



GARDEN DESIGN STUDY GROUP

ISSN 1039 – 9062
ABN 82 428 110 028
Newsletter
November 2008

64

STUDY GROUP LEADER / EDITOR
Jo Hambrett

TREASURER / MEMBERSHIP
Jeff Howes

email: tudortalisman@optusnet.com.au

email: gdsgmembership@yahoo.com.au

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

Dear Members,

As you will see in Correspondence, there was a very healthy response to the way members felt we should be spending our money – a similar number of responses from members who haven't yet registered their preferences in the February NL next year would really help us make a democratic decision in the first half of 09. Another possibility which could be explored, involving the scholarship idea, is that of combining with another plant association and thereby increasing the amount of money available.

A matter that has been raised by a concerned member is that of compulsory membership of APS/ASGAP for GDSG members. I realize that historically there has been a Newsletter Only membership available however there is a question of insurance cover at meetings which I think it is a very valid concern – I will need the help of ASGAP to sort it through so do watch this space .

I direct your attention to FYI and website matters; our webmaster Brian Walters has made accessing the photos of gardens mentioned in the Newsletters an absolute doddle – even for someone like me – one click on the address and up comes all the photos of gardens mentioned in the NL under the month and year of said NL. From this NL on, there will be an asterix next to either the gardens [or their photos] which will be up on the website for an example see Maureen Webb's article "Something old, Something new" in the Design section of this NL. You will note also I have included contact details of the Rainforest SG – this is a very important group of plants that have been overlooked in our palette for too long, I am keen to do my part to redress that!

Also members please, if you send photos and /or articles in and I don't acknowledge your contribution or it does not appear in the next NL, you must let me know – to my knowledge I haven't missed anything yet but it can happen and if I'm not told I remain in blissfull ignorance!

A big thank you to Jeff Howes for an excellent end of year Treasurer's report and for obtaining a professional audit. It is indeed pleasing to see so many new members, however quite a few have not renewed – I do hope they soon realize they are unfinancial and rejoin. Well, that's all the housekeeping for the year that (almost) was!

All the very best for the rapidly approaching festive season and the New Year of 09 & as always, best wishes for your health, happiness and safe keeping..

INDEX

3 FYI

Website Matters	Brian Walters NSW
Interesting web addresses	Jeff Howes NSW
ASGAP 2009	Nicky Zanan Vic.
Booroowhangary Garden Taree	Annette Houseman NSW

5 CORRESPONDENCE

7 DESIGN

15 Ideas for Garden Design	Diana Snape Vic.
Something Old, something New	Maureen Webb NSW
Sticking to a garden design	Jo Hambrett NSW

12 PLANTS

Jean O'Neill's Australian Garden in England	
Visits to Country Gardens	Carolyn Gunter NSW

13 BOOK REVIEWS

"Australian Plants for Gardens in the Sun"	Rodger Elliott Vic.
--	---------------------

14 MEETINGS

16 TREASURER'S REPORT

FYI

Website matters

Photos of gardens need to be at least 800x 600 pixels to be included on the GDSG website.

Photographs referred to in this newsletter and NL 63 can now be viewed online, on our Picasa internet gallery, at <http://asgap.org.au/design/picasa.html>

I also intend to revise the presentation of the main Photo Gallery so that slightly larger images can be included.

Brian Walters (webmaster)

Don't forget that our Membership form is on our website and is easily downloaded.....

Our home page is at: <http://asgap.org.au/design.html>

.....scroll to the bottom of page for the *membership form link*.

<http://asgap.org.au/design/gd-info.html>

&

.....articles that may be of interest to members.....

1. The not so good news on water saving crystals: Look at:

http://www.sgaonline.org.au/info_watercrystals.html

2. Mulch/moisture/fertiliser at: http://www.sgaonline.org.au/info_moistureandmulch.html

3. <http://asgap.org.au/APOL2008/aug08-2.html> for small gardens/courtyards in Victoria by Marilyn Gray

4. <http://asgap.org.au/APOL2008/apr08-s3.html> this is all about birds in the backyard and how to attract them.

5. a great article on creating a habitat for native frogs. http://www.sgaonline.org.au/info_frogs.html

Jeff Howes NSW

Regarding the **Rainforest Study Group** address, I would like to make sure that ALL letters and correspondence be directed to:

ASGAP Rainforest Study Group

Kris Kupsch <tropicalbotanics@hotmail.com>

Study Groups are invited to participate during the ASGAP 2009 Conference. This is advance notice to advise that space will be made available for displays and plant sales at Marcus Oldham College, Pigdons Road, Geelong, Victoria where 100 people will be accommodated during the Conference and where some activities will be held during the week.

