - please see page 7.

Other speakers included the following:

Paul Thompson spoke about the planting design in the Forest Gallery at the new Museum. In November his new book *The Australian Plant Design Book* will be published by Lothian.

One memorable presentation had no direct link with the seminar's actual subject. Jason Clarke from 'Minds at Work' spoke of 'Secrets of the Dark Side' (Marketing). His presentation revealed "the psychological triggers to behaviour and their use in the promotion of our consumer culture" and explored "their potential as tools for environmental reform." He said 95% of people are imitators and only 5% are innovators, and compared ideas with infections.

Dr Kathryn Williams, Univ. of Melbourne, is an environmental psychologist. She discussed perceptions of native vegetation and her talk was quite closely related to the work of Joan Iverson Nassaeur. Her research and teaching focuses on the social, cognitive and emotional dimensions of resource

management. She has found people generally have a preference for open, smooth landscapes - and these are usually degraded and of low ecological value. People put appearance ahead of ecological value. Most prefer eucalypts to casuarinas, probably because eucalypts are familiar.

Brooke Ryan, Landscape Architect - Water Resources, spoke about traditional notions of wetlands, and a variety of other interesting urban stormwater alternatives using swales and bioretention systems.

Jeff Yugovic, Senior Ecologist, Biosis Research introduced his idea of ecological gardening (first recorded in 1613!). Most gardening is not aimed at natural floristics and structure. He introduced the underpinning concept of dynamic revegetation (managed for regeneration). A dynamic indigenous garden equals an ecological garden. Site indigenous differs from local indigenous.

Scott Watson spoke on future directions with indigenous plants. He stressed the importance of the maintenance of an indigenous garden and said *Lomandra longifolia* was better on a large landscape scale than poas. His ideas included clipping poas and stipas into cubes, and deliberately designing a 'lizard lounge' among rocks.

### Messy ecosystems, orderly frames

Dr Joan Iverson Nassaeur

*A copy of this fascinating paper in Landscape Journal was very kindly sent to me by Paul Thompson. Its title immediately roused my interest. Joan Nassaeur is Professor and Head of Landscape Architecture, University of Minnesota. She has focused her teaching on landscape ecology and perception, with applications in the design and planning of agricultural and urban watersheds. Her research includes retrofitting urban neighborhoods for ecological function, perception of ecologically innovative development patterns, cultural monitoring of ecological restoration, and interdisciplinary watershed design.*

*Folwing are extracts from her paper.*

"We know how to see ecological quality only through our cultural lenses and, through those lenses, it may or may not look like nature....."

"When the public is highly receptive to doing the right thing for the environment, scientific answers about what is ecologically correct should be sufficient. But in fact social conventions keep the same people who dress in green slogans dressing their homes and cities in homogenous plant communities where enormous species diversity once existed....."

"Two suburban projects support the conclusion that 'neatness' labels a landscape as well cared for, and that 'naturalness' is defined by cultural expectations. Trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses look attractive unless there is 'too much'. Then the immediate cues to care, the presence of human interaction, are lost..... Cues to care make the novel familiar and associate ecosystems that may look messy with unmistakable indications that the landscape is part of a larger intended pattern.....These cues express care of the landscape."

A case study of Minnesota owners of rare ecosystems found that owners of oak woodlands tend to appreciate and manage these ecosystems to maintain them, but owners of wetlands or prairies are far less likely to appreciate them. In fact they are likely to change wetlands or prairies in order to 'improve' them.

The table on the next page summarizes some of the terms associated with land care. There is a third group of factors more associated with farm properties. In this set, under the heading of stewardship, are: conservation, contour ploughing, no erosion, pasture, stripcropping, terraces and windbreaks.

**Neatness**

Attractive

- fences
- flowers or shrubs
- landscaped
- lawn ornaments
- trees in rows
- clean & neat
- no junk <sup>N</sup>
- new
- mown, no weeds

Unattractive

- dead or rotten
- no flowers
- not landscaped
- lack of yard care
- no shade
- messy, cluttered
- neglected
- abandoned
- not mown, weedy

**Naturalness**

Attractive

- development blends in
- habitat
- native vegetation
- natural
- trees
- wildlife

Unattractive

- too formal
- much concrete
- too open
- bare
- no trees
- monotonous
- flat

In a project in one suburb, residents rated video imaging simulations of seven alternative treatments of home landscapes [of *the same house*] on five dimensions: attractiveness, care, neatness, naturalness, and apparent need for maintenance. The seven alternative treatments demonstrated a range of six increasingly ecologically rich landscapes, then a final untended one.

- (A) entirely conventional with conventional lawn; [generally preferred]
- (B) conventional lawn with native trees and shrubs;
- (C) replace 50% of the front lawn with indigenous prairie garden; [almost equally attractive to (A)]
- (D) replace 75% of the front lawn with prairie grass;
- (E) replace 50% of the front lawn with oak savanna shrubs;
- (F) replace 75% of the front lawn with prairie garden and woody shrubs;
- (G) conventional lawn, without mowing or pruning the weedy lawn. [least attractive, but seen as 'natural']

For (A) & (C), care and neatness were associated with attractiveness. From (C) on, naturalness became an association.

The following sketches (taken from a fax) show the six treatments. (I'll leave (G) to your imagination.)



