



# GARDEN DESIGN STUDY GROUP

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**Newsletter**  
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**66**

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Dear Members,

Welcome to the May Newsletter packed with a plethora of inspirational and informative articles!

The Correspondence section continues to expand, there is lots there to read, learn and, most importantly, respond to.

The extreme weather conditions, leading up to and following the terrible Victorian fires, and its effect on the garden have understandably occupied both Diana Snape and Chris Larkin in this issue (Plants section).

ACRA has sent us a letter thanking the GDSG for its donation of \$1750 (see NL 65).

I am in touch with two Indexers so hopefully it wont be long (depending on fees charged!) before some, at least, of our Newsletters are indexed. I dearly would have loved an Index when wondering where I could put my fingers quickly on the many excellent articles written about Formality in Australian plant gardens over the last 15 years (Design section)!

A *final* (promise) Font decision for all my long suffering contributors – Arial regular 11 please for text, size12 for headings.....many thanks... in anticipation!

I have the great pleasure of accompanying The Friends of the Gardens NSW on a trip to Japan in May. I shall be writing an article for them (and printing it subsequently in our NL) on connections between Australian plant gardens and Japanese gardens – Diana has started the ball rolling with a great article on just that.

And the very best of luck to members Margaret Lee and Judy Baghurst in their quest to start a S.A. branch of the GDSG. How wonderful to have nearly all the states/territories represented – come on Tassie, WA and NT...get cracking!

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#### TREASURERS REPORT

## CORRESPONDENCE

Better late than never! We suggest that the Group sponsors a high quality magazine for members - also available to others at a cost - featuring garden design topics with stunning full-colour illustrations. Such a magazine ( journal, bulletin, etc.) would be published regularly (twice-yearly, quarterly,etc.) to highlight topics of current interest. It would also provide an incentive for the many photographers in our Group to submit their images to a publishing panel, focussing on specific topics for each magazine. It may be desirable to have professional guidance for such a project, but allowing for the assistance of skilled members wishing to be involved. We feel that this approach would have direct benefit to all members (who would look forward to regularly receiving their magazine in the mail ) as well as being an excellent promotional medium for the Group to reach out to a wider "audience" interested in gardening and garden design. It could be displayed and sold at all APS activities (meetings, lectures, garden visits, plant shows,etc.) to encourage membership of, and increased involvement in, our Group.

**Wilma & Peter Garnham Vic.**

I have a new garden with a recently built house. The area is 1.5 ha with only one old yellow box (*E.melliodora*), girth about 6 feet on the site. I have recently completed a "Knowing and Growing Australian Plants" course at TAFE.

Fiona Johnson of " Cloudy Hill" at Blayney suggested your group as helpful.

**Jan Baillie NSW.**

Members may be interested in a great article on the Victorian Sustainable Gardening Australia web site at [http://www.sgaonline.org.au/info\\_birds.html](http://www.sgaonline.org.au/info_birds.html). It is all about 'Bringing Birds Back the The Burbs' A great read loaded with useful information.

**Jeff Howes NSW.**

I would like to incorporate ecology as a running theme in the Newsletter and Study Group. Perhaps have a member profile section in the Newsletter where a member introduces themselves and their particular passion within garden design.

**Daniel Rowland NSW.**

Many thanks for the newsletter - full of great ideas, as usual.

Lawrie Smith's design principles and planting techniques were succinct and pertinent to all.

Diana's praise of *Eremophilas* is well justified. They are at last coming into their own. Those I planted here in the 1960s are still growing well. (*E. maculata* forms and *E. glabra*). Never watered artificially in their lives, and lots of root competition.

However, those were the days when we had occasional rains and the soil was not as dust-dry deep down. When I'm planting them these days I have to water them during their first year. Some of the "pretty" ones I planted in the 70s succumbed, but I think this may have been due to wet feet in winter.

*E. weldii* and *E. drummondii* make great borders, and they have lots of competition. I think *E. weldii* could be trimmed regularly and be the new "blue-eyed box hedge" which never needs watering. (in our conditions, that is).

I support the ACRA donation. It's very necessary.

Sorry I haven't voted, as I'm in several minds about what to spend the money on. However, I think the scholarship idea would be too complicated. We would need much more capital if it was to be a regular thing. If it were to rotate around the States (or Regions) we'd be dealing with different institutions each time. It would be onerous for a committee which would be needed. If we were to go down that track, it might be easier to give it to AFF or a Landscape Architecture School to administer. For many reasons, I think this would be fraught with problems.

The book idea could be OK. However, we need to acknowledge that Australia is a huge country with vastly different needs and do we really need any more books that deal with the east coast? Even the plants listed in the newsletter for Canberra gardens would frizzle here.

Pt. Augusta and Whyalla are another ball game altogether. Would it be an idea to have basic design principles, and then a chapter for each region with hints on soil preparation, micro-climate, suitable plants etc.? I know the population is greater in the east and that's where most of the book buyers would be, but it's so frustrating. The nursery industry doesn't help by advertising all these "drought-hardy kangaroo paws" etc. What a joke.... I musn't start on this!

I enjoyed John Walter's "Future of Cultivars

**Margaret Lee SA.**

Thank you for your thought provoking article," Design ..... and sticking to it". It was very timely as I was reflecting on the survival of my dry shady garden in the depths of Melbourne's drought. I feel that design and change with prolonged environmental change (drought) do make logical "bedfellows". The drought & scarcity of water as well as changes in wildlife have forced me to look at what plants are surviving as I redesign part of the garden. The lack of small birds (wrens, thornbills, pardalotes &

eastern spinebills) and frogs has reinforced the importance of growing indigenous plants to maintain a habitat for them and other wildlife. Fortunately the larger birds (including king parrots) are frequent visitors to the water in the garden as well as the bees and the butterflies are always present. And last week it was a very pleasant surprise and reassuring to find frogs in my watering cans.

In a climate of bigger houses & smaller gardens, often with removal of bush (as we have experienced with a nearby five acre block), good garden design should incorporate ethical responsibility to the environment, together with artistic design, experimentation, opportunities of the site plus individual expression.

**Pam Yarra Vic.**

I'm working with the Invasive Species Council on a proposed TV story about growing local and bio-regional Australian plants, and the many benefits they bring to gardeners, wildlife and the environment. The ISC Policy Officer Dr Carol Booth and, we hope, World Wildlife Fund-Australia, will contribute a scientific perspective, particularly on plants liable to jump the garden fence and become invasive.