The dates for ASGAP 2009 are Sunday 27th September till Friday 2nd October, 2009.

Please note, though, that the Conference lectures will be held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at Costa Hall, Gheringhap St, Geelong.

Study groups need to organise their own tables and will be able to sell plants, setting their own prices with funds going to their own study groups.

Enquiries can be made to Bev Fox,

Details are being confirmed and more information will be available shortly.

But in the meantime.....start propagating!

Nicky Zanen Vic.

Your editor will be *delighted* to hear from members keen to do a *spectacular* GDSG DISPLAY!

GDSG member, Annette Houseman, has kindly contacted me about one of her favourite gardens ,the Booroowhangary Garden at Taree, on the mid north coast. It is owned by Jeannette Lee who is also a coordinator of Australia's Open Garden scheme. There will be an all weekend opening at the garden in early 2009. I would suggest any members wishing to visit the garden at that time contact me and I shall pass on Annette's contact details. It is about 45 minutes from the Rowland's property.

CORRESPONDENCE

I love the new heading, it looks really good.

Diana Snape Vic

We'd be very happy to have colour for \$2 /yr. We'd prefer that the cash be used for **book publishing** – We're not sure of the distinction between a fund & a book. How generous of Diana to donate her royalties. Please express our gratitude.

We are just on the point of completing our path system through the forest – about 3-4 kms – giving access to all parts of the property. The group might like to make a return visit in sometime in 2009 or later.

Ann & Geoffrey Long NSW

Just a thought regarding all that money which is burning a hole in your pocket. - unless we all go to Rio.....?

'Coastal Plants of the Royal National Park' is **an interactive CD** to enable lay people to identify Australian Native plants which grow in the Royal National Park. The exercise was started by Doug Irving and it was completed, after his death, by members of the Sutherland Group of APS. It is an extraordinarily full coverage of Australian plants, description and photos etc. I'm sure there are clever people in our group who could put together something similar covering garden designs, using native plants. Possibly landscape designs could be provided onto which plants could be cut and pasted? This suggestion from someone who is quite technologically challenged but it sounds possible. We may have members of the Garden Design group from Sutherland who know more about it. I bought my CD from Sydney Botanical Gardens Bookshop.

Michele Pymble NSW

We vote for No 4. idea, **an annual scholarship prize** for Landscape Design with Australian Plants/majority indigenous with Idea No 2. (Garden Preservation Fund) coming next.

Maureen & Norm Webb NSW

Congratulations for the new look front cover. It really gives the whole letter a lift. As far as what to do with the money? My preferences would be listed in this order.

- 1 **Annual scholarship**, no. 4. One each year, with a rotation through the states and perhaps through institutions.
 2. Second book Perhaps multi-authored by designers (?pro. & novice) dealing with local plants for our vast land.
 3. I don't think we need another book of photos.
 4. I doubt there is enough money to make a mark as a preservation fund.
- Anyway, keep up the good work. I enjoy getting the newsletter.

Peter Shannon WA.

Great to receive your interesting Newsletter.

On the question of spending money, I'd like to vote for 1b - **a second Garden Book**. Gardeners do seem to be inveterate garden book readers and so it's a good way to reach out to the general gardening community.

Margaret Clarke Vic.

Great newsletter as usual – always nice to read other people's views, hassles, experiences!

Re spending our money – I rather like option 4 - **an annual scholarship** for design with indigenous/Australian plants(although I do have some sympathy for option 5 but only if its World Cup year and Brazil is in!) We went in 2003 – very exciting!”

My next thought would be 1b - another book. Not with the title “Gardens of the new Millennium” though, its too general.

Would we have enough money to fund an indigenous annual scholarship – I presume by annual in each state you mean serially, not simultaneously? There are lots of older at least, indigenous people who know about oz plants – may be a good step forward to combine eating and design aspects.. One prize could incorporate bush tucker. Just in our garden we have lemon myrtle, lilli pilli, austromyrtus and others probably that I don't know are edible.

Gillian Morris NSW

For some time now I have been considering forming a chapter of the GDSG in Queensland to provide a forum for those of us interested in designing a native garden in the subtropics and tropics. The regular Newsletter provides much interesting reading and ideas from members who have created wonderful gardens in the more temperate areas of the continent. We can share a 'northern' aspect to the subject through our experience with very different plant material and climatic conditions.