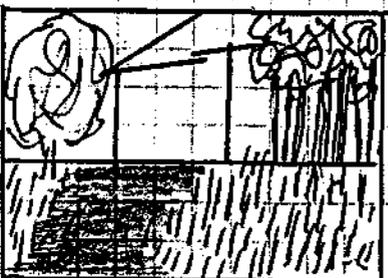
A. Conventional lawn



B. Conventional lawn with native trees + shrubs



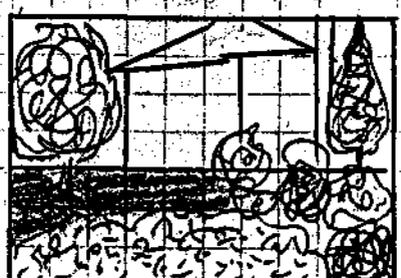
C. Replace 50% of lawn with prairie garden



D. Replace 75% of lawn with prairie grass



E. Replace 50% of lawn with oak savanna shrubs



F. Replace 75% of lawn with prairie garden + woody shrubs

**Conclusion:** Designing orderly frames is one way of using the vernacular language [peoples' expectations] to create greater ecological quality.

I have long been intrigued by the possibility of combining order and apparent disorder, and I think this paper and these ideas might be relevant for us. In the 60s, those of us with gardens of Australian plants tried to move directly to the equivalents of (E) or (F) - not always successfully. Now, to help our own transition and to win other people over, we can consider the possibility of trying the equivalents of (C) or (D) too. We were generally unaware of the concept (and probable desirability) of 'framing' for 'neatness'. The odd straight line or suggestion of patterning need not detract from the ecological value of our planting. DS

### Ground cover - advocacy over-rated

Geoff Simmons Old

In a note accompanying his article, Geoff says: *The attached may strike a chord in a member but, I suspect, discord in most. However it is based on experience so must have a grain of truth. As my last contribution concerned mulching, this is another item on the theme of covering the earth - bare dirt seems a no-no for many gardeners even though we live in probably the driest continent, with corresponding large areas of desert. Should this be taken into account in our garden design?*

*If global warming occurs as predicted, maybe even southern gardeners may find out that climatic changes produce a different perspective on such concepts as ground cover!*

The following comments refer to the use of groundcover plants in multiple plantings - not to those instances when a single plant spreads over a small area.

Ground cover - of all the concepts coined by gardeners, this must be one of the most artificial when judged by natural plant associations for incorporation into garden design. Dense stands of bracken fern, blackberries and blady grass are hardly good features that one would want to copy. The basis of ground cover is one of exclusion and invasiveness. Unfortunately these factors have major disadvantages. Exclusion may not always be absolute and invasiveness can be a nuisance.

The desire to seek out or create ground hugging native plants is a strong one and examples could be quoted for grevilleas and banksias. However monoculture systems bring with them adverse features so there is a case for their non-advocacy in garden design. What may be acceptable in a field of wheat or sugarcane is not so when odd plants die in an area planted for its decorative effect - an impossible task is to find attractive native plants with total hardiness and continuous growth, rather than containing the characteristics of random death or failure to thrive in the cultivated site.

Reading thoughts and planting intentions of southern gardeners brings the realization of how regional differences manifest their presence. As a gardener in a sub-tropical medium rainfall area, my experiences of ground covers leave much to be desired. This personal experience probably is not the same when workmen are employed in public gardens or parks.

Consider two Australian plants that I have used - *Jasminum suavissimum* and Midyim (*Austromyrtus dulcis*). Both these species grew well to form a thick cover. However, in spite of this, seeds from Umbrella Trees dropped by birds and creepers such as Cork Vine grew through the cover and proved almost impossible to control without a considerable amount of hard work, especially as the area was a sloping one. Hand pulling must be done as herbicides cannot be used. The diminished attractiveness and the time devoted to upkeep is out of proportion to that of an area free of ground cover. And what can one say about the relationship between the two species and fauna? Firstly, the native species such as wallabies do not attack plants growing in the area and secondly, the mat could present a haven for snakes - another reason

not to venture too often on the cover to pull out weeds.

Perhaps one could use annuals but these are not my choice because of the necessity for periodic removal and planting. For easier gardening, give second thoughts when deciding on a monoculture system.

*I use many groundcover plants, usually in quite close combination with others rather than as extensive monocultures. In different situations they serve different purposes. One favourite (as long as you don't mind yellow flowers) is Chryscephalum ramosissimum (or C. apiculatum ssp. ramosissimum), successful in both Sydney and Melbourne. Violets, brachyscomes, Mazus and Pratia are just a few. Midyim (Austromyrtus dulcis) suppresses weeds well for us, but Jasminum suavissimum certainly does not form a thick cover for us.*

*Whether bare dirt can be attractive probably depends largely on such factors as rain (and subsequent mud) and wind (producing dust). In natural desert areas, I have always been intrigued by the protection of the land surface by the plants of the soil crust - lichens, algae, even mosses. When we can reproduce these we'll have superb ground cover! DS*

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## GARDENS

### Gardens in Hong Kong and Thailand

Chris Larkin Vic

*Chris is Leader of APS Foothills Group and this article was first published in their NL.*

I had a great 3 weeks away, first in Thailand, which I fell in love with, and then in Hong Kong. A house and garden is rather a foreign concept in both Thailand and Hong Kong. There plain and simply isn't the space in HK. It appears that what people really aspire to is a larger apartment, possibly, but not necessarily, with more shared facilities, which may include some landscaped garden perhaps around an outdoor pool. People in HK live in small apartments and even then frequently employ Philippine maids to 'keep house', so how on earth would they have the time to cope with gardening? What saves HK from being just a morbidly large urban environment is the backdrop of rugged hills and the open space provided by the ocean bays and inlets. There were a couple of occasions when I was on a bus taking in views of mountains slipping into bays. It was breathtakingly beautiful. This is what much of the natural landscape would have been like but now it is hard to find a view without a high-rise development sandwiched between the water's edge and the mountains. There is less and less farming going on in the New Territories as more land goes to development. The good thing though is that there is a lot of land set aside as parkland and hopefully it won't be compromised when they run out of space. May its ruggedness save it forever.

