



GARDEN DESIGN STUDY GROUP

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Newsletter**May 2015****90****NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

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Leader's Comments

This year, the Australian Native Plants Society Canberra Region is hosting the biennial ANPSA conference 15 – 20 November at the Australian Institute of Sport in Bruce, ACT. The theme of the conference is "Bush Capital - Garden City" and Canberra is just that. The program will be different from other biennial conferences in that the talks will be in the morning and excursions in the afternoon. Canberra is lucky because there is so much of interest to see that is not very far away which minimizes the amount of time on buses. Details of the conference are found on the ANPSA website <http://anpsa.org.au/conference2015> and by the time you receive this, registration materials will have been distributed to Societies and will be on the website as well. There will even be an on-line registration facility available. Do come, we would love to show you the Canberra region, its wild areas and its gardens.



Correspondence

Dear Ros,

Congratulations on another very interesting newsletter. I think you and Ben did well to keep your lovely meadow for eleven years - grassy weeds are a problem in any garden but especially in a meadow! I'm sure your new garden area, with plants just a metre or so in height, will be equally attractive in its different way. You'll keep the feeling of spaciousness but the textures will be very different.

I found Michael McCoy's article convincing. I'm sure the degree of attachment (or lack of it) of garden owners to their gardens does depend on the extent of their own involvement. It really concerns me how most new houses seem to have gardens that are designed by some-one else, usually with little feeling!

Jeff Howes' article on Japanese gardens had some interesting ideas. I think we can certainly learn from gardens overseas whenever there are ideas or images that can help or inspire us in some way for our own gardens. Our plants and conditions will be different but many aspects of garden design are generally applicable.

Best wishes,

Diana Snape, Vic

Hi Ben and Ros

Thanks for the newsletter - it was most interesting. I am working on a piece of public land in the town of Katanning 300km south east of Perth. Public open spaces have not been valued as passive recreational and aesthetic areas that can enhance the lives of our community. The Parks department has no knowledge of natives and how they can be used as attractive water wise gardens. Management tools are mowers and slashers. I have decided to show the Shire how to use natives to create an attractive area from a dust bowl. I've formed a Friends Group, designed a garden for a very restricted well defined area and drawn up a memorandum of understanding with the help of our Land Care group. The Shire has agreed in principle after they saw my design, so when the document is signed its full speed ahead.

Regards,

Bev Lockley, WA

(Ed. Congratulations, Bev. Keep up the good work. We need more public gardens, especially those featuring natives.)

Recording gardens

Margaret James, Vic

Have you ever missed an opportunity to visit a particularly interesting garden and then discovered there were no more chances? Gardens, as we all know, are fragile and may change irrevocably when properties are sold and the knowledge, skill and dedication of the previous owner is no longer available.

The Victorian Garden Design Study Group has embarked on a project to record significant native plant gardens in private hands and records of the first four gardens are now to be found on the website <http://anpsa.org.au/design/visit.html>

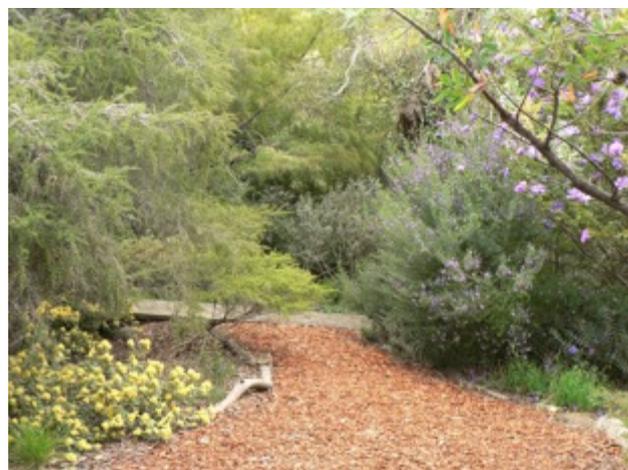
They are the Hanson garden in Warrandyte, the Snape garden in Hawthorn East, the Ford garden in Eltham and the Moore garden in Park Orchards. Of these four gardens, only the first remains in the original owners' hands.

Links to these gardens posted on Facebook pages devoted to native plants brought lots of 'likes' some interesting reactions from people who share our enthusiasm. One Queensland gardener was so impressed she bought a copy of Gordon Ford's book *The Natural Australian Garden*. Another commented that the description of the Snape garden – in the suburbs where most of us live – gives ideas about planting.

Here are some photos to give a glimpse of what to expect from a virtual tour of these gardens.



Garden merging into bush in the Hanson garden



Purple and gold in the Snape garden



Pool with reflections in the Ford garden



Meandering paths in the Moore garden

Cloudy Hill Garden - What's Happening in Summer 2015? **A country garden located in the high country near Blayney, NSW**

Words and Photos

Fiona Johnson, NSW and Canberra

In September 2014 it seemed like summer had already arrived. Very hot and dry, with the odd bushfire. Now, in January 2015, it seems more like spring. Afternoon storms, mild days and cool nights. However, apparently the garden is smart enough to work it out with the spring-flowering plants having flowered in the spring and the summer-flowering ones making their show now.



The summer display is much more subtle than in spring. The exuberant mass of flowers is a thing of the past and the garden now relies more on foliage colour and form, and smaller, exquisite floral displays which warrant close-up study. Apart from the roo paws and daisies, that is.



Photos from the internet

The planting of red, orange and yellow *Anigozanthus* hybrids, under-planted with yellow *Xerochrysum bracteatum* cultivars, backed by the grey rock or green wall of the house, is striking. And once you realise just how many Eastern Spinebills are foraging in the roo paws at any one time, it's hard to imagine a better result. We spend far too much time looking out the window, mesmerised by the activity of spinebills and the occasional Yellow-faced Honeyeater.



Crowea 'Georgia Rose', 'Festival' and 'Southern Star'



Eremophila 'Augusta Storm'

Different coloured *Xerochrysum bracteatum* hybrids add splashes of colour around the garden, but more subtle colour can be found in the various prostrate forms of *Eremophila glabra* and the *Crowea exalata* hybrids. The croweas range from white to deep pink, with various shades between. They also provide variety in foliage, with fine burgundy-tinged foliage to larger, broader and brighter green leaves. Most correas are starting to form buds but so far only *Correa glabra* and a hybrid of *Correa* 'Dusky Bells' and *Correa decumbens* are flowering. *Derwentia arenaria*, *Babingtonia/Baeckea* varieties and the pink, perfumed *Goodenia macmillanii* are also lovely now. *Banksia* flower spikes are starting to develop, particularly on the *spinulosa* varieties.