Currently there are 6 GDSG members in Qld. and previously 5 or 6 local people have expressed interest in forming a subtropical & tropical chapter. If sufficient SGAP members are still interested we could commence the process of forming the chapter. Given the geographic extent of Queensland it will be difficult to have face to face meetings on a regular basis and we will need to develop an innovative way to correspond – probably using the internet to advantage.

Some preliminary thoughts as to what we might like the chapter to do, include:

- Offering a way to share our experiences in subtropical & tropical garden design;
- Garden questionnaire to record the physical & aesthetic aspirations of members gardens;
- Garden visits 3 times a year – autumn, winter & spring;
- Learn from other peoples experience & expertise;
- Discuss tried and tested garden design & establishment procedures;
- Share new and innovative design ideas and concepts;
- Explain your triumphs and tragedies in the garden;
- Perhaps you want to tell how “I did it my way!”
- Contributing articles for the GDSG Newsletter.

So if you are interested in joining a Garden Design Study Group Queensland Chapter please contact Lawrie Smith and we can start the ball rolling.

Lawrie Smith.

Email: lawries@landplanstudio.com.au

I enjoyed Barbara Buchanans article 'In - Decision' in NL 63, especially when she stated "..... but now very shady so that I have trouble finding places for all the colourful grevilleas, hakeas, melaleucas etc" I have the same problem and in my case, is the result of neighbours' mature trees.

Then again is it a problem resulting from inappropriate planning at the initial design stage (no offence Barbara)? Do we give enough thought to how the garden will or can look in 10 to 15 years time. Should we really try hard to keep that sunny patch to maximise flowering of our favourite plants OR will a mature suburban garden always succumb to shade unless we are living on very large blocks of land? Jennie and Ted Finnie comments on mulch were also interesting, especially as there has been a lot of discussion on that topic in past NLs. I was very interested in the following ".... I initially used rocks and gravel to mulch some areas, but find when the plants are young they die from radiated heat." I would have thought that rocks and gravel would help overcome the many problems with wood/leaf based mulch. What I did not consider is the intensity of radiated heat could kill young plants. It appears that there is no ideal mulch.

Jeff Howes NSW

Thank you for Newsletter 63, Jo. As usual, packed with interesting articles and letters. Doesn't Barbara write well!!

Philip Robinson Vic.

She most certainly does! JH

We had an enjoyable time on the day (GDSG visit to Rowland's property}, what a wonderful outlook the house has and fascinating to see all the hard work carried out by Marie and Gordon. It will be good to go back at some time in the future to see how it all turns out. Should be fabulous.

Maureen Webb NSW

DESIGN

The following article is a reprint from a much earlier GDSG newsletter, it certainly bears repeating, especially for our newer members.

Fifteen Ideas for Garden Design

I was asked by Helen Moody for some suggestions for designing with Australian plants, to be included in an article she was writing for the Sydney Morning Herald (4/9/97). In her article Helen says "*The most distinctive quality of Australian plants and native gardens is that they impart a spirit of place that is uniquely ours. They create a feel, a sense, a smell and a sound of their own.*"

Here are those ideas as I wrote them....

1. A garden is an artistic creation which evolves through time and is never 'finished'; gardeners are artists who follow their own vision and those of us who love Australian plants can gain inspiration directly from aspects of the Australian landscape.
2. Plants which occur naturally in the same environment - desert, for example, or coastal - usually look happy together in the garden because of their complementary adaptations as well as their similar requirements.
3. Sculptural Australian plants, like tree ferns, grasstrees, Gynea lilies and banksias, will distinguish a garden and deserve to be treated with respect and placed carefully in a garden landscape.
4. Three or four different species of the numerous Australian groundcover plants - daisies, hibbertias (guinea flowers), scaevolae (fan flowers), etc.- can be chosen and repeated to create a lovely tapestry effect at ground level.
5. Even in a small garden, a tree of the appropriate size such as one of the smaller eucalypts extends the space of the garden upwards, acting as a focal point as well as being a magnet for birds.
6. Don't just look at the shapes of the plants in a garden, look also at the shapes of the spaces between plants; the balance of 'mass' and 'void' should be satisfying.