In the countryside of Thailand people might farm the land but not garden to beautify their immediate environment. So it is no surprise to find that in the urban sprawl of Bangkok, houses with gardens are rare indeed. I guess it is precisely because there is no history of gardening for the ordinary people in these countries that there is not even the idea that there should be a lot of public gardens and parklands in big cities to compensate for so little private space. With our predominantly western cultural background, through colonization and early migration, I suspect we see having gardens, even in the heart of cities, as important for people's general health and happiness.

The plantings that I did see in Thailand, in temple grounds and historic parks, showed a high level of stylization. These people could certainly teach us a thing or two about pruning and topiary. Not for them the rambling (thorny) 4 meter by 4 meter Bougainvillea - they are frequently clipped to a dimension to spend their days comfortably in perhaps a 15in or 37cm pot! Shrubs may take on the shape of an elephant or bird; trees may be shaped to reveal their structure like plants in a Japanese garden or in bonsai. The two public

parks I visited in HK also showed great formality except for the most wonderful, large, walk-through bird aviary in HK Park. Here they have recreated a rainforest complete with a very realistic stream bubbling over rocks and winding its way through the lush growth of the forest floor. The visitor moves through the middle storey along a raised wooden walkway - a great vantage point to view the birds and the landscape. It does take time, however, to see any birds as the rainforest does such a good job of giving places to hide and conduct their lives in private.

The Australian plant that I saw most often in both Thailand and HK was the *Allocasuarina*. The first morning I went for a walk in HK and sat under one that had been planted in the sand on the beach. I can't say that it particularly thrills me to see an Australian plant growing in another country. Just imagine what the world would have been like if each country had stuck, more or less, to its own flora (except for food plants, of course). Just try to imagine for a moment what Australia would look like without plants from any other country being used in our suburban gardens! The 'look' would be very different, I suspect our plant knowledge would be much greater and our ability to comfortably landscape with Australian plants much in advance of where we find ourselves right now. Did you read the edited extract of Dr Tim Flannery's Australia Day speech which was published in *The Age*, 24/01/02? (See page 3, section underlined. DS)

## Garden design - metropolitan style

Pat Webb Vic

John & I recently had the opportunity of visiting two public gardens in Queensland where good design has created ideal environments for the enjoyment of Australian plants.

The first was the **Kershaw Gardens** in Rockhampton. Created on an old landfill site between the Bruce Highway and Moores Creek, the Gardens are one kilometre long by about 250m. Initial development commenced in 1976 and the rainforest section of the gardens alongside the creek reflect this early planting. The gardens were developed as part of the Bicentenary celebrations in 1988, so even the more recent plantings are quite mature. There are a few formal beds but most of the plantings appear casual, along footpaths and as copses in open areas. A waterfall and lagoon add liquid interest. A well-used garden where, at the very least, exercise is maintained by slapping at the myriad mosquitoes!

The second public garden we visited was the **Roma Street Parkland** in Brisbane. This 16 hectare garden is immediately adjacent to Roma Street railway station and has been, over the years, the site of the Brisbane markets from 1884 -1964. Part of the gardens contained air raid shelters and an American army camp during World War 2. After 1964 the area was used as a goods yard for the railway.

In 1999, the Queensland government decided to redevelop the area and, in an amazingly short time, a wonderful garden has been created. There are four main planted areas - Fern Gully, Forest, Lake Precinct and Spectacle Garden.

The Fern Gully naturally has many different ferns including *Asplenium australasicum* and *Angopteris evecta*, with an intermittent misting spray which not only maintains ideal growing conditions but also provides a beautiful atmosphere as we walk through.

The Forest has many trees unfamiliar to us (Victorians). *Diploglottis campbellii* (Native Tamarind), *Alloxylon flammeum* (Tree Waratah), *Alstonia scholaris* (Milky Pine) and *Deplancha tetraphylla* amongst many others. *Araucaria cunninghamii*, better known as the Hoop Pine; *Xanthorrhoea australis*; *Syzygium moorei* and a variety of palms which make 'window frames' looking out on to the city and the lake. The *Schefflera actinophylla* (Umbrella Tree) in full flower were spectacular too.

The Lake is bordered on two sides by plantings of various Pacific area species, including the *Kentia* Palm from Lord Howe Island, *Phormium tenax* (Rax), *Cordylina* and *Metrosideros* species from New Zealand

and *Lotus* species from the Pacific Islands. Amongst the Australian plants here are *Waterhousia floribunda* (Weeping Myrtle), *Lepironia articulata* (Blue Reed), *Taxodium distichum* (Swamp Grass) and *Ptychosperma macarthurii* (Macarthur Palm).

The Spectacle Garden is well named though not planted with exclusively Australian species. It certainly appeals to those who like 'in-your-face' colour. It is surrounded by a hedge of *Backhousia citriodora* (Lemon-scented Myrtle) and a massed planting of *Dendrobium biggibum* - unfortunately not in flower for us in March.