Summer is also the time for the *persoonias*. *Persoonia pinifolia* takes on glorious burgundy tones in the colder months here, but is now a rich green with yellow flowers starting to cover the bush. *Persoonia pinifolia x juniperina* shrubs are already covered with tiny yellow flowers.



Persoonia pinifolia



Summer storm to the east

Chores for the summer mainly revolve around pruning and weeding. Pruning to improve the shape and vigour of shrubs and hopefully promote good flowering in future, and weeding because they're there! In this rural location, weed seed is always being blown into the garden or brought by birds, and the mild weather with occasional rain showers gets them off to a good start.

There is also the removal of plants past their use-by date or which are squandering valuable real estate. And the occasional tragedy. We discovered our much-loved October Glory maple, (no, not an Australian native, but glorious nonetheless) was very badly split in several places and we felt posed a potential danger that should be removed. We may have been able to see daylight through the splits in the trunk, but that didn't indicate the maple was ready to give up. Although the tree was only about four years old, it took two people a day and a half of manual labour cutting through the root ball before our small tractor was able to pull the tree out. I have planted a *Grevillea robusta* in its place which is probably quite optimistic in our climate but aren't all gardeners optimists at heart?

Overall, the garden is looking healthy and vibrant this summer, with lovely foliage in various shapes and shades of green, plum and silver, and with sprinkles of flowers here and there. It will be a pleasure to watch it progress through late summer and into autumn.

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Eremophila glabra 'Roseworthy'

An enormous green roof

Diana Snape, Vic

Some time ago, Brian and I had the opportunity to visit an enormous green roof - 26,000 square metres and the largest in the southern hemisphere. The photo shows just a small area of the roof. Does it look like a garden? I think it is, a very naturalistic one.

This rooftop garden was created to minimise the impact of the appearance of the highly controversial Victorian Desalination Plant in Wonthaggi and has been very successful in this. The huge buildings just seem to disappear. This green roof was all about appearance but, of course, has also been of benefit to the local environment and ecology.

All the plants are indigenous to, and have been propagated from, the local area. They are all low-growing, with a mixture of grasses, lomandras, succulents, herbs and low shrubs. They are watered regularly from water that has been collected on site and is recycled and stored in a constructed lake.



The design of a green roof requires a lot of engineering and then the roof garden requires a lot of maintenance. One example is that the succulents spread rapidly, which would not seem to be a problem at all. However it is a problem, structurally, because of the weight of the water they contain, as the roof must not be allowed to support more than a specified weight of plant growth. Other vigorous plants should be kept in check too, if they are not to become too dominant and out of balance with other plants. General weeding is also required, a big, never-ending job in an area this size.

I've always liked the idea of a green roof, even though there are obviously structural requirements before it can be established. The roof must be 'flat' or sloping very slightly, as in this case, where water is drained to the low edges and re-cycled. All gardens need some maintenance so that, in itself, isn't an additional requirement, though accessing the roof space to carry it out could make it a little more difficult. Another benefit is their excellent insulation properties for keeping a building cool.

It was interesting to see such an enormous green roof, especially one using entirely plants indigenous to that locality. An achievement on this scale must have been a costly public relations exercise. However, I'm sure the increasing interest in green roofs (or roof gardens) will lead to their becoming more popular and more common, with decreasing cost of installation. As space at ground level for gardens in the suburbs becomes scarcer, with population growth plus larger house sizes, why not look upwards?

The 7 best pieces of garden advice I've had

Catherine Stewart, Garden Drum, January 23, 2015

I first started gardening a few decades ago now, but there are seven pieces of gardening advice that stick with me, every day. They keep me going when problems seem insurmountable, they remind me of going back to basics when things go wrong, they help me understand exactly what I'm growing and they keep me enjoying my garden. Now I'm going to share them – and reveal the some of the sages who gave them to me.

1. The best time to do anything in the garden is when you think of it

It was the first Cottage Garden Club meeting I went to, back in the early 1990s. The late Valerie Swane was a guest speaker and someone asked her when was the best time to prune some shrub or other, admitting to being paralysed by indecision and fear of doing the wrong thing. Valerie went to give some more technical answer and then checked herself and said, to the best of my recollection:

"The best time to do anything in the garden is when you think of it. Whether its weeding or pruning or anything. You may lose a few flowers, but otherwise it will probably never get done".

This is such sound advice. It's a danger, especially for newbie gardeners, that you worry so much about the right and wrong way, or time, to do things that you end up doing nothing at all. I say that it's far better to have no flowers on a well-shaped shrub than lots of flowers on some gangly, ugly overgrown mess. I find that planning a day in the garden seems to be an invitation for it to rain, be unbearably hot or cold, or for the rellies to suddenly decide to visit, and the planned work doesn't happen. Far better to find yourself with half an hour to spare and rush outside and at least start some of those small jobs that have been beckoning you.

(Ed. I agree wholeheartedly with this sentiment. I first read this advice from Christopher Lloyd as a young gardener and have put it into practice over my whole gardening life.)



Left:
Colour and
texture at
Cloudy Hill



Right: new
growth on
*Banksia
paludosa*
at Cloudy
Hill

2. Keep a small bucket with weeding tools, secateurs and gloves by your back door

To facilitate the implementation of #1, I have a small bucket (actually an empty fertiliser plastic tub) near my back door with a few useful tools – a pair of gloves, a trowel, an old screwdriver and a pair of secateurs. Whenever I find myself feeling like a break, I can grab the bucket and do a speedy 5 minutes of deadheading, reducing the never-ending onslaught of weeds, or patting back the mulch that the bandicoots have spent the night rearranging. I can't remember who told me about this. Maybe it was my idea!

3. Buy a pH soil testing kit and use it

I studied landscape design and horticulture at TAFE and 'Plant Growing Media' was a year-long subject. My teacher Derry Thomas was full of all sorts of practical advice. I remember his recommendation to test how hot your compost was by simply sticking your fingers right into the centre of the heap. I remember the horror on his face when one student held up a hand missing two fingers and said "Are you sure? It didn't work so well for me". (Yes, you guessed it, he was an ex-butcher). But it's Derry's emphasis on the importance of knowing your soil pH that I remember. The wrong pH for a plant will rob it of essential nutrients that no amount of fertilising can fix. And pH can vary wildly in the one garden, depending on where a builder has washed out a concrete barrow, or a previous vegie gardener has limed the soil each year, or different parts of the soil profile have been exposed during terracing.

I have a simple pH test kit that costs under \$20 and lasts for years. In my own garden I have found results of pH4, and also of pH9. Other than drainage, it is usually the answer as to why something is not thriving.