We're looking for an "Average Joe" or "Average Jane" in each capital city or state, with a beautiful garden that features mainly species indigenous to that particular region. Each garden should be available for photo shoots, and Average Joe/Jane willing to provide photos and speak to the media. If you can advise us or contribute in any way, I look forward to hearing from you.

**Gordon Rowland NSW.**

I agree that more professional participation would be great. However, I find that many landscape architects / designers, both new and old, seem to be fixed on minimalist design and inappropriate (exotic) species selection. I suspect that this is basically caused by the need to ensure that selected plants are available, that they have been proven in horticulture, that they suit clients' wishes (and demands!) and unfortunately designers do not always take (or have) the time to investigate alternative species selections.

I know that the only way I can use many of the native species we know to be successful and appropriate is to organise plant pregrowing contracts several years in advance of planting to ensure that the required species are available in optimum quantity and quality.

If the GDSG establish a database of species it will need to be carefully organised to meet the potential users design criteria and to be appropriate for the various climatic regions of Oz. Several of us in SGAP SEQ have been considering this as a way to influence garden designers to use native plants here but we are still in the formative stages of the data base process – we really have not advanced very far at all!!!

**Lawrie Smith Qld.**

*I think Lawrie's comments above, dovetail with Jeff Howe's article "Are Native Plants increasing in Popularity" (NL65). In it, Jeff suggested the possibility of a pamphlet distributed to the industry on the care of Australian plants. Lawrie's suggestion of a well researched regional data base of suitable species, their requirements and supply goes a bit further in the push to promote our plants and reduce possible negative experiences of professional and amateur gardener/designers alike.*

Looking forward to ideas for landscaping in small gardens with plants suitable for Brisbane. I think it is important for the garden to be attractive to passers by or it becomes a turn off for growing Australian plants.

**Judy & Alan Lovelock Qld.**

*\*\*The best book on small garden design ( among many other things) that I have in my library is "Australian Planting Design" by Paul Thompson ( Lothian Press) JH*

Wilma and I recently visited this garden which was open as part of the Australian Open Garden Scheme. We thought that a description of its spectacular design may be useful for the Newsletter.

Lubra Bend Homestead at Yarra Glen in Victoria's beautiful Yarra Valley is the site for an exciting new Australian plant garden designed by Phil Johnson. It sits atop a small hill overlooking the Valley. This outstanding design features massive rocks and boulders surrounding a large, natural-looking pool complete with small waterfalls and cascades. A wide range of Australian plants chosen to withstand dry conditions complement the carefully placed rocks. No watering has been done in this garden since planting.

The vast pool is fed from rainwater collected off the house roof, with the stormwater overflow channeled via a cascade and dry creek bed to a wetland down the slope. This absorbs most of the run-off from the house and drive, finishing with a wide stairway to a lake at a lower level again - this is currently being established. Any further run-off from the lake will feed directly into the Yarra River below.

This is a very large garden - the whole property occupies one hectare (2.5 acres). Trees existing around the homestead prior to this project included old oaks, cypresses and remnant eucalypts. These have all been integrated into the overall design. A vegetable garden, small orchard and a croquet lawn also form part of the property.

This outstanding Australian plant dry garden with its wonderful rock and water features is a highlight of the Australian Open Garden Scheme in Victoria. The owners of this magnificent property deserve great credit for allowing it to be opened to the public at this early stage of its development. It has experienced the harshest conditions since its inception and is now very close to the devastating bushfires sweeping through Victoria. We believe that the garden's designer, Phil Johnson, has shown that he truly is a rock star!

**Wilma & Peter Garnham Vic.**

\*\* see the Garnham's photos of Lubra Bend on the GDSG website.

I would love to be involved in your meetings but live 450 km from Melbourne in NW Victoria. Is there a way that I could participate via internet cam? I often think that it would be great if the GDSG could be involved in the design of revegetation areas as it is just gardening on a broad scale. Basic design principals could be adopted by landcare projects to enhance the final visual outcome. For example if revegetation projects along road sides can be made to look attractive then perhaps this would help advocate the use of Australian plants in local gardens.

Railway reserves, especially in Melbourne are an eyesore! I would love to lobby the people responsible for these pieces of land and landscape them as they do highways, freeways and roadsides.

In Manangatang ( pop.350) we are developing a Mallee Garden in the main street of our town. It would be fantastic for our morale to have the expertise of the GDSG behind us. We have around \$10,000 funding for garden materials, a group of keen volunteers and some expertise,( including Russell Wait author of " Australia's Eremophilas" ).

**Noreen Jones Vic.**

The article abstracted below can be viewed at this link:  
[http://www.wigandia.com/pdf/GH\\_garden\\_article.pdf](http://www.wigandia.com/pdf/GH_garden_article.pdf) <

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## EXPANDING AESTHETIC BOUNDARIES OF AUSTRALIAN GARDEN DESIGN

Georgia Harvey

First published in *Traffic: An Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Journal*, University  
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### Abstract

This article examines the development of Australian garden styles since colonisation to the present day. Including an analysis of gardens which have responded to the environmental peculiarities of the continent or to emerging notions of nation and post-colonial identity.

It also discusses how these influences might extend to the development of uniquely Australian garden design styles of aesthetic interest and importance.

It offers an historical overview of gardens which have utilised, both out of choice and necessity, native flora or other plant material suited to location, while countering arguments that 'native' is best (and indeed, rejecting such terms as native - inexact and unhelpful).

Ultimately this is an examination of how issues of sustainability and identity can be reflected in Australian gardens in exciting and innovative ways.

**Jeff Howes NSW.**



## DESIGN

### Australian and Japanese gardens

I'm sure Jo will enjoy her trip enormously and come back with lots more knowledge than I'll ever have! I've only visited a few Japanese gardens in Australia, including the one at Cowra, but I've always loved the simplicity of the style and the respect given to plants. I've also read about Japanese gardens but the following are just my thoughts.

I think there are some similarities as well as great differences between these and Australian gardens. Similarities include the presence of rocks, a feature of both garden styles. The difference lies in how they are used. In Japanese gardens, much is symbolic rather than natural. An individual rock is carefully chosen for its shape and is likely to be given a name illustrating its significance or purpose. Rocks of different materials (granite, basalt or sandstone) might be used in the one garden. In most designed Australian gardens, rocks are placed to create a natural effect. An individual rock has no particular significance but is blended with others of the same type, as they would be in a natural landscape. Ideally this would be whatever stone occurs naturally in that area. Rocks could be used in a bank or slope, in a dry area, or associated with water. A more formal stone wall might be built in either style of garden.