The pathways through the gardens have been carefully designed to enhance the 'feel' of the garden, always curving into a new view; and there are many artworks - sculptures, park furniture, rock carvings and found pieces' (often reflecting the railways' past use of the area) which feel 'at home' in the garden. Illustrated leaflets available add to the interest.

The Roma Street Parkland is well used by locals and visitors - we returned a second time in the early evening and the light at sunset added to the enjoyment of the many water features in this beautiful public garden - one of the most attractive we have ever seen. This garden in particular demonstrated what good design can achieve with massive financial input and government goodwill. DO VISIT!

*I'm looking forward to my next visit to Brisbane so I can! These gardens were designed by Lawrie Smith, a landscape architect who is currently the leader of SGAP in Queensland. There is a long article (4 pages) on them in the recent 'Australian Horticulture' (April-May 2002). DS*

### **An exciting local project**

**Cherree Densley Vic**

Late this afternoon, I have been invited to help and look at an exciting local project that a couple of our member/plant wholesalers are working on. They have been commissioned by Paul Jennings, the famous childrens' author, to plant up his new block of land and surrounds of his house. The house is being built just back from the top of the cliff tops to the east of Warmambool on former grazed farmland - the house has been placed underground with huge windows facing the sea; one cannot see the house from the track in through the paddocks, just a hummock or two which is the roof. This has been covered with soil and this is what I am helping plant out this afternoon with rushes, grasses, beardheath, cushion bushes. Paul also wants the entire farmland planted out with "what it used to look like", (a lifetime project, I feel, but so exciting!)

*At least one of our members has a house built in similar fashion in the Blue Mountains in NSW. I'm sure this would have reduced her concern in the recent bushfires. DS*

### **Looking ahead to spring -Open Garden Scheme gardens**

#### **Open Garden Scheme gardens in Melbourne**

Gardens of five Victorian GDSG members involved in the Open Garden Scheme this year are:

September 7 & 8	Chris Larkin
September 14 & 15	Diana & Brian Snape
September 21 & 22	Bev Hanson + April 6 & 7
October 5 & 6	Trevor & Beryl Blake
November 9 & 10	Tony & Joy Roberts

#### **Open Garden Scheme gardens in Sydney**

**Jeff Howes NSW**

Unfortunately there are only three garden of predominantly native plants that will be open in Sydney for the 2002/2003 season of the Open Garden Scheme. It is an excellent opportunity to promote Australian plants in a garden situation, so why are there not more members' gardens in the scheme?

The three gardens are:

14-15/09/02 Noel & Rae Rosten,

A great variety of native plants and many native orchids thrive in all the shady spots in this garden which is an excellent example of what can be done on a steeply sloping site. At the back, creative bush regeneration has resulted in a mini-rainforest.

14-15/09/02 David & Jenny Chandler,

This garden is predominantly planted with Sydney sandstone flora and shade loving plants to create a special visual treat.

13,15-16/03/03 Sally & Simon Robinson,

Around the house use has been made on many non-natives to create a formal effect. The creek that flows through the property has been sandstone lined and the weeds eradicated and over 500 native tubestock planted to attract the wild life.

*Please let me know of any other Australian plant gardens open in Victoria and other States, and their dates - either gardens of GDSG members, or APS members generally. I'll list these in the NL when the OGS Handbook comes out in August. DS*

## JOURNALS

*Australian Horticulture, March 2002*

### **Re-creating a Cape York rainforest**

For members fortunate enough to visit Cairns, the Forest Gardens Cape York Botanical Walk south of Cairns sounds an irresistible attraction. Situated at the foot of the Whitfield Range, this was created by landscape architect and Australian native plant expert Anton Van der Schans, with advice from colleagues. It represents eight (!) classifications of Cape York rainforests, so even if you are lucky enough to have been to Cape York, there would surely be something new for you to see. The aim was for the Botanical Walk to be visually beautiful but geographically and botanically accurate.

This botanical walk, handed over in May 2000 to the Cairns City Council, is accessible to visitors. Its continued maintenance by the city's Parks and Recreation Department is assured too. An article by Sonja Anderson describes its creation on a degraded site, formerly a canefield and the eroded banks of Sawpit Gully. The walk extends into the Mt Sheridan Treetop Walk at the top of Sawpit Gully.

*Australian Horticulture, April-May 2002*

Several articles of interest included one already mentioned, the detailed description (4 pages) of the Roma Street parkland, described by Pat Webb on page 1C?. This included details of the recycling and treatment of the water used extensively in this parkland. It is very satisfying to know there is a public garden showcasing Australian plants, designed by a landscape architect who is a committed member of Queensland SGAP.

A second article concentrating on wise water use looked at Oaklands Park estate's lakes in Victoria. The message of water conservation and recycling is gradually beginning to be accepted.

A report of a sensory garden in Werribee, Victoria, mentioned only a few Australian plants - *Eucalyptus citriodora* (as ever), *Agonis 'Afterdark'*, *Scleranthus biflorus* and *S. uniflorus*, *Alyogyne huegellii*.

An article I found particularly interesting was called 'American vision well worth considering'. It compared two gardens, one in an outer suburb of Phoenix, Arizona, U.S.A., the other in Perth's satellite city of Joondalup in W. A. I'll write about this article for the next NL.