Kangaroo Paws at Cloudy Hill



Xerochrysum 'Wallaby Cherry'

4. Learn the botanical names for things as it avoids a lot of confusion

When I first started learning a bit about gardening, I wasn't too fussed on learning botanical names as they were all so unpronounceable and hard to remember. Then I met Sharryn Kennedy and was astonished at the way she could reel off names like *Campanula portenschlagiana* without pausing. Her plant knowledge was extraordinary. More importantly her use of the correct name meant that all those things vaguely called 'something lily' or 'thingummy daisy' had an exact, correct name. Common names are local, parochial and confusing and you'll never really be a good gardener without being able to accurately identify and name a plant for others. Sharryn and also Deirdre Mowat (of the fabulous iGarden website) opened my eyes to

the wonderful wealth of knowledge that goes with becoming a good gardener and were a major influence in my decision to enrol at TAFE and study landscape design. Sadly Sharryn died way too young back in 2006 but I often think of her example and advice.

5. Older gardeners know secrets you'll never find in a book

When I was a teenager I used to go next door to help old Millie Browning with her washing which meant boiling up the copper and then putting everything through the mangle! While in the late 1970s this was an eye-opener in itself, watching her attack her orange tree's trunk with a broom each year, or pull off rhubarb stems instead of cutting them, or lime her cabbage patch has stayed with me for decades. The other place to find pearls of wisdom is in gardening clubs. You may think they're for older gardeners, and, sadly that's who mostly joins them these days, but you'll learn great practical stuff there talking to some gardeners who've amassed a few centuries between them.

6. Photograph your garden every time you change something and when it just looks nice, even a little bit

Do you ever despair that your garden isn't the way you want it? Or that it never gets any better? Recording your changes and progress with your camera or phone is the best antidote. A quick flip back through some old shots and you'll realise that it's much better than you think and you'll be astonished at how far apart everything was when it was first planted. You'll remember the pleasure you had in a special flowering or planting combination or the day your favourite tree got its first acid-green spring leaves. And the dates on those photos will help you know what happens when and what to plant for good flower and foliage combinations in every month.



March 2015,, Walcott new garden, revisit in 5 years?

7. If a plant just doesn't look right, try moving it.

I used to joke that when my mother opened her back door, every plant in the garden shuddered and whispered “*whose turn is it today?*” I think she probably moved every plant at some point or other, always looking for the perfect ‘plant picture’ combination. Sometimes the move didn’t work (for the plant’s longevity) but her view was that if I didn’t look right now, it wasn’t likely to improve with time and it was better to bite the bullet. Digging it up and getting it temporarily mobile allowed her to experiment with a few locations before she settled on the plant’s new home. Which usually meant also moving the plant currently occupying that place!

Traceries and Layers in the Garden

Words Ros Walcott, Canberra
Photos Ben Walcott, Canberra

One of the most pleasing aspects of a garden is that you are always looking through layers of plants. You very rarely look at just one plant alone. Even a specimen tree has garden views behind it, which enhance its beauty. Very often you have an effect like a stained glass window, where you are seeing parts of a plant, interrupted by the tracery of the branches of another. You have to put together the picture of whole plant in your mind. As makers and admirers of stained glass windows know, this makes the complete picture in the mind’s eye more compelling.



This photo shows the ‘Japanese’ effect of the tracery of branches of *Myoporum floribundum*. This plant has so many excellent features that it is a great choice for any garden. The shape of the branches is exquisite and only becomes more twisted with age. The leaves droop from the branches in a most artistic way and the white flowers arranged along the top of the branches emphasise the graceful lines of the limbs. Behind the myoporum is the strappy foliage of *Dianella tasmanica* and the vibrant colour of *Acacia cognata* ‘Lime Magik’.



The lax silver backed foliage of a potted *Banksia brownii* allows glimpses of the garden beyond and softens the vertical lines of the columns of the house. The brown candles of this banksia are an extra bonus.



Even a single flower can frame a view and add definition to the background beyond. Here two flowers can be both a focal point in their own right and a pointer to the garden behind the feature plant. Traceries of the linear foliage of *Grevillea* 'Billy Bonkers' and the divided prickly foliage of *Grevillea bipinnatifida* 'Jingle Bells' can offer you glimpses of the picture behind.



The sun can dramatically light up one plant in the garden, as it does here on the previous page with *Acacia denticulosa*, the Sandpaper Wattle. Looking more closely at the leaves rewards the viewer with marvellous patterns of veins, almost translucent, which add to the view behind. One of the most pleasing aspects of the Wax Grevillea below, *Grevillea insignis*, is the fact that the leaves are translucent when the sun shines through them, revealing the pink rims and the fascinating patterns of veins in the prickly leaves. We try to catch sight of this grevillea when the sun shines through it and forms a beautiful contrast with the silver grey foliage of *Melaleuca incana* behind, itself lit up like a beacon by the sun.



The photo below shows off the importance of layers in the garden. The traceries of the light branches of *Acacia subulata* soften the rocks and shrubs behind. The fact that this wattle blooms virtually all year with blooms that open serially from top to bottom is an added advantage.



Quotations of the Season

Christopher Lloyd from his book *Foliage Plants* where he says: "For it is an indisputable fact that appreciation of foliage comes at a later stage in our education, if it comes at all".

Dire predictions for Melbourne's trees

GardenDrum June 17, 2014

Which of Melbourne's trees will survive its galloping climate change? Latest figures show its average temperatures rising faster than predictions, and many of its trees are already struggling to survive.

Without radical intervention, modelling shows that more than one quarter of Melbourne city's trees will not last another 10 years, many of them succumbing to heat stress. For those who don't really understand climate change, a one degree change in average temperatures doesn't seem like much. But for plants it's devastating. You only have to look at how different whole plant communities are when there are only tiny changes (much less than 1°C) in temperature from one area to the next to see how sensitive they are.

Melbourne's statistics are:

Average number of days above 35°C: 1990-1999 = 9 days ; 2000-2009 = 12 days

Average temperature increase is already 1°C, showing a faster increase than the CSIRO projected changes through to 2030.



Candles on Melbourne's hottest day, 46.4 degrees C on February 7, 2009. Photo Cuddy Wifter

In answer, the City of Melbourne's planners are hoping to take Melbourne completely carbon neutral by 2020, drastically reducing its energy consumption of high-emitting brown coal power, working to counteract the urban heat island effect and using urban planning to reduce both commuter and recreational travel. The City's urban forest strategy aims to increase tree cover from 22% to 40% by 2040.

While it might seem surprising that the City of Melbourne is pushing ahead with its own climate change plan, head planner Professor Rob Adams says they don't have a choice, given that state and federal governments are reducing their commitment to clean energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Greening Grey Britain

GardenDrum April 3, 2015

GREENING GREY BRITAIN – the RHS is calling on everyone in the UK to do their bit to turn around the decline of Britain as a '*green and pleasant land*'. In London alone, garden areas decreased by 12% from 1998 to 2008, mainly through the paving of front gardens for city parking.