In both Australian and Japanese gardens, the use of water is common, again with symbolism involved in the latter. In both types there could be a somewhat formal pool (with water-plants and fish) or creek. In Australian gardens, it's probably more likely that an attempt be made to create a natural-looking pool or creek, a dry creek bed or ephemeral water area. Where rain is becoming ever scarcer, shallow dish areas or curved swales serve the useful purpose of holding rainwater when it does come, allowing it to soak slowly into the ground.

Japanese gardens often feature open gravelled areas, which may be raked daily to create patterns of swirling lines representing water or other aspects of the landscape. Open gravel areas are becoming more popular in Australian gardens too, especially in areas where the ongoing drought and threat of fire make it a practical surface for open areas close to houses. However I can't picture most of us raking our gravel areas regularly, let alone raking patterns that can't be walked on.

The traditional palette of plants used in Japanese gardens does not of course include the Australian plants we'd use in an Australian garden. However their respect for the qualities of each plant and the attention they pay to the placement is something we could well try to copy in designing our gardens. Of course, the smaller the garden area and the smaller the number of plants, the easier this is to do. In a large garden, landscaped on a larger scale, where a mound of earth can represent a mountain, individual pruned plants are often replaced by pruned hedges.

In the extreme, Japanese treatment of plants is a very formal business, although the result can have a natural quality. First comes the selection of the right plant for a particular spot, then pruning and careful shaping to achieve the wanted effect. I don't think many of us have the inclination (or time) to do very much of this but a little can be worthwhile. I certainly think, depending on plant choices, that some pruning and shaping of some plants is probably beneficial to achieve a satisfying balance in an Australian garden. Defined shapes can provide a pleasing contrast to more free-flowing forms.

Very careful choice, placement and treatment of plants are generally more likely in a courtyard-size Australian garden (though Chris Larkin, for one, takes great care in her large garden). There are not yet established ways or conventions of how to use particular Australian plants in design and there are just so many different plants we can choose from. For Japanese, many plants have a particular significance, for example bamboo, cherry blossom and decorative small maples. For us, eucalypts or acacias may be important but then there's such a range of them, with so much variety, there can really be no formulaic use of them in design. This gives us great freedom but also makes it much more difficult. Then all those uncertainties in the growth of individual plants we've talked about recently give our designs an element of unpredictability - gambling, even. Maybe that's appropriate for Australians.

**Diana Snape Vic.**

## Formality & the Australian Garden

Gordon Rowland contacted me following the report on his garden, in NL 64, by Michele Pymble and Jeff Howes.

He was surprised that the word “ formal” had been used to describe a part of his garden, writing,

*“ ... .. by "formal", I mean straight lines, clipped hedges and flat manicured lawns, none of which apply to any part of our garden.....”*

I asked both Michele and Jeff to reply to Gordon, as the concept of Formal as used in garden design using Australian plants, remains an important one to discuss and potentially help reclarify.

Co-incidentally it was raised in the discussion of the first garden we visited at our last meeting ( see Meetings section below) and predictably, a lively debate ensued, with varying opinions as to what the word Formal entailed.

Barbara Buchanan has also raised the subject in her N.E. Vic Nov. 08 report, (see Meetings, this issue)

Hopefully, as a result of Gordon’s query, further newsletter correspondence and discussion will be stimulated.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our members must first try to visualise Gordon’s property in order to understand why I used the word formal. Except for the rear courtyard and the relatively small area around the house, the rest of his property can 'best' be described as natural bush, even though many local species have been planted out in places.

In using the word 'formal' I was trying to imply/describe the landscaped rear courtyard and the area between the house and the dam; that is it is 'formal' in comparison to the rest of the 10 hectares. In other words, I was trying to say that this is planted out to his design.

Perhaps Gordon could write a few words on how he best describes that part of his property, that we loosely labelled as 'formal'?

He has raised an interesting point of how one defines the word formal.

**Jeff Howes NSW**

Gordon's comments were very useful in stimulating thoughts about what constitutes an Australian formal garden. Perhaps we should have said 'more formal' as compared to the rest of the property, which he is in the process of regenerating to its original vegetative state. In trying to get a better understanding I have re-read some of Gordon's notes from a seminar of his I attended several years ago. One of his comments was:

"The Australian environment, light, seasons, soils, climate, rainfall patterns and wildlife, all differ from the British Isles and Europe, and from every other continent. By looking beyond conventional stereotypes, exotic plants and formal lawns, we discover a landscape ethic ideally suited to our circumstances"

We should apply this philosophy to our concept of the conventional styles of landscaping. When we refer to a formal garden, we shouldn't feel the need to conform to the image of a stereotypical European formal garden.

In our group we are endeavouring to create our own Australian garden styles and I don't think we should adhere rigidly to a European concept. The dictionary defines a formal garden as 'characterised by a regular and symmetrical design'; or 'a sense of form'.

We can achieve this with our Australian plants, as I thought Gordon had, without resorting to topiary, ornamental hedges and manicured lawns. Careful pruning to ensure the plants keep an attractive shape, considering the effects of combined colour schemes and some creative hard landscaping can certainly produce a formal garden - in the Australian sense.

First and foremost our gardening should be fun. If we try to be too pedantic about descriptive styles for gardens, using our unruly Australian plants, we'll become disillusioned.

**Michele Pymble NSW**

I think Michele has made some very important points in her reply above.

There is a need to be able to describe our Australian plant gardens, using the word formal, without the image of "straight lines, clipped hedges and flat manicured lawns", that Gordon referred to in his email, automatically springing to mind.

As Michele suggests, an Australian plant garden, demonstrating some aspects of formality, and described as such should be achievable without necessarily demonstrating any, or all, of the ubiquitous formality markers - derived from a long and rich history of European gardening - mentioned by Gordon.

Whilst hopefully not confusing the issue, I shall stick my neck out and say, in my humble opinion, all the best designed gardens (worldwide) have made some

concession to Formality within their boundaries. Be it clipping, plant or other ornamentation placement, repetition, not naturally occurring water/rock features, terracing, repetition of form, colour, texture, straight lines, edges and vistas and so on.

Please lets keep this interesting discussion alive!

JH

## My Trunk Garden...

As promised in the last NL, as part of the push to putting the *study* back into study groups, a report on the trunk garden started 6 years ago at Yanderra (see NL 42. P.17) follows.

How did the Euc species (*Euc maculata*, *E. haemestoma*, *E. citriadora*, *E. mannifera*, *E. pauciflora*, *A. costata*, *A. hispida*,) chosen for their interesting trunks - pale colour and smooth texture - against the iconic Sydney trilogy of jacarandas, silky oaks and Illawarra Flame trees (*Brachychiton acerifolius*) . The idea was to encourage a multi trunked mallee growth as a feature.