**'GUMNUTS' 42**

*There were several articles related to garden design in this 'Gumnuts'. The first is by a GDSG member, Shirley Pipitone.*

**The "dullness" of indigenous plantings?****Shirley Pipitone ACT**

*Shirley was responding to a comment: "But what a dull world it would be if we stuck to just the local flora!"*

The best way to create a dull world, whether in terms of plants or anything, is to create a homogenised world: a world where you can buy McDonald's everywhere, where you are equally likely to be hit on the head with an acorn or a coconut in Fiji, where you can smell eucalypt foliage in Sardinia and Israel, admire tulips in Canberra and Bracteanthas in South Africa, and, of course, grow WA plants in NSW, NSW plants in Vic, Vic plants in Qld.... Need I continue?

Soon, WA will look like Vic, NSW like Qld or is that NT? SA will look like Tassie now that Tassie looks like Norway used to look before it started to look like California etc. In the design world it's called internationalism and is strangely admired.

Some variety in our own little world is lovely but when I travel, even just from Canberra to Cowra, I want to experience the character of each different place, and that includes the plants.

**Brian Walter's response:**

*Thanks, Shirley. I agree that the local character of many parts of Australia is polluted by inappropriate public plantings. In fairness to the writer, I think she was referring mainly to growing indigenous plants in private gardens rather than in public areas - and I suspect that few of us grow entirely indigenous flora. I certainly grow some of my local flora (and I'm expanding the range) but the bulk of the plants in my garden come from various areas.*

*And, I have to say that, despite claims to the contrary, indigenous plants are not always the easiest ones to cultivate because garden conditions rarely match undisturbed natural conditions. Ask anyone in Sydney's sandstone areas how successfully they grow the local boronias, waratahs and flannel flowers....you won't find too many success stories.*

**Mulch as a fire hazard?**

With the recent severe bushfires around NSW and the ACT, people are rightly nervous about "fire-proofing" their homes as far as possible. **Shirley Pipitone** asks....

"Is there any evidence that mulches such as woodchip or pinebark or shredded pine are a fire hazard? Certainly, dry leaves on top of mulch must be a hazard."

**Biodiversity in the garden****Barry Roberts**

*Barry Roberts is team leader of the Jimboomba Bushcare group in South east Queensland.*

When planning and creating our gardens, the emulation of natural systems is by far definitely the best approach. Natural ecosystems start below the soil and mulch layers and continue up through the different stratas. To say that small birds and the like do not enjoy thorns and prickles is simply not true. We have here in southern Queensland a diabolical native (Cockspur, *Madura cochinchinensis*) - the smaller wrens and finches etc build nest in these for protection. It is far from being my favourite native plant, being covered with long thorns and forms dense thickets, in some cases completely covering watercourses in a dense tunnel.

I believe to attract birds to our garden we must try as much as possible to design our gardens to maximize on biodiversity. If we build our gardens to encourage predator/prey relationships as is found in natural ecosystems (and this is possible to do to a point), we will attract not only a host of birds but also a host

of colourful invertebrates as well. By designing to attract butterflies etc, we are designing gardens to be eaten, but then also the birdlife attracted will keep this in check.

On closing I must make the statement that we will never emulate completely biodiversity within our own gardens. This is because we have human values and a love of certain types or varieties of plants.

Many of the lower and middle orders of plants would not be considered to the home gardener, many of the higher stratum plants are simply too big and that is another discussion in itself.

Barry said he had put together a TAFE course to be run in March at the Bremer Institute in Brisbane.

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## THE INTERNET

### Flora for Fauna site

Jeff Howes NSW

This is the Flora for Fauna site that lists native plants local to your house/area as well as having a garden planner.

<http://www.floraforfauna.com.au/>

Allow yourself a 1/2 hour. All in all a great site for what it is.

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## DESIGN IDEAS

### Loose soil

Cherree Densley Vic

The new garden that I have been planting over the past two years is amazing. I have never seen such lush growth - an experience which others have written about and commented on too - the wonderful growth on newly placed or worked soil, particularly mounded or contoured. Could it be linked to new growth along disturbed roadsides? What is it about new loose soil? The growth rate is staggering as measured beside the growth rate of plants put in as replacements or in established beds.

I have learnt here in Killarney that when I plant out anything in an established area, I have to dig up a large area and incorporate at least two barrows full of new soil if I desire good healthy growth. (I learnt this from the writings of the late Dr. Thomas (rose specialist) who always maintained that to replace a rose within an established bed of roses it was imperative to remove at least 3 barrows full of old soil and replace this with 3 barrows of fresh new soil (purchased) for success.)

If we relate this to our gardens - losses sometimes can be high and heartbreaking, and expensive. We buy or propagate something new and plant it back where other things have died, and the growth rate is usually disappointing. Perhaps we should learn something from other 'specialist' growers.

*As usual, Cherree raises interesting questions. I have always thought, rather naively, that loose soil just makes it easier for the roots to grow! My only concern about Dr. Thomas' advice is - where does this (purchased) fresh new soil come from? Making compost to supply the fresh nutrients might be a better alternative. DS*

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### Sculptural Australian plants?

Geoff Simmons Qld

This word is not infrequently used by landscapers when describing a garden. Sculpture relates to images made of a solid, non-living material such as stone, wood or metal. Can "sculptural" be applied to plants as it often is and, if so, which Australian plants fit this term and how can they be used in garden design?

The chiselled look can perhaps be used to describe some species of xanthorrhoea - not all species, as some with no trunk or soft green leaves do not fit this descriptive word.

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Several cycads could be included for their robustness and solid divided leaves. Also the fruits could easily be fitted into the sculptural list.

*Cassia magnifolia* may be mentioned as it has hard and shapely leaves and rigid flower spike.