As the RHS says, everyone can make a positive contribution '*one plant at a time*' and it is encouraging every Briton to plant a tree, a shrub, a climber, a hedge or even just a little perennial in a window box. Even pulling up one paver and putting in a plant instead will help.

The RHS will also share and promote ideas about how to green up a parking area.

And back gardens are not immune either, with garden buildings and paved areas making large inroads into vegetated spaces. Both lawns and garden beds continue to shrink.



The Rain Chain' Design Wendy Allen Photo© RHS – Neil Hepworth

The RHS wants to turn this around and green up 6000 'grey' spaces within 3 years, starting with its *Britain in Bloom* community garden program launching on 10 April 2016 and supported by the RHS's 300,000 members.

“Reinterpreting Glovers Garden

By Jeanine Petts

First published APS Mitchell *Newsletter* February, 2015, page 3
ably assisted by Chris Cram with I.T.

Barbara Mau’s 2013 Masters of Art in Fine Art by Research project was to identify the indigenous flora of the Kilmore region. In addition an artist’s garden was to be developed incorporating as many of the local flora as possible. The garden, now established at Quarry Ridge Vineyard, employs a colonial layout with a planting scheme that offers a sustainable horticultural model through an art project.

In the 1830’s Kilmore was one of the early inland Victorian towns to be established for the purpose of grain growing. Considerable land stripping occurred making it difficult to find what the region’s original plants were. One of the aims was to create a garden that would increase our awareness of the diminishing Kilmore flora. To bring an art context to the project, the 1834 garden layout of Tasmanian colonial artist John Glover was chosen.

Glover was one of the “Picturesque” romantic painters of England before immigrating to Tasmania in 1831. At the age of 64 and a highly respected artist, wealthy in his own right, Glover joined his two sons in Tasmania. Together they took up one of the largest land holdings in Tasmania, south east of Launceston at Mills’ Plains (near Deddington).



Image from the Art Gallery of South Australia

Why choose John Glover? A historical reference was needed and Glover’s garden was possibly the first substantive garden in the Colony that was consciously designed by a person with recognised artistic sensibilities. Although Glover’s garden was modest in design, it still represented an imported pocket of home, superimposed onto the indigenous landscape. His

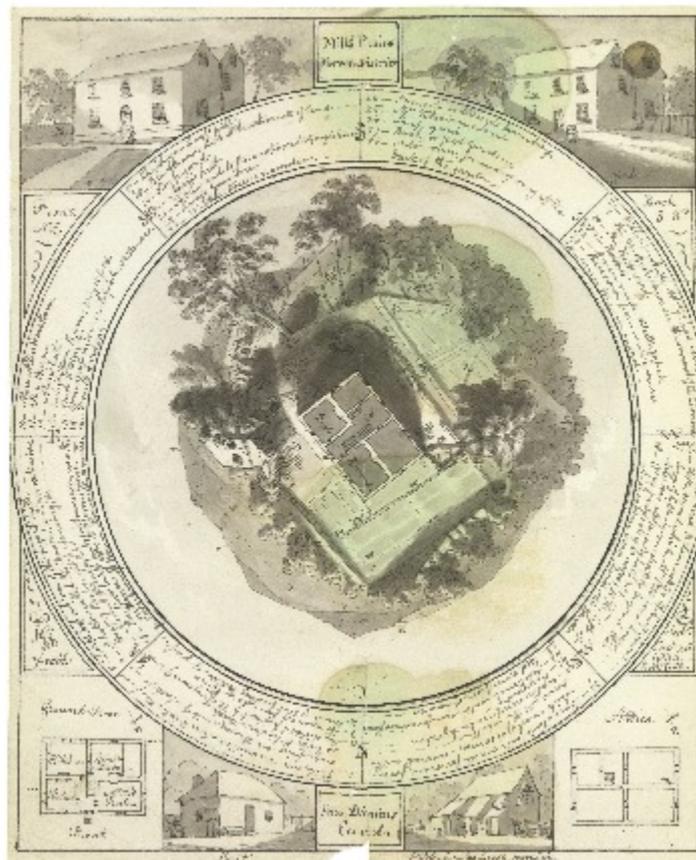
colonial, rectilinear garden, incorporated water rills and was planted with many exotics he had bought with him from England. He borrowed from the landscape and extended the size of his garden by incorporating many of Mills' Plains indigenous floras.

Some aims and objectives of the Quarry Ridge design brief were:

- Re-interpret John Glover's garden design by planting indigenous species relevant to Kilmore instead of the exotics he had used. Plant indigenous species relevant to Kilmore.
- A re-dedication to local plants and sustainable horticulture.
- A garden sustained by rainfall water only.

A great deal of research was undertaken to build an extensive list of floras relevant to Kilmore. Many visits were made to Mt. Piper, Monument Hill, Colin Officer Reserve, Old Sydney Rd, Daraweit Guim Rd, and Kilmore area roadsides. Various artists' gardens were also visited:

- William Martin's sustainable garden 'Wigandia' at Noorat, Western Districts of Victoria. His garden is never watered (other than rainfall). Martin is a sculptor who uses sculptural aspects in his garden. He looked at, and made use of, plants from the same latitude as Noorat, from around the globe
- Fiona Hall's Fern Garden, 1998 National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
- Cranbourne Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne
- Dadang Christanto's humanity sculpture *Heads from the North* at the Sculpture Garden, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, is a dedication to lives lost in the Suharto Coup and incorporates artificially produced mist to portray a jungle atmosphere
- Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra.



This drawing is composed of a centre 'wheel' containing an aerial view drawing of Patterdale house building in the inner circle, surrounded by a segmented band of text explaining the view from each section. The 4 outside square corners which extend along the top and bottom show smaller buildings and plans (1835)

Image from the State Library of Tasmania

Hoping to gain insight into Glover's home, and in particular any remnants of his Mills' Plains garden, Barbara visited Tasmania twice. The first visit didn't quite go to plan. Intending to visit John Glover's garden, and thinking the heritage property would have public access, she discovered that it was still privately owned and the residence of the property manager. This resulted in a rethink of schedule and some informative visits to other colonial homes and gardens were undertaken.

Houses and homesteads, established around the 1830s, were visited: Clarendon Homestead, 1838, at Evandale, Old School House, 1838 at Launceston and Brickendon House, 1829, Woolmers Estate, at Longford. Brickendon House was built by the Archer family and is still owned by the family today. Much of the garden layout has been preserved, including a rose walk to the front door and the original Bunya Pine in the front garden. The trip was deliberately timed during winter in order to see the "bones" of the gardens.