Throughout the bed I planted kangaroo grass and *Poa labillardieri* – both beautiful grasses and good self seeders and placed a large simple birdbath in the corner. A path of 600mm square pavers winds through the grass to finish at the birdbath. A very informal hedge of callistemon Endeavour forms the backdrop.

Enough of the description, now to the science!

The *Euc haemastoma* did not grow well but looked healthy until its sudden demise a few months ago.

The dwarf forms of *Euc mannifera* [ white brittle gum] “ Little spotty” and *Euc pauciflora* [ snow gum] “Little snowman” have beautiful trunks, a pale reddish green and snowy white respectively...however, they are around 30ft high – no dramas in this garden but in others...?

*E. maculata* have been slow and variable the very healthy one is lovely and very tall 2 are struggling a *Euc gregsoniana* [ mallee snow gum] is doing well it is a mallee and is small and slow but happy

There is too much shade courtesy of the jacarandas and the angophora costatas are struggling too – hispida I in my dreams I love it so of course it was the first one to shrug off its mortal coil.

As I mentioned in the May 03 article Jeff Howes and my ex neighbour [ he of the beautiful Bruce Mackenzie garden now demolished ] were scathing of the jacarandas - ....they were right – terrible self seeders and straggly growth habit – not disasterously so but as the garden progresses and the brachychitons continue their glacial progress I can see a time where most of the jacarandas will be removed – but never I fear their progeny – an ongoing weeding task I have vreated for myself by possibly misplaced nostalgia.

So a success in that I have some lovely smooth trunks in various shades and dapples and interesting leaf form too from heart shaped and silvergrey to grey green and classically long drooping euc shaped – unfortunately my unscientific nature is exposed here as I have lost the names of the other two eucs whis have struggled and have kept coppicing them – they have reappeared and seem to be the stronger for it and I get the lovely juvenile foliage heart shaped and silver green

On the whole a success – as I mentioned in the intro to the 03article I had struggled with the front area for a while and had no need to focus whilst I was basking in the reflected glory of the BM garden next door– no more – it looks great – however the height of the dwarf forms is an interesting outcome I wonder wheteher these eucs are still marketed as dwarf forms? and I had not anticipated the fecundity of the jacarandas

The grasses have been a huge success – they do require maintenance and water to look their best but quickly spring back after even long periods of neglect and the birdbath has become the firm fave of a pair of corellas who sit squeaking and grinding in the trees above like an old door in a breeze.

PHOTO on website

**PLANTS**

## Rainforest species for the garden

Your comment in the Newsletter 64 regarding the use of rainforest species in gardens is very appropriate and of specific interest to those of us who reside in the appropriate climatic areas of the continent. Many of us have trialled rainforest species in our gardens and found them to be excellent and appropriate specimens with their luxuriant notophyll foliage, their unique flowers and fruits. Rainforest species contribute a different character to the garden in comparison to the finer perhaps harsher foliage of sclerophyll type plants.

However it is very important to know and understand the ultimate size and their habits if these species are to be successfully incorporated into a comprehensive palette of species for the garden. Perhaps the most important aspect is the response to establishing a rainforest tree as a feature specimen – in the rainforest trees are closely spaced and in competing for light, many become emergent giants with tall unbranched trunks and small foliage canopies. When grown as an isolated specimen many rainforest trees are very much smaller displaying an attractive formal and compact habit with a dense foliage canopy supported on small branched trunks – ideal for home gardens and streets.

One attractive species introduced into cultivation from the Daintree rainforest of far north Queensland, which has proved to be extremely successful and useful in Queensland gardens is *Phyllanthus cuscutiflorus*. Like many members of the Euphorbiaceae family it responds extremely well to usual horticultural techniques and has proven to be an excellent plant for formal clipped low hedges, as well as taller informal hedges or screens.

It would be interesting to know if members have trialled and found success with this species in more temperate gardens.

*Phyllanthus cuscutiflorus*  
Pink Phyllanthus

**Origin:** Pink Phyllanthus grows naturally in the lowland rainforests of the wet tropics of Far North Queensland but does well in cultivation as far south as Brisbane.

**Form:** This very decorative evergreen tall shrub or small tree grows to 4 metres with a spread of 2 metres. It has a naturally upright growth habit with a distinctive light brown bark, branches and twigs form attractive zig-zag patterns.

**Foliage:** Phyllanthus has dense, soft green foliage with flushes of brilliant almost iridescent pink new growth several times a year. The ovate to elliptical leaves to 130mm x 60mm are paler on the lower surface and are held in the one horizontal plane.

**Flowers:** A striking display of small pink pendulous flowers are borne along the branches in profusion on short stalks to 15mm long in spring and summer. The flowers fall to carpet the ground beneath in a pink carpet.

**Suitability:** This plant deserves to be a feature specimen in every garden as it thrives in a wide range of soils and conditions, preferring moist, well-drained soil. Locate in full or part sun for optimum foliage colour and flowering. The foliage remains dense to ground level consequently making an excellent screen plant for suburban gardens, parks and landscapes. Phyllanthus responds well to pruning and can be maintained as a formal or informal hedge anywhere between 700mm to three metres.

## Landscaping Basics and a bit of Fragrance.

It was great to read Diana's article on Design Categories of Plants in NL62. It is very important to revisit the basics every now and again, as plant selection is at the very core of garden design as it is the more visual aspect of a good design. I especially liked Diana's thoughts on better initial selection of the taller framework/feature plants as they take a while to grow to full size and therefore need to be carefully selected to (hopefully) full-fill their important role.

One aspect of plant selection that is so often overlooked is their fragrance, especially from the oil glands contained in the leaves. A while ago I purchased a few plants of *Eromophila microtheca* as I liked the mauve blue colour of their flowers. They were planted out along my driveway far enough in, so that no one could brush past them.

To my surprise, I had a lot of comments from visitors asking what they can smell as it was very pleasantly noticeable. I have always know how fragrant our mint bushes (*Prostanthea*) are, so imaging my surprise on discovering that one *Eromophilia* (and many more I suspect) is as well.



The smell of our bush is real and for me invokes a real image of what gardens planted out using Australian plants is all about. So, do not forget to consider fragrance when you select new plants for your garden.

## Plant Selection and Fauna issues

In the Feb issue of Native Plants of NSW, there appeared an excellent article by Elsie Bartlett titled 'A weed is a weed is a weed.' On reading the following paragraph I thought this is what has happened to my garden. Elsie said "In Sydney, people are planting Lilly Pillies that flower all year round and which means that large birds are staying around on the coast because the food (the resultant fruit and berries – Jeff) are there, so this practice is altering the migratory patterns of birds and puts pressure on the small birds that are attempting to breed and nest with the large predatory birds around.