In low rainfall areas, tree hakeas with sparse foliage and gnarled bent trunks and branches can seem like sculptures. It is unlikely that this type of plant can be part of recently formed gardens as they may take years to develop the sculptural look. This requires a long term awareness unless the effect is created by using plants that are already mature, a costly process as it may involve mechanical transfer of quite large plants such as palms.

On reflection, "sculptural" is not a very appropriate word for such plants but what is a better one to use?

*A good question, Geoff. In the past, sculptural implied (substantial) size and defined form. More recently, there have been junk sculptures, wind sculptures, water sculptures and even light sculptures! So the meaning of that word "sculpture" is itself much less definite.*

*I asked my computer for suggested alternatives to "sculptural" but it did not like the word - it offered scriptural, scrumptious, scrupulous and scurrilous as possible alternatives - not very helpful. Shapely, carved, fashioned, etched, defined - none do the job. Any suggestions? DS*

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### **When to water?**

**Jeff Howes NSW**

As I write this (early Feb 02) Sydney is having very useful rain which effectively ends six weeks of hot dry and windy weather. This hot weather and especially the low humidity lowered the soil moisture to the point where a lot of trees and shrubs are finding the going tough and are dropping their leaves as a result.

During this dry spell I have been handwatering my smaller native shrubs as I did not wish to lose them. While undertaking this time wasting exercise (and not to mention wasting valuable water) I thought am I overdoing it as I am sure that most of this water was not being made available to the plants or even soaking down into my clay subsoil - only three to four days of continuous rain will do this. I was also reminded of Geoff Simmons article in NL36 about low rainfall and his suggestions regarding trees.

If we are going to encourage people to grow native plants for their hardiness and their ability to be used as part of good garden designs, how are we to advise when to water? When is a plant established enough to fend for itself? More to the point, is ongoing maintenance our concern?

I could only come up with four solutions to my problem of when to water:

1. To plant a few prostantheras around the garden and when they start to wilt, I then know it is time for me to water. They are a reliable indicator of dryness and one of the first plants to wilt.
2. Only select plants that would be happy in my soil and microclimate and thus establish quickly and not need too much ongoing care after this.
3. Give them no water after the first year of planting and let them survive as best they can.
4. Lastly, perhaps I need to follow Geoff's advice during hot dry weather and cover desirable plants with some portable shade protection and let the rest fend for themselves "as trees often quickly produce new foliage once good rain falls".

*I think all of these are possible solutions - or using a combination of them. It depends on the preferences of the individual gardener. DS*

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**PLANTS in DESIGN****Regarding hybrids****Geoff Simmons Old**

*Geoff says this article is not intended as a book review but Garden Street Books list "The Ingenious Mr Fairchild: the forgotten father of the flower garden" in their catalogue no.21.*

In recent times, there appears to be increasing interest in Australian plant hybrids, not only for their disease resistance and decorative features but also for their place in the environment. The horticultural industry have criteria that they hope will sell plants, and plant breeders have an immense scope in the diversity and unique characteristics of Australian plants to further this aim:

The GDSG Newsletters from time to time contain items reflecting the diverse views on this topic - ranging from acceptance to objection. For instance in NL 37 (Feb. 2002), Margaret McIver draws attention to an article by Jill Hamilton concerning one aspect of this problem (*development of showy, hybrid flowers unsuitable for pollination by natural pollinators*).

It is worthwhile to look back at the history of hybridization and in this regard members of GDSG could find much of interest in a book published in 2000 entitled "The Ingenious Mr Fairchild: the forgotten father of the flower garden". This is an account of the first hybrid plant that was bred - in the 17th century. This hybrid of two species of the dianthus family was known at the time as Fairchild's mule. It is fascinating reading in-as-much that the controversy created in religious circles was intense, with claims that it was against nature and the bible to suggest that plants could be claimed to have sexes. The author, Michael Leapman, furthers his writing by relating this controversy to the views being expressed on modern genetics as illustrated by genetically modified plants.

The book is full of details about the times of Fairchild, a London gardener, and the man himself. In his will he bequeathed a sum of money for a sermon. The Fairchild lecture is still held almost three centuries later!

As hybridization is not likely to cease, the background to the procedure and the ramifications are worthy of attention.

**SNIPPETS****Piuses and minuses****Cherree Densley vie**

My two gardens are superb at present - I am resigned to the fact that neither can be as neat as I wish - the bluewrens have nested in the most untidy rough areas again anyway!! (By the way, Arthur Dench's artemesia is called the 'lavatory bush' - in other words, the only drawback is the smell!!! The shrub was planted as a very common hedge in all the old houses and properties, frequently in low rainfall areas - mainly around orchards, vegie patches, outpaddocks - but never too close to the house, for obvious reasons.)

**Australian Garden History Society lectures**

For Melbourne members, two lectures with the Australian Garden History Society, both 6.30 to 7.30 pm State Library Theatre, Entry 3, Latrobe Street.

The lecture just past, on April 15, was "The gum tree in the garden" by Tim Bonyhady, author of "The Colonial Earth". The lecture reflected his book, in which he traced the tradition of the environmental appreciation and concern of some people from the earliest time of European settlement in Australia.

The next lecture is on June 20 - "Clearings: Six colonial gardeners and their landscapes" by Paul Fox. This should be an interesting one.