The second trip to Tasmania, also in winter, was only marginally more successful. Although permission to visit the Mills' Plain property was sought and granted, it turned out that no evidence of the original garden currently remains at the site. This left only Glover's works and correspondence to be viewed at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, and a couple of publications for clues as to the layout of his garden. Glover's painting *View of the Artist's House and Garden, Mills' Plains, 1834-5*, owned by The Art Gallery of South Australia, and John Richardson Glover's drawing of the family's plans for Patterdale, published in David Hansen's book, *John Glover and the Colonial Picturesque*, are the only traces of a 'garden plan' that could be gone by. A small publication produced by the Art Gallery of South Australia, *John Glover's house and garden, 1985*, clarified questions about the plant species that grew in Glover's garden. Using Glover's painting as their reference, the Adelaide Botanic Gardens identified the exotic and indigenous plants depicted in the artwork.

Site sensitivity – The site at Quarry Ridge is on a steep disused area of the property and once the site of Kilmore's first bluestone quarry. Every site leaves clues to follow and *Wahlenbergia luteola* and *Dianella amoena* were found existing on site.

Topography was also looked at. The north, south orientation of the hedgerows and vineyard in the landscape matched the north south orientation of Glover's garden. The top garden has a basalt cap, where the bluestone was quarried to build Kilmore's early houses. The rubble dumps that were created, when the quarry was active, have left a steep protective lower hill gardens against strong northerly and southerly winds.

To reinforce a 'sense of place' and respect the site's history and collective memory, the tracks made by the early horse drawn drays', whose imprint can still be seen on the site, have been left in the landscape, and the 1860 Richmond crusher wheel still remains to 'keep spirit'. A soak existed on the lower slope and was turned into a pond in 2010.

Barbara also sought and took advice from Jim Robinson (Greening Australia), and Ian Taylor (Western Plains Flora), who advised, "Plant what's right for the site", "go with your soil". Ian provided many of the harder to access indigenous plants for the project. Barbara claimed her first drawings held big ambitions and were a "bit pretentious" so it was back to the drawing board.

The proposed garden site was weedy with exotic grasses, thistles and flat weed. To commence work Jim Robinson's suggestion to 'skim' the top soil lightly to eradicate weeds and their seeds; was followed. The garden site then lay dormant for twelve months and was used as a loading and storing area by the tradesmen building the new house. Finally the site was unencumbered with heavy vehicle traffic and raised beds were established, granitic

sand put down for paving, and aggie piping laid for adequate drainage. The process of seed collecting, sprouting seeds, pricking out, potting into tubes then hardening off, had been on going. In October 2012, 1000 seedlings were planted, mulched with aged Eucalyptus chips, watered in, and watered through the heat of their first summer. As there is no water on site a 1000 litre tank on the back of a Ute was used.

Among the plantings at Quarry Ridge are:

Leptorrhynchus tenuifolius – Wiry Buttons

Leucochrysum albicans – Paper-daisies

Pultanaea pedunculata - Matted Bush-pea (Forms a carpet like mat & is very pretty when flowering in spring)

Rhodanthe anthemoides – Chamomile Daisy

Pimelea humilis – Common Rice-flower

Veronica gracilis – Slender Speedwell

Calocephalus citreus – Lemon Beauty-heads

Correa reflexa – Common Correa

Dianella amoena – Matted Flax-lily (Rare endangered local)

Podolepis jaceoides – Showy Podolepis

Olearia ramulosa – Twiggy Daisy-bush (Is a mass of flowers in spring)

Convolvulus angustissimus– Bind weed

Nicotiana suaveolens - Austral Tobacco (Perfumed in the evening & attracts moths).

Finally a quotation from Tim Flannery rounded out the presentation:

“Three human lifetimes– about 218 years – is simply not enough to become truly adapted to Australia’s unique conditions, for the process of co-evolving with the land is slow and uncertain.’

Yet it has begun, and the transformation must be completed, for if we continue to live as strangers in this land – failing to understand or live by its ecological dictums – we will forfeit our long term future here by destroying the ability of Australia to support us.”

Tim Flannery, 2002.

Devastation from NSW 10/50 clearing laws

Catherine Stewart March 17, 2015



The devastation of Sydney's tree canopy lumbers on with hundreds of trees being felled every month because of flawed State laws. The tree clearing is supposed to mitigate bushfire risk but is usually more about not wanting leaf litter mess, misplaced fear, and creating views. The property above removed 10 trees and adjoining properties removed a further 15 trees. **Stop the Chop**, is a community organisation trying to alter these '10/50 Code' clearing laws which allow non-assessed removal of any tree closer than 10 metres to a home in designated 'bushfire risk' zones. Since the new clearing laws came into effect, it's estimated that over a 1,000 trees, many of them mature eucalypts, have been chopped down just in the North Shore area of Sydney alone.

The problem is that the bushfire risk in many of these areas is negligible. The maps on which the Rural Fire Service base the 10/50 Code start with Bushfire Prone Land Mapping Data (where stringent clearing and building code practices already apply) and then add, in many areas, an extra 350 metre buffer zone around that. However this 'one size fits all' approach to clearing ignores the realities of properties on south or east facing slopes and in many valleys which haven't seen a bushfire anywhere near them in over 50 years.

It also ignores the fact that tree cover, especially those which include leafy green exotic trees, can slow down bushfire spread and protect homes from ember attack. When you add the other documented benefits of trees like cooling shade, oxygen production, carbon sequestration, animal and bird habitat, wind mitigation, improved mental health, lower crime rates and visual beauty, every tree in our community is invaluable.



During the review period of the 10/50 Code clearing laws (which closed in November 2014), the State Government received 3,579 submissions. 97% of the submissions did not support the 10/50 Code, with 81% calling for a moratorium, 5% that the Code be scrapped and a further 9% stating other forms of 'non-support'.

65% of those not supporting the code declared reasons that were categorised as "*concern that owners will clear for purposes other than bushfire risk*".

The current LNP NSW State Government shows no sign of making further changes to the 10/50 Code. No doubt developers are pretty pleased about that.

Report of Melbourne garden visit and meeting on Sunday, March 15 Diana Snape, Vic

Garden visit

Pam and Jim Yarra showed us the new section of their garden, developed since our last visit five years ago. When the block next door was sold, they were very concerned about the retention of the significant bush corridor and the area's biodiversity, as well as the privacy and autonomy of their own 'bush' garden. Having previously had no side fence at all, they negotiated to keep the fence as minimal as possible, then planted a hedge. Initial planting of *Acacia boormanii* was only partly successful, so most plants were replaced by *Westringia* 'Wynyabbie Gem', which have grown well and are now due for pruning. I suggested trying a wavy hedge-line, similar to that used with various *Calothamnus* species in the 'dry creek bed' garden at Cranbourne RBG, to reduce the formality of a hedge in their naturalistic garden.