How true, in my case all the smaller birds (wrens and silvereyes etc) and wattle birds have long since gone and they have been replaced with Butcher birds, currawongs, noisy miners, lorikeets and king parrots.

Lilly Pillies (Acemema and Syzygium species) are widely planted in Sydney as they make great hedge plants with foliage down to ground. As well, they are very prunable, have attractive new growth and are widely available. This makes them desirable garden plants for home gardeners and landscaper/designers.

How responsible should be when we select plants for our gardens?

Should we go for a 'great look' or should we be more responsible and look at the bigger picture especially if the garden backs onto bushland?

Or is it a lost cause in Sydney?

**Jeff Howes NSW**

Plants surviving extreme weather conditions

On 'Black Saturday', February 7, the temperature in Melbourne reached 46.4 degrees (an all-time record here), humidity was 4% and wind speeds were high. Fierce bushfires raged unstoppable in many areas of Victoria. The worst predictions of the effects of climate change were realized, taking lives and obliterating whole townships. (The floods in Queensland are the other side of the coin.) Brian and I extend our deep sympathy to anyone directly affected by the fires (or floods). I think all Victorians - probably all Australians - feel numbed by the tragedy.

Here we have been in drought for 11 years and so far this year have had only 1 mm of rain. Many of our trees and shrubs have become partly defoliated, so the garden as a whole is more 'see-through'. The week preceding February 7, we had a succession of 3 days with temperatures 43, 44, 45 degrees. In northern areas of Victoria, conditions were even worse with temperatures well above 40 degrees for more than a week. Standing outside that Saturday, I felt I could shrivel up or vaporize if I stayed too long.

However, I still think gardens and gardening are really important, both for peoples' psychology and health and also because only plants have the natural ability to 'fix' carbon dioxide and help cool the planet. The amazing thing is, not that some plants in the garden were scorched or died, but that so many plants survived that week apparently unharmed. I thought I should try to do a general summary of what did what in our garden.

There were two extremes.

- Trees and most reasonably large, established shrubs were quite unscathed: eucalypts, acacias, callistemons, leptospermums, kunzeas, grevilleas, bursarias, hakeas, westringias, dodonaeas, chamelauciums. Some smaller established plants too were unaffected: eremophilas, micromyrtus, rhagodias, philothecas, thomasias, baeckeas.

- Not surprisingly, small plants including relatively new little plants suffered most. For example, out of about 50 brachyscomes, only about half survived. (Fortunately I'd taken cuttings for replanting in autumn.) Scaevolans and dampieras always die back in summer but this year many (but not all) are looking worse. Of our few boronias, one survived. Mulch, shade or partial shade and low spots in the garden protected these and other small survivors.

With some genera, all established plants were fine with the odd exception:

- \* Melaleucas - trees and large shrubs OK except for a dwarf *M. hypericifolia* in an open position (badly scorched but may recover). Nearby in a rather more shaded position *M. violacea* was not affected.

- \* Banksias, except a *B. ericifolia* dwarf form (badly scorched but should recover)

\* Myoporums, except *M. bateae* which wilted (as it does) but I hope will survive (for now)

\* Prostantheras, except one *P. scutelloides* (may recover but badly affected)

Correas vary. Some look fine (most *C. alba*, *C. baeuerlennii*, *C. pulchella*, some *C. reflexa*, one *C. lawrenciana*), some look unhappy (some *C. reflexa*, especially prostrate forms, one *C. baeuerlennii*, one *C. lawrenciana*). I think most will recover. Leionemas and/or phebaliums have also had mixed fortunes with the majority seemingly unaffected while some look as though they won't survive.

Established plants that were badly scorched but I hope will recover include: one macrozamia, syzygiums, chorizemas, *Randia chartaceae* (a gardenia), a rhododendron (another in full flower was OK except flowers were scorched), *Ceratopetalum gummiferum*. Many hibbertias were badly affected (ferns too of course, except *Pteris umbellata* & some doodias). Among creepers, exposed hardenbergas, kennedias, pandoreas and Gum Vines (*Aphanopetalum resinosum*) were scorched but billardieras seemed unaffected.

I haven't mentioned many small plants in this summary, nor tufted and strap-leaved ones - it would get a bit too detailed - but I thought it was worth noting what had survived the extreme weather conditions to date. (My survey started with a quick check for the editor of 'The Age'.) There's still the rest of summer to go. We've been using drip-watering on some limited areas of the garden in the times allowed and sometimes also hand-watering then (it's twice a week between 6am and 8am, or 8am & 10am for 'oldies'). We use grey water from the house directly on garden beds and we also have water-tanks with rainwater for vegetables and the nursery. However as it hasn't rained for 7 weeks the tanks are getting very low.

With lack of rain and the water used fighting the fires, I think it's likely we'll follow most of country Victoria soon, with no water allowed for gardens. If it doesn't rain, that will be the real test. When summer is over, Brian and I will stock-take and re-design. Any replacements then will need to be survivors!

**Diana Snape Vic.**

DESPAIR AND DESIRE- A short diary

18 February, 2009

While parts of the country – Q'l'd and NSW - are in some places submerged under flood waters, here in Vic where I live the drought is biting harder than ever. Before I went away in mid Jan to Egypt, one of the driest places on earth, the garden was looking possibly the best it had ever looked due to Dec rains and relatively cool weather. I returned at the end of Jan in the middle of an extraordinary heatwave with a run of extreme temperatures that included 3 days over 43. Before I left brachyscomes were gaily flowering when they would have normally been past their best and the weather was benign lulling me into an imagined kind summer. I returned home after 2 weeks to view a different scene where a torcherous (new word!) sun had already caused the death of some plants. I entered the house around 10pm and it was like stepping into an oven.

What a difference 2 weeks can make! What a difference even 1 day can make! Since the aforementioned heatwave there have been the record breaking temperatures of Black Saturday when the sun beat down and dangerous high winds fanned the flames of those now infamous killer fires. Victoria is in a state of shock and mourning. The dry weather persists around Melbourne and for part of each day we are blanketed in smoke haze.

This is the driest start to a year on record. Last night (17/02) it was reported that Melb had received 2.2mm of rain to date compared to a normal average of 76mm. It's not a good start to the year and summer is only half over. Where to from here for the gardener? Will autumn rains, if they do indeed materialise, and they haven't always in recent times, wet our appetites and nourish our thirst for gardening?