## One signature genus of Australian plants

For Victorian members, there is a valuable opportunity to see an exhibition of all 76 of the exquisite banksia watercolours of **Celia Rosser**, at the State Library from April 5 to June 30. If you are in Melbourne, **don't miss it!**

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## MEETINGS

### NE Vic Branch

#### Report of meeting at Buchanans' Feb 2002

**Barbara Buchanan, Jan Hali Vic**

The meeting was well attended but as I was distracted by the early start to the grape season I did not take sensible notes and my memory is a blur - my apologies. The discussion was centred around **Jacci Campbell's** hedge and plans for **Elizabeth Brett**. To compensate I would like to offer some thoughts of **Jan Hall's** as a basis for discussion next meeting.

Jan was stirred by some ABC Gardening Australia programs called the Best of Australian Garden Design by expatriot Englishman, John Patrick, and dashed off some quite passionate rough notes which she has not had time to tidy up. Having watched the same program I'll attempt to distil the essence of our feelings. The program was not about **garden** design so much as **landscape architecture**, with loads of hard landscaping and severe geometric lines but almost nothing of plants themselves. The emphasis was on instant effect with so-called **bold** plants such as agaves, cycads and the inevitable mondo grass. There is absolutely nothing to indicate these gardens are in Australia.

Jan goes so far as to refuse the name garden to these creations which show no seasonal change and where everything is kept clipped and manicured to preset standards. While this may be acceptable around public buildings, it is regrettable in parks and deplorable in private gardens. In the latter case it sometimes seems money is no object; what a shame to see the wasted opportunities. We would like to see TV shows about design give prominence to real gardens where plants have pride of place. *Australian* plants, better still!

We would also like to see some progress in developing an Australian flavour in our gardens, something more than the bland international norm which gives no hint that it is located in our lucky country. The financial pages are beginning to admit that there may be flaws in the globalisation ideal. I won't be here to see it but I would not mind betting in 20 years or so the pendulum has swung the other way and smaller operations are found to have qualities lacking in the world-wide monoliths: in gardens regional individuality has become highly prized. Tourists do expect to see something different, ecosystem health demands it.

In the weeks this has sat waiting to be finalised, I have received an RHS Journal with a page (reduced type to fit more in) of letters about all the English TV shows with instant garden makeovers and the 'dumbing down' of gardening they propagate. Some people feel this is necessary to introduce new people to the joys of gardening. (There is also a stirrer article on - do we garden for the joy of it or to impress the neighbours? Another topic.) Others regret the trend as misleading, and wasted opportunities for more serious subjects. Some resent people who use latin names as snobs, others welcome the chance to learn from whatever source. Some still prefer the printed word, lots are turning to the RHS web pages. In short there are as many points of view as viewers, probably all with a grain of truth. Just as there are here.

**What do you think?** Maybe I have overstated the case, maybe we have linked the two issues 'globalisation' and 'minimalisation' too closely, maybe there is something we can do to make a difference, maybe we should just go with the flow and the tide will turn naturally. What about it?

**Next NE Vic meeting: Saturday April 20 10.30 am at Jan Hall's**

Please phone Barbara Buchanan

to indicate whether you can come.

Further meetings are provisionally **August 17** at Jacci Campbell's and **October 12** at Gloria Thompson's.

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### Melbourne meetings

#### **Report of meeting on Sunday February 10 at 2 pm at Helen & Tim Morrow's.**

We gathered in Helen's back garden to consider a major design opportunity - a large area which is almost clear now and which will be completely cleared soon with the removal of old fruit trees. The area slopes slightly to the north-east, with the brick wall of a garage along the eastern side. On the western side there is a new glass house. Helen wants to screen the wall and the glass house but to keep the area with an open feel, without having a lawn. She would like a water area.

Many ideas were raised but these was insufficient time to explore them in detail and I'm sure Helen will spend much time considering the possibilities. She has been very busy with the International Flower and Garden Show, but will write something (and/or draw a plan) for the next NL. One plea was made by **Brian Dacy** for the inclusion of colour in the garden, for example using annual or biennial daisies such as *Xerochrysum* (formerly *Helichrysum/Bracteantha*) *bracteatum* (Golden Everlasting), and its close relatives the 'Strawflowers' grown from commercial seed.

**Peter & Wilma Garnham** raised the topic of the exciting New Park now in the late stages of development in the area of the Yarra River adjacent to Federation Square. This Park is designed by professional designer and GDSG member **Paul Thompson**. It incorporates fascinating design elements such as a simulated dry river bed bordered by River Red Gums, a long bank featuring massed cycads, and rows of *Eucalyptus pulverulenta* (Silver-leaved Mountain Gum) which will be coppiced to retain their attractive juvenile foliage. It will be fascinating to watch this project maturing.

**Next meeting: Sunday May 5 at 2 pm at Diana & Brian Snape's** (address on page 1).

'Homework' for this meeting, for members who are able, is to visit the International Flower & Garden Show (from April 10 to 14) and see the designs there - they'll probably mainly be for courtyard gardens. Choose your favourite (or favourites) and make some notes about it. If you like, take a photo or draw a sketch. You could think about the plants you would use to replace those in the design (probably mainly exotics). Helen Morrow has kindly volunteered to take some photos for those who are unable to visit the Show themselves, to help in our discussions. I suspect that many/most of the designs will be along the lines that Barbara Buchanan describes in her report of the NE Vic meeting.