7. Australian daisies and grasses combine nicely with rocks - a pleasing contrast of soft and hard textures, with clumped or sprawling daisies and tufted grasses complementing the definite curved or straight lines of rocks.
8. A huge variety of fine foliated tufted Australian plants look excellent beside water - rushes, sedges and lilies, either upright or weeping. There are shrubs and small trees too with weeping foliage which is very appealing when reflected in water.
9. A sympathetic formal touch - a well made stone wall, paving of appropriate colour and outline, or sculpture - can bring solidity to the fine foliage of many Australian plants.
10. Australian rainforest plants continue to gain popularity because of their colourful new foliage, flowers and fruit; with glossy green leaves of medium size they blend well with exotic plants.
11. There are many small-leaved Australian plants (eg. lilly pillies, melaleucas, leptospermums, westringias) which can be pruned and treated formally for hedges or even topiary, to be used for example as a focal point among less formal shrubs.
12. From the variety of Australian shrubs now available, such as the range of beautiful grevilleas, it is possible to create wonderful massed or layered garden beds with colour schemes which can be vivid or subtle. Remember to tip prune.
13. The rapid growth of some large shrubs or small trees, in particular some acacias, is of benefit in planting for succession - it enables them to be used as 'nurse' plants for a screen and for shelter while slower growing plants are being established.
14. A garden of low shrubs (a metre or less, pruned if necessary to maintain this height) gives an open and spacious feel to the garden while several small eucalypts with fine trunks could provide a vertical element.
15. The variety of foliage of Australian plants is amazing, in form texture, colour - from large and dramatic to tiny, delicate leaves - and many attractive effects can be achieved with foliage alone.

Diana Snape Vic.

Something Old, Something New

Not referring to a bride's requirement for a wedding, but a change to the garden.

Recently Norm decided (as he often does) that one part of the garden didn't quite work design wise (*see original photo) So, after musing about it for some time he made the decision to pull up the existing pavers at the front of the house and replace with larger pavers which would then extend the paved section to meet the brick wall of the house. The existing seat that had been placed about 1 metre out was to be moved back to sit against this same brick wall.

After pricing new larger pavers and having an environmental conscience attack about energy use and recycling, he decided to retain the original pavers and buy only the extra required to extend the paved

area. At this time providence stepped in and supplied a gift from a friend, of Ellis Stone's "Australian Garden Design" which, although dated 1971, gave Norm some fresh ideas and another approach.

The pavers were pulled up and laid alternately to give a fresh new look (originally side by side) and a space left in the paved area for plantings of *Brachyscome multifida* and the fine, grass-like but attractive *Lomandra sp (longiflora or multiflora)* which also has a very pleasing shape. Some strategically placed rocks in between plantings came from a similar theme in Ellis Stone's book.

Plantings under the seat of *Brachyscome m.* and *Scaevola amuela* with the original *Dianella* species still popping up, look quite good (*Dianella* refuses to go – to Norm's annoyance and my pleasure). All plantings are doing well and the new design has given the front garden a much-needed lift, without stretching our environmental ethics or our budget. The centre section left out meant less new pavers needed - thank you Ellis Stone. (*see latest photo)

* indicates photo(s) are on website, see FYI section.

Maureen Webb NSW

Design..... and sticking to it!

There is nothing quite like a rapidly approaching garden visit, whether through the OGS, a garden club or the local APS branch to focus ones entire energy, mental and physical on the why and the how of the garden.

This year Yanderra is stumping up again, it has been three years since it was last in and there have been quite a few changes and of course we have had two wonderful years of rain during which the plants have actually grown

There is the normal necessity of some areas needing to be completely overhauled, that is, most of the plants pulled out and new ones, quite possibly different species, replanted. I find I need the imminent deadline to encourage me to make the hard decisions. I am an unwilling nettle grasper both metaphorically and literally, I don't prune hard enough either!! Too prone to giving malingerers their second chance - probably due to a combination of sloth and misplaced pity. That said, I am always very pleasantly surprised by how successful the post nettle- grasp changes in the garden are.

In a never ending battle to achieve the ongoing design one holds in the mind's eye or for the more organised amongst us, in one's hand, many hours are spent organising garden hoses or eucalypt branches as indicators for future appropriately- shaped edging for garden beds, grass swathes, new paths and so on; or, wandering around staring rather vacantly at various parts of the garden, pondering how they can be improved upon or, spending an inordinate amount of time placing newly acquired plants in their correct [horticulturally and design wise] spots - creating and maintaining a coherent design requires a certain dogged persistence!