My garden has lost weight and volume; many plants take up much less space; they are wasted shadows of their former selves. I have seen this happen before and know when reasonable rain does fall stems and foliage will re-hydrate and the garden will expand; it will stand taller like a great weight has been lifted. In the meantime the final death count will depend on how much longer the garden goes between drinks. My tanks are getting low and only so much is achievable with a hand held hose and an acre of garden.

At this point I can mention that some plants have been laid to rest due in large part to sun exposure. *Correa numularifolia* and other prostrate types in full sun did not make it through the scorchers, whereas those in shade or semi-shade soldiered on. It has been much the same story with respect to *Grev. lanigera* prostrate. I have lost several leptospermums – Little Bun, Pink Cascade, morrisonii and Flamingo – due, I suspect, to lack of water. In some cases the loss of these plants hasn't been

heartbreaking as they have (a) never been happy or (b) outgrown the space. Trouble is with so much death brown mulch extends its reign once the plants have been removed; so much less restful than green and greys. Right now the garden isn't growing - its shrinking!

30 March 2009

It is the second last day of March and we have thankfully had some rain this month; Melb is sitting on about average for the month and unusually I haven't done any better. The rain hasn't been what you could describe as a break but we are getting used to being grateful for small amounts. The days are still hot but the nights are cool and the increased angle of the sun produces a gentler light; entrancing and enticing it hooks me into involving myself in the garden in a positive way once again.

I am removing all dead plants. Three loads to the tip so far with a high-sided trailer packed tight and I think there will be at least a couple more trips. I have brought back 'cooked' tip mulch to improve the soil particularly in areas I'm reworking. I'll also be digging in some gypsum for the same reason. I think it will be necessary to add to existing rockwork for soil retention, root protection of plants and to improve the aesthetics in some areas. Planting out seems a long way off but I've already started to purchase a nice little collection, and as many of these plants will go into existing beds where I don't actually need to do any ground work, I should be able to get many of them into the ground anytime although ideally this would be after penetrating rains.

There is so much to do and so many challenges – not least of which is the decision about replacement screen plants on the western boundary – which plants will be able to take a day of sun – possibly extreme temperatures - cope with very dry conditions near the top of a hill, be quick growing but long lived and grow at least 4 meters! There is always more to do than the time to do it. Redesigning the small pond may have to wait yet again as tasks are prioritised and it finds itself well down the list. But now at least I've made a start.

8 April 2009

There has been 40mm of rain so far this month – it's a good gardening omen for my 2 weeks holiday. I continue to remove plants – not just the dead and dying but also plants severely damaged by the hot days. Some of these plants may in time have recovered but I suspect that if we have similar hot days again next summer than they

would be scorched again. *Austromyrtus dulcis* is a case in point; I use a crowbar to prize its tuberous roots some of which are as big as a large swede or kohlrabi out of the ground; a powerhouse of energy root, a root for the future, a root for future regeneration, but not one able to protect the plant against a sizzling hot sun.

I have now taken 4 large trailer loads to the tip and there is at least one more trip to be made. I am being ruthless.

Sections of the garden that are 2 years old and younger are coming along well. Most plants are thriving; a few that were heat affected have been replaced. When I want to get some gardener's tonic I go into these areas and look and look and look enjoying the fresh beauty and vigour bordered by older robust plantings. From different angles many older sections of the garden are also visually rewarding. I must build on the garden's strengths; I must take strength from the garden's success and resilience. We dance together into the future; the one with feet of clay and me the spinning partner ever in attendance.

12 April 2009

I've had phone conversations with friends in the last couple of days. How is your garden going, they ask. I'm being ruthless, I say. Oh, change is wonderful in the garden says one friend now over 80, how exciting. She is still so engaged with her own garden, trying to meet the challenges, trying to achieve a beautiful and workable design. None of her enthusiasm is lost to age and I want to bottle her attitude and energy. I know I can talk to her at any time about my theories and progress, she will listen, she will question and take a real interest. What would be the point of a garden without change says another. Yes, well sometimes I think no change would be a nice change but what I'd really like is to control the rate of change. But that's not the way the naturalistic garden world works particularly with the hot breath of climate change panting in the wings.

More than ever I am going for those 'toughies'. I know I'll never be cured of trying new plants in the garden but I am also looking for ideas from my own garden and doing the repeat shuffle.

**Chris Larkin Vic.**

## BOOK REVIEW

Native Grasses for Australian Gardens

Nola Parry & Jocelyn Jones 2007

This is only a small book but is jam packed with information. Because the authors are interested in the form and function of plants other than grasses they have included a wide range of plants with strappy leaves, such as sedges, rushes, irises, kangaroo paws and flax plants.

For those wanting to design a garden featuring grasses, the third chapter has many ideas. These range across their use as border plants and in mass plantings; their flower colour, frost tolerance and which species are low maintenance; as well as what to plant in wet, dry, shade or on sloping ground or as water features or pot plants.

The text is minimal, the pictures ( by landscape architect Jocelyn Jones) tell the story.

Botanical details are minimal, instead they concentrate on how the plant grows in the garden, provide notes on its care and give the flowering period and some suggestions on combination planting. For those wishing to read more about grasses and other plants listed in the book they have provided an excellent and up to date further reading list. The book is also indexed and includes a list of plants protected by PBR.

I found this an excellent little book which serves as an informative introduction to a group of plants which are undergoing a resurgence in our garden right now.

**Tony Cavanagh “ Growing Australian” APS Vic.**

## MEETINGS

### NORTH EAST BRANCH

I have been having trouble finding a date to get this year off the ground and have decided on Sat March 14, 10.30am., here,

It is some time now since you have come here and there are changes under way.

A topic to chew over, First Impressions, which you will find in the March issue of “Growing Australian” which is by no means exhaustive. We may have time to improve on it.

Jan and Helen will be opening their gardens in Sept. under the Open Garden scheme so one activity will be assisting them in all possible ways. They are also both planning long excursions north and west between now and then, I can't decide which car to stow away in. This means the joint visit with the Melbourne group will have to be deferred yet again. They may choose to come up that weekend but I really think billets for them is making it too hard, we will all be busy helping man the gardens.

Our plans included several other gardens too, which would not be possible on the Open weekend. Come along in March/April and help plan it all.

**Barbara Buchanan Vic.**

NORTH-EAST BRANCH

Nov. 08 report.

Our final meeting for the year was held at Helen and John van Reit's home in mid October. We had hoped to have a combined meeting with the Melbourne group but could not find a suitable date this year. We had a particularly large contingent of travellers missing earlier in the spring and then other commitments of both groups took over. We are hoping for better luck in 2009, say late August or early September. Our first meeting next year will be fixed later.