Please phone Jan Fleming

or Diana Snaoe

to indicate whether you can

come to the May meeting. I hope you'll be able to be there. **Please note that this one is on the first Sunday of the month.**

Later meetings this year: - **August 11; November 10.**

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### Sydney branch meetings

#### **Report of meeting on Sunday March 3 at Geoffrey & Ann Long's place**

**Jo Hambrett NSW**

Members and their friends turned out in force to support our February garden day at the Longs' Foxground property. It was our best turnout ever, with lots of new members making the trip south. Luckily our host garden owners were incredibly organized and had us parked safely in the top paddock, ferried down to the house, name tags issued and a welcoming cuppa, as well as patiently taking those interested through their fascinating new house - courtesy of a talented architect daughter! - all before our garden study day started - talk about beyond the call of duty!

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For Geoff's description of their garden see the last NL (No. 37) page 14. This garden is the first example of ecogardening that I have seen and I found the whole concept very exciting. Design is important in the way the house relates to its environment, sitting lightly in a small clearing atop the escarpment, the forested glades tumbling down to a magnificent waterfall below.

The house and outbuildings are linked together and to the land by the simple geometric planting of indigenous grasses. A long, low, dry stone wall edges the driveway, a nod to the history of white settlement in Kiama.

Parts of the property are managed in various ways:

- the natural forest is documented and maintained; the only concession to a garden is the provision of a path for ease of access. The path is narrow and very natural looking - cleverly placed rocks and vines allowing strong purchase on the steep site.
- previously cleared areas have been committed to wood lots - planted with mainly indigenous rainforest species to provide fine cabinet timbers - a long term legacy for the environment and future human custodians, hopefully as enlightened as the present ones.
- areas not suitable for farm forestry are weeded and revegetated with suitable indigenous species. Now I write this lightly but think about it --12 acres of solid lantana infestation - all hand weeded and replanted!

At the end of the day we left, humbled and inspired by Nature and Geoffrey and Anne's commitment to it in their 'garden'.

**Next Sydney meeting: Sunday August 25 at Arthur Dench's place**

Arthur has a large property near Mt Annan - low rainfall, fauna habitat, lots of experimenting with indigenous plants.

Please phone Jo Hambrett

for details of this meeting.

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## MEMBERSHIP

***Please remember to renew your subscription in the next two months. This is your last NL for 2001/2002.***

***In fact, why not do it straight away, and then you won't forget it and you'll enjoy having a clear conscience.*** There is no change in the subscription: \$10 for one or two members at the same address; \$5 for pensioners; \$20 for overseas members. Please send your cheque, made out to the Garden Design Study Group, to Bryan Loft (address on page 1).

Our current membership in the 2001/2002 financial year (which finishes on June 30) is 202.

Each year our membership turnover seems to be about 10%, which is apparently a very good (i.e. low) rate, for an organization such as ours.

### New members

*A warm welcome to the following new members of the Study Group. We hope you enjoy your membership and look forward to sharing ideas with you.*

Craig & Sharon Beeching

Charles Hrubos

Ann Raine

Welcome back to Julie Slifirski, a long-time member of earlier years.

### New addresses

If any member knows Dave Bright, please ask him to contact me. The last NL sent to him at the new address he gave us was returned from the Dead Letter Office.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Bryan Loft Vic

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1 July 2001 - 30 March 2002

Bank Balance 30 June 2001	\$3804.78	<u>Less EXPENDITURE</u>	
<u>Plus INCOME</u>		Newsletter Expenses:	
Advance Royalty on Book	\$1,000.00	Printing	\$649.40
Loan From APS Vic	\$16,500.00	Postage	\$319.50
Bank Interest	\$ 0.81	Envelopes	\$35.54
2001/2002 Subscriptions received	\$998.60	Sub to Friends of RBG Cranbourne	\$ 25.00
Subscriptions received in advance	<u>\$ 40.00</u>	Sub to Friends of Kawarra Gardens	\$ 20.00
TOTAL	<u>\$ 18,549.41</u>	Sub to Illawarra Grevillea Park Soc	\$ 25.00
		Sub to Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens	\$ 20.00
		Bloomings Books	\$10,000.00
		BAD Tax	\$7.80
		Bank fee for returned cheque	\$ 9.50
		Secretarial Expenses	\$24.20
		Mail out to Sydney Members	<u>\$ 47.30</u>
		TOTAL	<u>\$11,183.24</u>
<u>Balance 30 March 2002</u>	\$11,160.95		

*The cheque/bank fees associated with subscription payment by cheque are a significant part of the real cost of a GDSG subscription. I am increasingly getting banknotes as payment for this reason. Why should we work for the bank? You might like to consider paying a subscription for **2 years** (i.e \$20 for the normal subs, \$10 for concession), for two main reasons: -*

- to reduce cheque/bank fees associated with subscription payment by cheque;
- for your own convenience.

*I can keep track of this on the database. Bryan Loft*

Thank you to all members who have contributed to this NL - there is such variety and interest in what you write. I even have a couple of my articles held over for the August one. However don't let that stop you sending yours!!

The book is well underway now and I have seen the first proofs of some chapters (very exciting), so it's on track for publication. An Australian Landscape Conference is going to be held in Melbourne September 21 & 22. You may remember those of a few years ago. There will be both Australian speakers and some from overseas. Information is available - phone (03) 9427 1592, fax (03) 9427 9066, [www.bloomings.com.au](http://www.bloomings.com.au) The Conference Director is Warwick Forge, email <[warwick@bloomings.com.au](mailto:warwick@bloomings.com.au)>

There is a chance our book may be launched at this Conference, which would be great. I should have more details for the August NL.

Now this NL is finished, I must start gardening in earnest for our Open Garden weekend. We have been neglecting the garden, so there is a lot of work to do. (I'm sure your garden is better cared for.)

Best wishes,



Diana