Path beside house, *Banksia spinulosa* on left

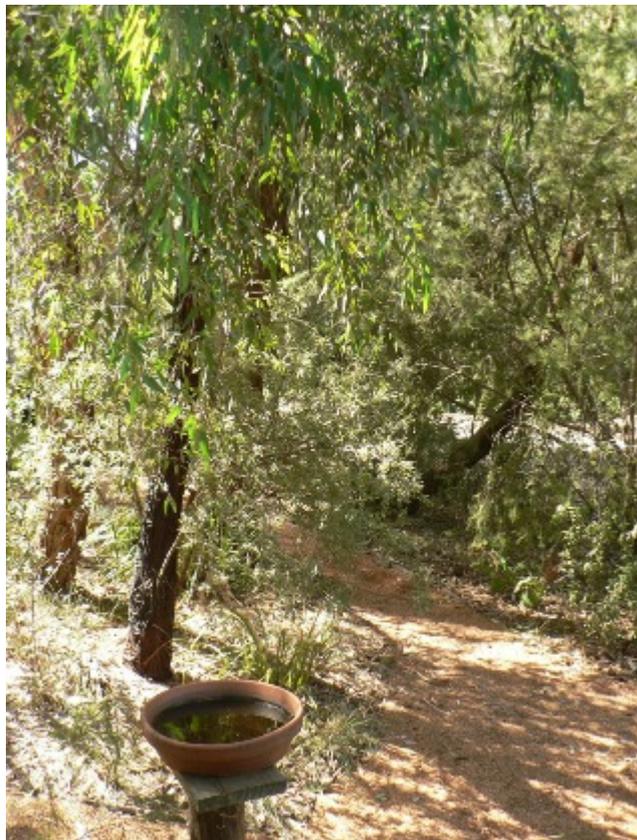
The Yarras were relieved when Sam Cox designed the area adjacent to their boundary for the new owners, post sub-division. Because their garden is shady and dry, Pam said their plant selection is limited but any restriction is more than compensated for by having the trees and many birds, including powerful owls, boobooks and tawny frogmouths. However there are fewer small birds than there used to be (just musk lorikeets and an occasional brown thornbill), a widespread concern nowadays.

Some-one asked whether Pam and Jim were worried about tree branches falling on their house and they said no, particularly as the trees weren't isolated. All eucalypts are indigenous - mainly Long-leaf Box (*E. gonicalyx*). The wattles are Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) and Black Wattle (*A. mearnsii*). Theirs is a habitat garden with good layering and a great diversity of plants. *Bursaria spinosa* attracts butterflies and Pam has noticed that blue-banded bees love the various *Plectranthus* species.

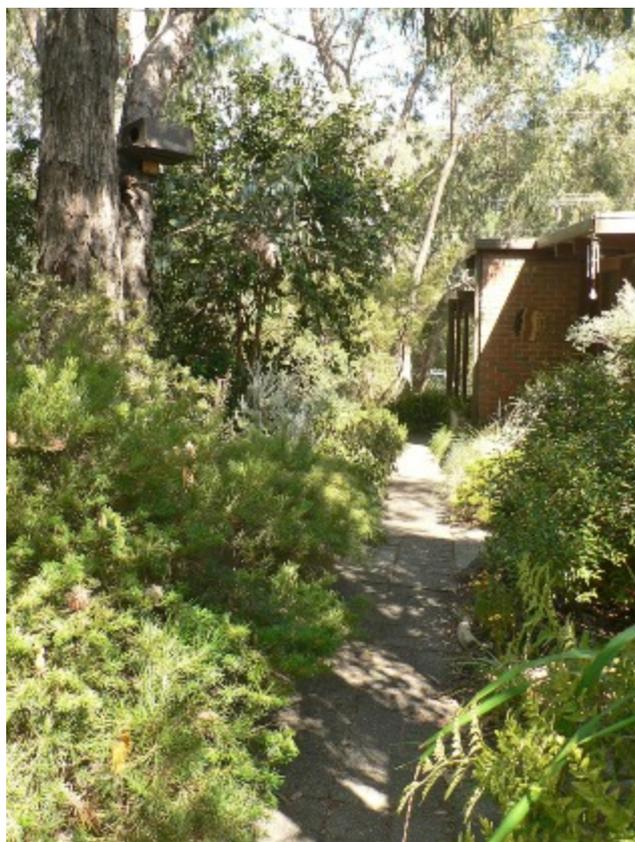
Their garden now has no grassed area. A long path winds through informal garden 'beds', with occasional side paths, mostly edged by timber. As so often happens, Jim does the structural

work in the garden while Pam propagates or buys the plants. I asked her about plants (both indigenous and introduced) that have proved particularly successful in their dry, shady garden. Pam mentioned phebaliums, thomasias, correas, croweas and lomandras, then later sent me a more comprehensive list - please see below, at end of report. Most grevilleas are certainly not suitable.

Pam and Jim have three favourite sitting areas in the garden, one with a good view of bird baths and one where we enjoyed having lunch. Interesting artworks add to the feel of the garden.



Bird bath beside path



Photos by Diana Snape

The relaxed feeling of a 'bush garden'.

Meeting

Our meeting was brief. Regarding garden records, Eleanor Hodges, who was unable to come today, has completed a record of Brenda and Tony Moore's garden. The Moores were also missing as they are very busy preparing to move. Margaret James (our experienced recorder) has seen the record and said it is excellent. It will be going on the website soon.

Margaret and Therese Scales completed recording Gordon Ford's garden just before the property changed hands and will investigate the possibility of doing the same for the Adams' garden, designed by Gordon Ford and next door to the Fords. Pam will record Chris Larkin's garden this winter and Brian and I will record the Marriotts' garden this coming spring.

A number of possibilities were mentioned for our next meeting. Not all were suitable for a GDSG meeting but would be worthwhile for individual members to see. These included the:

- * Burnley Gardens, with separate gardens originally designed by Ellis Stones, Kath Deery, Rob Boyle and James Hitchmore. The roof garden is not always open for visitors.
- * childrens' garden at the Childrens' Hospital
- * garden for water conservation at the SE corner of the Fitzroy Gardens
- * Peninsular Hot Springs at Rye, with the hot springs as an attraction!



Art in the Yarra garden

Next meetings

Sunday May 24, at Bob and Dot O'Neill's, 7 Hillsmeade Drive, Narre Warren South (Melway 130 D3). It will be most interesting to see the O'Neills' new garden. As usual, come at 1pm for a BYO lunch, or at 2pm to see the garden and have our meeting.