Before an Open Garden, when my heart is left behind (if only momentarily!) and a hard and calculating eye is turned on the garden there is an unwelcome realisation that, in the design aspect particularly, there may be something lacking. Ah! Total objectivity about one's own garden is, I think, extraordinarily difficult, however I think the answer may lie in the lack of simplicity in the plant palette, here, in my garden the KISS principle (keep it simple stupid), always deceptively difficult, seems to have succeeded, in places anyway, in eluding me.

Barb Buchanan's article, In-decision (NL 63), touched a nerve about the difficulty of sticking to a design plan it is indeed as she says, *all about the plants* and although I have never thought of myself as a plantsman's bootlace, there is still within, a desire to grow, experiment, learn and enjoy the plants which appeal (by form, colour, texture, scent and/or provenance), fit my gardening philosophy and which will (hopefully) grow well in the prevailing conditions. .

There is also, as Barb pointed out, the need to accommodate and design for other changes in the garden, apart from the removal of recalcitrant plants. The words "design" and "change" do not seem immediately to have a logical fit. How often do we start out to create a certain garden style and stick to it? Plant experimentation (or by another name, trial and error, often an interesting and simultaneously frustrating part of gardening with Australian Plants) and garden design would seem to make strange bedfellows, add unexpected, prolonged or sudden environmental change on a macro or micro level (again, often a part of gardening in Australia) and there is definitely a crowd!

With respect to Jeff Howes' comment in the Correspondence section of this NL, I think it is extremely difficult, even for the most talented designers amongst us, to forecast how a garden will look in 15 years time – unless it's a very formal, garden using a limited palette of tried and true species or consists of annual and perennials bedded out a la municipal parks. The trees that are now shading out the sunny spots in Barbara's garden may well have been necessary as a windbreak and shelter for lower growing species, possibly they grew taller than the label said, possibly they look magnificent and are worth sacrificing the few sunny spots available, or, possibly they were a mistake from the beginning – like my row of very tall silky oaks lining the driveway – a part of the early design that was not successful - in gardening, as in life, 20/20 hindsight or years of experience are valuable tools at the beginning.

Other factors, not necessarily pertaining to purely Australian plants, that may influence the implementation of a set garden design are : favoured plants which don't suit the prevailing conditions (which themselves may have changed - temporarily or permanently for a thousand reasons) and alternatives (possibly compromising the original design style), must be found; specimen plants die, leaving large gaps in important "design" areas of the garden or the human element the humble gardener must make his or her own adaptations to the always variable human constraints of time, money and energy .

Whilst we don't become its slave, preferring style over fashion, which by definition changes often, the latter will certainly influence our choice of plant palette by dictating what is readily available at the nurseries. When visiting justly famous gardens it takes superhuman discipline [of the type shared by elite athletes and excellent designers!} to remain untouched and not to want to try and recreate a similar picture at home..again a form of experimentation with design as well as plants. If it is a garden that has stood the test of time then there is no harm in learning all the lessons it has to teach you and attempting an adaption at home. Experimentation is how we learn and there will always be a need for flexibility for all of the reasons above...When everything is considered it is not, as they say, that it's a wonder there are so few well designed gardens but that there are so many! Garden design certainly earns its place amongst the Fine Arts - an art achieved by working with living things and an extra dimension (that of time) thrown in for good measure.

Jo Hambrett NSW

PLANTS

Jean O'Neill's Australian Garden in England

Jean O'Neill's obituary appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald in August this year; it was a lot longer than that which appears below but I thought members may be interested in the horticultural part of this energetic woman's long life and the appropriateness of her earthly exit at a great old age. May I be so fortunate!

“Jean O'Neill was a horticulturist and garden historian of international repute with a passion for Australian flora. She bushwalked from the Tasmanian highlands to the rainforests of North Queensland, hunting for botanical specimens. Her garden in south England became a mecca for botanists who marvelled at her ability to raise subtropical plants in cold northern latitudes. She was a vice president of the Garden History Society (U.K.), the recipient of a R.H.S. gold medal and widely published, including in the Journal of Natural History.

She was friends with the botanical artist Margaret Stone (Flora Tasmanica paintings) and Dame Elisabeth Murdoch. Aged 88 she made her last visit to Australia to see a specimen of *Eucalyptus recurve*— a shrub so rare only 2 are known to exist. Her last botanical trip was to the Amazon in her 90th year. She had just repotted her Wollemi Pine before dying of a stroke aged 93.