I chose a theme to give a focus to the October meeting which was relevant to the state of the van Reit's garden. *"After 3-4 years the initial vision one has had of the garden is (should be) largely realized---- where does one go from there?"*

To simplify discussion assume a small garden, because a large garden takes much longer to establish unless one has unlimited funds and is usually treated in smaller sections. The area closer to the house will approximate a small garden as in the present site. Are there any carryovers from the practices of a formal traditional style garden which is meant to be kept at roughly the same stage by clipping and the use of herbaceous perennials. We all agreed it is considerably more difficult with our garden style and evergreen shrubs which just want to keep growing. Here are a few pointers which were raised.

To take stock try and see the garden as a first time visitor.

Remove unsuccessful plants –this gives neighbours a chance to expand or planting spaces. Balance this with patience, some plants come good slowly.

Repetition v. variety, again a balance which can perhaps be made easier by using related plants so that the variety is subtle. It is easy to forget the repetition in a small space.

Clothing the bases of plants which get straggly. Ground cover types and light climbers.

Pruning: we did not get any further than this. Helen had the suggestions from Maree Goods at the Eremophila seminar which have been well tried and tested.



Suggestions for individual species have been included in the wonderful book *Eremophilas* released at the seminar. The Encyclopaedia also gives pruning tips.

Regularly tip prune.

Up to one third of the shrub if more drastic action is needed.

Rarely below the leaf line

Staggered pruning, try one third by one third and if successful repeat next year.

Prune grey foliated plants before Xmas so that the foliage has time to harden before winter

I also have the heading Environment in my notes, but I am not quite sure why now.

We were then able to move out into the garden and use our combined ideas to guide Helen in dealing with her plants. I certainly learnt a lot, I have always been a very hesitant pruner and have only come late in life to accept the major role it plays in shaping our gardens to our fantasies, as well as prolonging the life of the plant and increasing its blooms. I know I will never get on top of all the pruning that could be done here, but I am hoping that with a bit more confidence and practice I will get through a bit more.

**Barbara Buchanan Vic**

## **MAR 09 NORTH-EAST BRANCH GDSG**

Report of meeting at Myrree Mar 14<sup>th</sup>.

As usual, our first topic was the programme for the coming year. To a large extent this will revolve around the Open Garden weekend **Sept. 18-19<sup>th</sup>** at van Riet's.

As well as whatever is needed in that weekend we will have a working bee/ meeting there on Sat. Aug 22nd 09, again doing whatever seems most useful at the time.

We talked about the problem of climate change as it affects how we garden and what measures will best ensure a garden's survival.

Unfortunately we did not come up with a magic panacea, surprise, surprise. The following summarises our suggestions.

Ongoing rejuvenation of areas:

- a basic framework of hardy plants which tolerate a range of conditions, infilled with less certain survivors;
- better established plants going into the ground have had the greatest success in the recent tough times, despite our previous certainty that tubestock usually

outperformed larger plants. This finding has to be applied intelligently...a well grown plant in active growth in whatever sized pot is probably the optimum. A move to longer tubes perhaps?

- shade, if the garden is too young to provide any, make some with cut branches and prunings or rocks, shadecloth or whatever comes to hand;
- deep planting holes to enable roots to reach the water table more readily.

The other topic was the importance of entrances. In a large garden such as mine this is treated as a whole separate area but is just as important in a small garden where it is part of the whole scene. Perhaps this is how the front and back yards came to be seen as very different spaces in my youth, a difference that has largely disappeared. In between brief showers we saw the changes in our entrance area and I had some valued comments on practical matters.

It is amazing how useful it is to have fresh sets of eyes seeing things I have ceased to register, familiarity can render one blind. The other way to achieve this is to take a long holiday, not in the offing here I'm afraid.

During **June or July 09** there will be a visit to Gillian Kimber's garden in Hamilton Park. This has been extensively reworked for a family wedding at Easter.

On **Nov 7<sup>th</sup> 09** we will meet at the Hall's in Yarrawonga. They are no longer participating in the Open Garden Scheme this year, but the garden is always an inspiration. We will look at one or more other gardens to focus on areas needing rejuvenation.

**Barbara Buchanan Vic.**

## **S.A. MEETING**

South Australian members are invited to get together to discuss design principles and future opportunities for members.

We hope to see you on **Sunday 21st June** at 2 p.m. at the SA Water/Mediterranean garden, adjacent to the Schomburghk Pavilion in the Adelaide Botanic Garden.

It would help if you can wear an item of clothing which will identify you as an APS member as we may need to retreat under cover if it should rain. (At present it's hard to believe that could ever happen). If anyone is interested, we could have lunch in the kiosk first.

For apologies, ideas, replies or more information, please contact

## Margaret Lee

### MELBOURNE

**May 24th, 2009**

Meet at 2pm at Chris Larkin's home. Entry via Provence Rise (off Major Cres nearest Wellington Rd) at 2pm to discuss future directions for the group.

#### Future Date

Sun Aug 9<sup>th</sup> 09

### SYDNEY

Report of Garden Visits April 5<sup>th</sup> 09

There was an excellent turn up for the 2 large gardens south of Sydney in the beautiful rolling hills of the historical Cowpasture area near Camden, south of Sydney and proximal to Mt Annan Botanical Gardens.

It was a pleasure to welcome members from Canberra, Blayney and Bathurst as well as the Sydney stalwarts. A big thank you to Jeff Howes for organising the day so well.

Our first garden was *Blackstump Natives* owned by Tony and Penny Sexton.

Open as a part of the AOGS, it was heartening to see an excellent roll up from the general public. The house sits across the top of the rectangular, sloping 1.5 acre site which finishes at the banks of Sickles Creek, fringed with *Allocasuarina cunninghamia*. Tony told us he first became interested in Australian plants as a way of attracting birds into his garden – he had read and enjoyed Adams' book on Birdscaping your garden, he quickly appreciated their colour form and texture. Tony is an ex coalminer and very interested in Australian vernacular for example the wonderful old barrel letterbox is soon to be replaced by a modified chaff cutter and objects of local interest [ farm machinery] abound throughout the garden. Recycled materials are used throughout the garden as edging [ railway sleepers, tree trunks

and branches] and in a wonderful wood and iron “Folly” built under the spread of a huge melaleuca an te open walled structure ? aplace to contemplate the garden near the generous pond at the back is made from old slip rails and fence posts salvaged no doubt from a nearby faras it succumbed inevitably to Sydneys urban spread. to They have lived on the site for 26 years but have only seriously gardened since retirement over the last 16. Across the front of the house exotics mingle with native species. Tony mentioned that this area is subject to black frosts from which the garden doesn't recover until well after Xmas.