Sunday August 16, at the Stage 2 Gardens, RBG Cranbourne, which we haven't yet visited as a group.

Although most of us will probably go down there before lunch, we'll actually meet first as a group for lunch, at a slightly earlier time than usual. We'll meet at 12.30 pm, at the coffee and snacks shop at the very far end of the Gardens. There are a number of seats there and we'll hope there'll not be too many other people to occupy them.

At 1.30pm (again slightly earlier than usual) we'll meet at the group of designed displays for small urban gardens near the far end of the Gardens, near the lake. These will be the focus of our discussions. Then we'll look together at the small Seaside Garden and the Weird and Wonderful Garden. Apart from deciding our next venue, we won't try to have a formal meeting at all.

The following meeting: Sunday November 8, venue to be decided.

We thanked Pam and Jim for their hospitality.

Plants for a shady, dry garden

Pam Yarra, Vic

I did reflect later on the names of plants for a shady, dry garden for your listing, in addition to phebaliums and thomasias. Among banksias, *B. spinulosa* (all sizes) is a real gem in the garden and new cones are now starting to flower. Many callistemons just keep flowering and I tend to forget about them until they bloom. *Chorilaena quercifolia*, both medium & low growing forms attract bees, (Note: *Chorilaena quercifolia* is a great drought tolerant plant (both medium and low growing forms), but not indigenous to this area.

Grevillia arenaria, *G. shiressii* and *G. sericea* are good drought survivors. Eremophilas flower, but would like more sun. *Westringia* "Wynyabbie Gem" and *W. fructicosa* are great screening plants.

Amongst the original remnant bush are struggling gahnia (they need more moisture), lepidospermas and the wonderful *Coprosma quadrifida*. This prickly currant bush is a great source of food for many birds, great for screening and drought tolerant. Other added indigenous plants are more *Lomandra filiformis* forms, Poas - *Poa labillarderi*, *P. sieberiana* and *P. ensiformis*, *Indigophera australis*, *Hibbertia empetrifolia*, *Spyridium parvifolium*, *Pultenaea scabra* and *P. gunnii*. Both *Dianella tasmanica* and *D. revoluta* with their beautiful blue berries are tough.

There's *Epacris impressa* and *E. gunnii* (in a pot only, as it has now died out due to dry conditions). (*Epacris impressa*, the heath after which Heathmont was named, has almost disappeared from the suburb, after drought and possible loss of micro-organisms in the soil.) We've also added *Daviesia latifolia*, *Kennedia prostrata*, *Pelargonium australe*, *Correa reflexa*, *Lomandra longifolia* and the butterfly-loving plant, *Bursaria spinosa*.



The two hardy ferns are *Microsorium diversifolium* (Kangaroo Fern) and *Rumohra adiantiformis* (leathery shield fern or shield hare's foot). This second fern is in Jones and Clemesha's book but this states it originated in the Cape area of South Africa.

Now to the plectranthus. The ground cover with blue flowers, I think, is *P. alloplectus*, the small bush is *P. graveolens*. Another more furry ground cover is *P. habrophyllus* (endangered). The variegated form is *P. parviflorus* 'Blue Spires'.

Like many of the plants in the garden, the art pieces also provide lots of good memories. Most are presents from friends and family, some specifically hand-made for me. I have attached a photo of a sculpture recently made by Jim for my birthday. Apart from the base and two strips of timber in the middle, all material is from our garden.

Visit to Peter and Lyn Woodbury's property at Googong

Peter Woodbury, Canberra

On 17th March 2015 15 ANPS DAGS and GDSG members visited Lyn and Peter Woodbury's property at Googong and were most impressed by the extensive plantings and truly inspiring rock work accomplished by Lyn and Peter. Peter's notes on the history and development of the property follow.

We bought our 40 acre block in 1981, not having a clear vision of what we wanted except that it must be close enough to commute, as we both worked, and it had to have a bit of bush. We were very fortunate, as the property has a closed crown road along one boundary which has never been cleared and so has its original vegetation largely intact and weeds have never been a huge problem, though we do spend about a week each year controlling them.

Choosing to build ourselves was helped greatly by completing the Owner Building Course run by Jean-Pierre Favre at the then Canberra College of Advanced Education. We toyed with the idea of building in stone, decided it would take forever, so settled for brick and ended up with a partially buried solar passive design which, in true owner builder style, still needs finishing.



Photos by Lucinda Royston and Ben Walcott

The house was built into a slope causing a large amount of excavated clay and rock to be pushed out to the north and east. On the northern part of this material our first garden was built. Contained by a semicircular driveway entering from the northeast and exiting to the northwest it was three raised beds of mulch with mossy rock edged paths. Into this we planted Camellias, Azaleas, Magnolias, Rhododendrons, a Crepe Myrtle and Wisteria with an understory of Violets, Aquilegia, Hellebores and bulbs. This garden survived the 1985 bushfire which consumed all other vegetation - we had toasted pears and cooked tomatoes straight from the vine.



About this time Thommo's soil yard in Hume were having one of their annual tube sales. They were mostly native plants at about one dollar each. So we splurged and bought about fifty, followed by a mad rush to build more beds and to plant. The remnants of this are our large *Banksia integrifolia*, *Hakea salicifolia*, *Callistemon viminalis* and 'Little John', a *Melaleuca linariifolia*, *Philotheca myoporoides* and *Lomatia myricoides*. A few *Acacia pycnantha* have come and gone, the *Acacia boormanii* had to go as it wanted to take over and we enjoyed an *Acacia baileyana* for a few years, but don't tell anyone. Plants added since include *Lambertia formosa*, *Angophora hispida*, *Hymenosporum flavum*, *Grevillea* 'Lady O' and a yellow *Grevillea juniperina*, a row of *Hibbertia obtusifolia*, *Eleocarpus reticulata*, *Gastrolobium latifolium* and *celsianum*, *Hakea* 'Burrendong Beauty' and *H. petiolaris*, *Correa* 'Green Dream', 'Dusky Bells', 'Barossa Gold' and an unknown creamy yellow one, a couple of *Micromyrtus ciliata*, *Libertia paniculata* and half a dozen *Polystichum proliferum*. A welcome self-sown addition is a now 4 metre high *Exocarpos cupressiformis*.