What a perfect way for a gardener to go!! JH

Visits to Country Gardens

As a resident of the Sydney suburbs I am always awestruck when we visit country gardens and wonder how, amidst the generosity of rolling hills and valleys, the owners select a site for their house and a design for their gardens; both of which must meld within the surrounding bushscape. Such an enormous task, where do they begin? I think of Deidre and Ivor Morton's wonderful Woodford garden and the house they built on the ledge of rock overlooking a narrow valley within the Blue Mountains. On its roof is an abundant bush garden and, on their land, stretching down from the ledge, the rich forest soil enables trees and waratahs to flourish. It has all become a part of the bush. I think of the visit to “Cloudy Hill” on our Orange weekend away; where Fiona and Alex explained their delight in finding such a rolling spread with views to significant landmarks. They had sited the house, at that stage still under construction, and had built two sheds, one for accommodation and one for tools and machinery. They had learnt a lot about their soil and conditions from their early driveway plantings. Then came the earth works necessary to construct retaining walls, driveways, garden beds as well as a propagation house. It goes on and on. They called Shirley Pipitone to design a garden bed around the front of the house and now, *all* they have to do is construct the sweeps of beds and plant a multitude of plants! In the August NL was Ted and Jennie Finnie's letter describing their delightful sounding “Eagles Drift” in the Upper Hunter. The house was sited for them, but needed major repairs. They had to learn about the soil and weather conditions and make a general plan for the garden that would withstand the extremes that Nature threw at it. I wondered if they would invite us up on a tour?

Then in October we visited Gordon and Marie's garden of 10 ha near Pacific Palms. They have chosen a portion of a wide dish valley surrounded by the tall forests of Wallingat National Park. Gordon described the discovery, following heavy rain, of a creek that wound through the property and the subsequent construction of a lake that is now the focal point of the property (see NL 63 and photos on the website). The surrounding vegetation is a wonderful mix of wattles, pultaneas and a couple of varieties of gahnia, all in yellow tones, with dianellas as a contrast in mid blue. These plants are

remnants of those slashed from the valley floor in order to provide grazing land for stock. There is an extensive list of indigenous plants, that Gordon has added, which are yet to assert their presence; again it is always the **site** and **soil** that will dictate what grows and subsequently works. What staggering projects they all excitedly take on. Many, many thanks for your efforts and amazing success.

Caroline Gunter NSW

BOOK REVIEW

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS for gardens in the sun: Rodger Elliot

Published by Rosenberg Press 2008 rrp: \$29.95

Previously published in 2003 as Australian Plants for Mediterranean climate gardens, this newly updated version addresses both climate change and global warming in emphasising the now essential point of gardening within one's prevailing conditions, rather than battling them. The author has also updated name changes, and don't be put off if your garden is in the shade, for he has noted degrees of shade and climate variables.

Over 100 plants are presented on 160 pages of quarto format; under the headings of groundcovers, tufting and clumping, climbers and ramblers, shrubs small and tall and trees. Each plant has one or two excellent colour pictures and there are quite a few regular as well as some interesting cultivars and varieties to meet.

Every plant is charmingly and personally presented and his botanical descriptions, notes on original habitat, preferred soil type and height and width details provide us with the information needed for selection and use. Often a couple of species are offered that perform well in the same conditions.

What I appreciated most were his notes on "picture making", the combinations of plants, albeit from this publication only, that could make a feature(s) in the garden. Opening chapters on the natural landscape, global concerns for gardeners and cultural notes serve as valuable reminders.

Indexes and guides relating to plants for specific soils, growing conditions, flowers and foliage, attracting wildlife and a glossary with plant name derivations are most helpful.

It's a book to use if you are new to native plants, give to someone who is expressing an interest in them or simply to interest a committed native plant person in new additions to their garden.

Caroline Gunter NSW

MEETINGS

NEXT SYDNEY MEETING:

Sunday 5th April 2009:

Many thanks to Jeff Howes for coordinating our next garden visit. Please contact Jeff or me by 31st March 2009 if you are attending.

This meeting will be a great opportunity to visit and discuss the design aspects of two large native gardens located in the Camden area, south of Sydney. These two gardens are also open as part of the 2008/09 Australian Open Garden Scheme (AOGS). Hopefully, we may also see some of our Canberra and South Coast /Southern Highland members as well.