Tony is deternmoined that his plants are beautiful – he is conscious of a pushback against Aus plants as straggly and leggy and will have none of it in his garden.His plants all do indeed look very beautiful

The irregularly shaped but generally curved garden beds set in an emerald lawn are all raised and edged or boxed with various materials - the raised beds would be necessary for the grevilleas which are growing profusely { Grev. Cascade, Misty Pink, Lollypop, Sylvia, golden lyre, peaches 7 Cream] the paperbarks, various rainforest species, aracaurias

brachychitons etc have no such needs and are revelling in the god soil and plentiful moisture.

The paths between the beds vary – in width and surface material – grass, leaf, mulch and pebble

A great colour combination was the standardised W.A. Grev humifusa ( aka G. thelemanniana Grey leaf prostrate form] its grey woolly foliage and brilliant pink-red yellow tipped flowers set off beautifully by an Eremophila nivea in the background – I am sure one of our members got a shot and I will try and get it on the web – it's a ripper! Both gardens we visited were plaexperimenting with Grevillea standards – mainly prostrate forms as they lend themselves to the cascading effext which shows off the standrd plants so well

Blackstump Natives was a very good garden for us to see and discuss –quite a few interesting design issues were raised and discussed, ending with Fiona Johnson's spot on summation “ It is always such a joy to visit a garden that so perfectly shows the love and care of the owners and the deep happiness they derive from it”

### *Silky Oaks*

Is owned by Peter and Margaret Olde.

Peter will be well known to all our members as the co author, with GDSG member Neil Marriott, of the Grevillea Books - vol. 4 out soon!

The house sits across the highest part of the property ( that we could see) and is approached by a long gently curving tree lined driveway. Originally pasture land, the garden occupies half of the 30 acre site. It is affected by zero only frosts ( which set the buds nicely) and is elevated 400m, corresponding to Springwood in the lower Blue Mts. Hence, the humidity is not as high and many Blue Mts. species flourish as well as Eremophila species. Peter and Margaret have been gardening at Silky Oaks for 7 years.

Peter stressed his garden says more about the plants than the landscape – he does not see his garden in any way as a part of the Bush Garden school. His interest is in plants and their performance, their form, flower and colour appeal to him horticultural merits of the individual plant. he is a great believer in grafted plants – he sees this as a way forward for native plants and a wider acceptance by the gardening public.

It is an experimental garden where plants on various rootstocks are trialled as well as slow interesting and rare species, cultivars and hybrids

He has found that for cold climate grafting of Grevilleas it is best to use Grev. Bronze Rambler for root stock or one of the Poorinda hybrids.

Pays lots of attention to pruning it reinvigorates grev and eucs especially

Sprays the weeds – handweeding spreads the seeds

Mulch is hard woodchip or chipped pine – large pieces

spread ½ inch deep excludes light maintains soil moisture and lasts 3-4 years. He makes sure all plants are mulched, even if only a metre wide around them.

The garden consists of some pre existing semi mature exotic trees kept for their foliage and colour. Peter considers a few exotics in the garden ok – he says there are PC neutral! They don't do any harm or any good!!

The raised serpentine beds of many plants/ a rain forest area [ plants Peter feels are under appreciated and therefore utilised and Margaret's fern (house – an ad hoc design set amongst the rainforest plantings but which works very well

The planted beds are long serpentine shapes formed by ripping and rotary hoeing the paddock soil, shaping it into mounds and spraying it 3-4 times to eradicate weed seeds, and adding crushed sandstone if needed.

These mounds whilst intrinsically functional actually contribute a designed quality to the garden – Peter says he walks ahead with the tractor following and designs the

mounds in his head – the scale is too large for the old hose or stick approach – he will not plant out the mounds until he is satisfied they have their own intrinsic sculptural quality within the landscape

As you can no doubt imagine – the garden is crammed with plants - a list of interesting plants to use in garden design follows which hopefully will wet your curiosity

the bold, - *Banksia burdettii* [ grafted]

the beautiful – take your pick!,

the rare – *Grev leptobotrys*

the unusual *Grev insignis* subsp *elliottii*

the floriferous – *Grev. Gypsy moon*

the never seen *Grev Sempervirens* ( *junipera* x *pinasta*)]first grev hybrid 1925 UK

the grafted - *Isopogon laterifolia*

the hybrid - *Grev. "Katie did" & Wendy's sunshine*( both neil Marriots.

the species - *Ziera humilis*

the standardised – *Junipera stripey prostrate*

the fragrant – *Boronia muellerii* sunset serenade, *Grev.simplex*

A few words from the Treasurer.

### **GDSG Professional Members**

The following GDSG members have indicated that they would like their name put on a referral list for enquirers seeking professional garden design advice

To show all their details I would have needed to format the page to landscape and that would have not been compatible with the NL --- hence truncated details.

Details are correct for the 2008/09 financial year. If I have left anyone off or if details are incorrect, please let me know, as the only source of information is your membership form.

Surname	First Name	City
Adler	Ingrid	KAMBAH ACT
Banfield	Michelle	MOORoopNA
Della Libera	Dominic	CAPERTEE NSW
Graham	Mary	BENTLEIGH VIC
Jacq	Pascale	CAULFIELD NORTH VIC
Lee	Margaret	NORTH BRIGHTON SA
Marriott	Neil & Wendy	STAWELL VIC
Smith	Lawrence	WHITESIDE QLD
Webb	Merele	LILYDALE VIC

Membership renewals

Since NL 65 (the last one), the following GDSG members have renewed their membership and are financial for the FY 08/09. Please note if you see # after your name you are financial for the FY 09/10 as well as this F/Y.

Ellen Hrebenuk. Neal Leeearne. Kerry Artis. Janina Pezzarini. Neil and Wendy Marriott # Diana Snape # Leeane Brockway. Chris Larkin # Michelle Banfield. Jennifer Davidson. Jan Baillie. Wendy Johnston (paid for F/Ys 08/09 and 09/10 and 10/11 and a \$2 donation). Beverly Wodrow. Judy and Alan Lovelock. Daniel Rowland. ANPS Canberra. Carol Guard. Noreen Jones (gave a \$4 donation).

Also a welcome to the following new members:

Ellen Hrebenuk. Neal Leeearne. Michelle Banfield Jan Baillie Wendy Johnston  
Daniel Rowland Noreen Jones

Jeff Howes

Seeing this is our 66<sup>th</sup> newsletter, I hope you can get 'some satisfaction' from your garden (apologies to Mick Jagger).