In 1990 our garage/carport was built on the east of the house. This generated more rocky clay fill which we separated and turned into the dry stonewall with garden bed above that form the north eastern corner of our front garden. This bed we filled with Grevilleas, *G. Poorinda Peter* and 'Forest Rambler' have survived to date, three varieties of *G. victoriae* and a couple of *G. 'Bronze Rambler'* have died and been replaced with five *G. 'New Blood'*, a couple of *G. gaudichaudii* and a *G. aquifolium*. A *Grevillea robusta* is thriving after a slow start. Plants that surprised us are a couple of Geraldton Wax, *Chamelaucium uncinatum*, initially bought as Christmas table decorations that thrived for twenty years



with no frost protection in full morning sun. We extended this bed in 2010 and it now features a particularly twisted specimen of *Eucalyptus pauciflora* 'Little Snowman' a large *Banksia* 'Roller Coaster', three *Callistemon salignus*, several *Anigozanthos* varieties, *Correa* 'Barossa Gold' and 'Dusky Bells' and a row of five *Xanthorrhoea* species.

During 1996 we hired a bulldozer to construct a new dam. While the bulldozer was on site we had an area to the northwest of the house ripped for a windbreak. There are about 150 trees including *Acacia melanoxylon*, *implexa*, *pravissima*, *boormanii* and *cardiophylla*, *Eucalyptus melliodora*, *rossii*, *pulverulenta*, *elata*, *mannifera* and *polyanthemus*, *Melaleuca*

armillaris, *Callistemon salignus*, *citrinus* and 'Kings Park Special', *Hakea salicifolia*, and *Banksia marginata*.

2000 saw us extending our house to the west. This time we employed a builder and it was all over in six months. The back (southern side) of our house was then excavated to drain surface water away from the building and to provide a more level area for vegetables and fruit trees. The excavated rock has been used to provide retaining walls to the original ground level giving excellent drainage to the plantings above. A large old *Eucalyptus nortonii* overshadows the southwestern part some of this area. It is close to 4m around the butt and only 5m high with a 12m diameter crown attesting the severity of the site. When planting in this area a crowbar is essential. We place the excavated rock to one side in the planting hole to aid water penetration and usually need to add extra soil/potting mix to have something to plant into. This method has allowed the survival of a selection of thirty Banksias including a hedge of *B. integrifolias* which are continually pruned by Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos. Prostrate forms of *Acacia pravissima* and *A. baileyana* are used to spill over the retaining wall the top of which is mulched and lined with *Lomandra 'Verday'* and *Dianella revoluta*. Further afield in this area exists an extensive rocky outcrop. Here we have weeded and mulched around the indigenous flora including *Cryptandra longiflora*, *Hibbertia riparia* and *H. obtusifolia*, *Lomandra bracteata*, *Dodonaea viscosa*, *Melichryrus urceolatus*, *Wahlenbergia stricta* and *W. communis* among others.



By 2005 we had subdivided our block giving us a driveway that entered from the east instead of the north and obliterating our vegetable gardens and chook shed in the process. The north western corner was still untouched with a 3m high rocky clay excavated bank not so slowly eroding away and depositing itself along our driveway. At this time we also decided we did not use our circular driveway enough to keep it. We engaged a professional native landscaper who visited the site, promised to come up with something, charged \$150 and rushed off to watch the cricket. He phoned six months later and asked if we still wanted to proceed. In the meantime we had visited a local nursery who advertises garden design, we arranged an appointment, the time came and after two hours I phoned the designer who apologised for the delay and duly arrived. She had a good look around, questioned why we wanted to use natives and said she would come back with some ideas. We are still waiting.

When our dam was dug a considerable quantity of large blue rocks were uncovered and pushed into a heap so it was these we used to build our western retaining wall, many weighing up to 1000 kilos, so most had to be positioned using an excavator. The wall starts vertically and gradually flattens into terraces until the slope is gentle enough for a path that allows wheelbarrow use. This connects to a wide gravel path providing vehicular access and a bushfire break around the house. *Leucochrysum albicans* have naturalised into it. Above this to the west two more dry stone walls allow a narrow well drained bed planted to *Banksia* 'Roller Coaster' interspersed with the Waratah *Telopea* 'Corroboree' and a row of yellow kangaroo paw. Above this again is a row of *Acacia pendula* that are intended to screen our shed. The terraces are covered in groundcover Grevilleas with edging of grey *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*. *Callistemon* 'White Anzac' are dotted through and *Micromyrtus ciliata* overhang the lowest rocks. A small bed above the steeper section of wall features *Banksia serrata*, and *Grevillea diminuta*, with a prostrate form of *Acacia saligna* cascading over the rocks.

A useful byproduct of our drystone walls is the shelter they provide for a healthy lizard population. Cunningham's Skinks are particularly abundant and useful, controlling snails and, as we were surprised to witness, chasing off a brown snake.

Part of the obsolete driveway has been converted into a dry creek bed using river stones lined with *Lomandra* 'Verday'. A couple of circular lily ponds made from corrugated iron with a sandstone coping make an excellent bird bath and house a pair of Annie Storey's copper waterlily sculptures. Garden edging of similar design doubles as a garden seat between two new gardens featuring *Eremophila*, *Correa*, *Crowea*, *Callistemon*, *Grevillea*, and *Conostylis* among others. The rest of the old driveway, now brick edged and granite paved, is covered by shade sails in summer and has become our outdoor entertaining area complete with potted *Xanthorrhoeas*.



Two years ago we participated in a project to plant *Casuarina verticillata* (a food tree for Glossy Black Cockatoos) in higher areas between Queanbeyan and Cooma. 10,000 trees were planted, 500 are on our place.

We have always grown vegetables and fruit in various places around our garden. Lyn has taken this up seriously since retiring and now keeps us, and any visitors, well supplied from her 25 (at last count) raised beds.

Future plans include a new chook shed with enclosed yards of espaliered fruit trees and some sort of shade structure complete with vines over the car parking area. A bog garden overflowing into a series of swales is also being considered.

Treasurer's Report:

Cash on hand:

Account 285385 \$ 8,487.97
Account 181703 \$ 5.95

Term Deposit:

Due 19 July 2014 \$ 23,811.05 (will accrue interest of \$ 463.30)

Total Value of all deposits: \$ 32,304.97

Index

Leader's Comments		1
Correspondence		1
Recording gardens	Margaret James, Vic	2
Cloudy Hill Garden	Fiona Johnson, NSW and Canberra	3
An enormous green roof	Diana Snape, Vic	6
The 7 best pieces of garden advice I've had	Catherine Stewart	7
Traceries and Layers in the Garden	Ros Walcott, Canberra	10
Quotations of the Season		13
Dire predictions for Melbourne's trees		13
Greening Grey Britain		14
Reinterpreting Glover's Garden		15
Devastation from NSW 10/50 clearing laws	Catherine Stewart	18
Report of Melbourne garden visit and meeting	Diana Snape, Vic	20
Plants for a shady, dry garden	Pam Yarra, Vic	22
Visit to Woodbury's property at Googong	Peter Woodbury, Canberra	23
Treasurer's Report		28

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