Garden 1

'Blackstump Natives'

Meeting time: 10.30 am

Owners: Penny and Tony Sexton

Size: 0.6 ha (1.5 ac)

Cost: As this is the weekend that this garden is open as part of the AOGS, you will need to pay \$5.50 per person entry fee. You can purchase tea/coffee and scones if you feel like morning tea.

Description: Inspiring park-like garden, cleverly laid out using raised beds and planted with a wide range of Australian plants, many unusual.

Garden 2

'Silky Oaks'

Meeting time: After we leave Blackstump Natives, we travel west in convoy (led by Jeff Howes.) On arrival we can have lunch in a beautiful covered rotunda surrounded by many native plants. You will need to bring your own lunch, refreshments and chairs.

Owners: Margaret and Peter Olde

Cost: There is no charge for this garden.

Description: Many rare Australian plants and one of the largest collection of Grevilleas in Australia thrive here. As these plants are all growing in full sun, they are being presented at their best. There is also an extensive rainforest and fern house.

REPORT on our last meeting at the Rowland's property, Pacific Palms, 5.10.08

See also, Caroline Gunter's article in Plants section, as well as NL 63.

After purchasing 10 hectares near the Myall Lakes on the mid-north coast, Gordon and Marie Rowland constructed a sizeable lagoon 120 x 80 metres, for wetland birds, and a driveway, both were completed in December 2003.

200 Australian Bass fingerlings and 100 dam size yabbies were added to the lagoon and water lilies planted. (the water lilies have survived despite the yabbies).

3½ years ago they started planting the large trees on the block, *Angophora costata* (a favourite), *Euc. propinqua* (Grey Gum) and *Euc. microcorys* (Tallow Wood). In 2005, their eco-friendly house was built and 2½ years ago they commenced regeneration of the central area and replanting of indigenous species.

A formal garden near the house was planted with tree ferns, tufted grasses and ground covers, including *Brachycome multifida* with very pretty pink flowers which grows there naturally. The formal gardens around the house blend in cleverly with the surrounding bushland. Gordon's extensively planted species (except *Gardenia augusta*, *Grevillea banksii*, *Nymphaea capensis*, *Stenocarpus sinuatus*, Epidendrum orchids and the kitchen garden fruit and vegetables) all occur naturally in one or more of the three local National parks.

Despite some very dry periods, the trees and plants have had very healthy growth over this short time and it will be interesting to see how the garden matures over the next five years.

Many thanks for the opportunity to visit a great garden.

Michele Pymble & Jeff Howes NSW

I was very sorry indeed not to be able to make it up to see Gordon and Marie's garden, unfortunately a nasty winter flu and little time meant a last minute change in plans – never mind it is something to look forward too later on. A nice lot of our Sydney members made the trip and were amply rewarded no doubt – to them, many thanks for supporting your Group and as always, to the generous gardeners who invite us into their private space.

JH

Next Melbourne Meeting – Feb 15th, 2009

It became too difficult to organise a meeting at the end of 2008 so apologies for all members expecting a Xmas meeting. We will start the year with a picnic followed by a visit to the Australian plant garden at Cranbourne Botanic Gardens. For those of you who would like to get together for lunch please meet at the Stringybark picnic area at around 12.30. If there are sufficient numbers we may discuss the year's program over lunch. If you are not able to come for lunch but would like to tour the gardens with us then please meet at the entry at 2pm. We would like members to bring their cameras – digital if possible – so that we can all try our hand at taking good pictures of the gardens. Taking pictures may help us discuss the design of these gardens!

How should we spend that money?

Diana has not only raised the issue of the group having a lot of money with no clear idea of how to spend it (which she believes we should have) but she has also listed some suggested ideas of how the money might be used. These ideas have come from members over the last few years. For some time now I have thought that the money should be used for another publication – but what should it be about. The Melbourne group has discussed a publication which focuses on small gardens, but so far

we have done nothing to move such a project along. Whenever we have discussed another book there has certainly been an expressed wish that the new book/magazine is big on photographs rather than text – i.e. the photographs are the starting point and the text should be completely referenced to them.

Now I would like to suggest that whatever form the publication takes it should track some gardens – private and maybe even public – over the seasons of the year rather than focus on small gardens. I think this might work best on a State by State basis for climatic and logistical reasons. The decision may be to select a core number of gardens from town and country that are depicted at different times over the year with a range of other gardens being used to highlight their beauty at a particular time of year. No matter what the final format ends up being it all depends on having a selection of high quality pictures as a starting point. Ideally the home gardener would also be the picture taker because no-one except the garden-owner is going to be able to track the garden over the seasons capturing it at its best. Failing that, the garden-owner may know of someone – friend or amateur photographer – who would be willing to put in the time – at the appropriate time – to take a series of pictures. It is also possible for the group to pay for pictures to be taken by a professional photographer as there could be issues with regards to the standard of photographs – how to ensure a consistently good standard of photographs from any number of photographers. In the meantime if members are not already taking (digital) pictures of their gardens year around then I suggest you add this one to your list of New Year resolutions.

The Melbourne group will undoubtedly discuss this idea at their next meeting. I hope other groups will do the same and give some reaction to the proposal in a future Newsletter.

Chris Larkin Vic.

TREASURERS REPORT

To our new members:

A very warm welcome and may you be prolific contributors to the newsletter.

Sharon Percy, Joy Cook, Maree Avendano, John Andrews, Janina Pezzarini, Ellen Hrebenuk, and Neal Learne

Membership renewals

As at 01/11/2008 the following have paid since the last NL and are financial for the 2008/09 FY

SGAP Queensland Region (membership for two NLs). APS South Australia Region. Helen Van Reit+ Fiona Johnson. Jonathan and Georgina Persse. APS Tasmania. Rosemary Verbeeton+ APS Keilor Plains. Tony and Brenda Moore. Ingrid Adler+ Dominic Della Libera. Lowrie Smith. Geoffrey Long. Peter Shannon. Margaret James. Alik Zouliou+ Margaret Clarke. Don and Thelma Peterson. Ann Raine. Hazel and John Sullivan. APS Armidale District. Peter and Wilma Garnham. Dorothy Cassidy. Wildflower Society of Westren Australia. Nicky Zaner Ian

Anderson. APS Maroondah Group. Beverley Fox. Rosalind Walcott. Maureen Webb+ Betty Denton. Wendy and David Evans. Tamara and Ian Cox+ Pam Yarra. Gloria Thomlinson. Robyn Diamond. Michael Pymble+ Judith Baghurst. APS Victoria. Carol Bentley. APS Warrnambol. Freya Parkes. Deirdre Morton+/- Beverley Hanson. Maureen Mallard. Maree Avendano. Christine Cullen. Pascale Jacq. John Andrews. Barbara and Paul Kennedy. Joy Cook. Els Wynen. NSW Study Group Liason Officer (2 paper copies and 2 by email) Dora Berenyi Janina Pezzarini Diana Leggat/Martin Rigg+ Bryan Loft Doug and Margaret McIver+

Please note:

+ after your name indicates you have paid for the FYs 2007/08 and 2009/10.

+/- after your name indicates you have paid for the FYs 2007/08, 2009/10 and 2010/11.

An important correction

Diana Snape was not the only one to donate book royalties to the GDSG; others were- Chris Larkin, Barbara Buchanan , Danie Ondinea and Jo Hambrett.

Donations – many thanks,\$10 from SGAP QLD.

Our financial year 2007/08 finances have been audited and a copy sent to the ASGAP Study Group co-ordinator. The Term deposit earning 8% interest is due in Feb 2009 and will be reinvested until we decide on some worthwhile projects to use some our funds on.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

Balance of cashbook as at 1 July 2007 **\$10,844**

Receipts

Membership subscriptions	1028
Royalties	3210
Bank interest- main account	71

Total receipts \$4,309

Payments

Newsletter-Photocopying	675
-Printing, postage etc	889
Sundries	83
Membership fee	30
Transfer to term deposit	6000
Study tour expenses	165

Total payments \$7,842

Balance of cash book as at 30 June 2008 \$7,311

Member's funds as at 30 June 2008

Westpac cheque account statement as at 30 June 2008	\$8,104
Less unrepresented cheques	
#200034	(165)
#200036	(628)

Balance of cashbook as at 30 June 2008 \$7,311

Westpac term deposit balance as at 30 June 2008 \$30,386

Total funds available \$38,490

AUDIT OPINION of the A S. G. A. P GARDEN DESIGN STUDY GROUP

I have reviewed the financial statements supplied to me for the above named organization and have carried out a transaction review of receipts and payments, a bank reconciliation and also confirmed the balance of funds available via third party sources. The funds available as at 30 June 2008 do exist and are invested in a term deposit and main operating cheque account.

I have not performed any checks on members in terms of numbers as at 30 June 2008.

B. John Dooley

CA #75137

5 October 2008

