



GARDEN DESIGN STUDY GROUP

ISSN 1039 – 9062
ABN 82 428 110 028

Newsletter
February 2017

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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Leader's Comments

Happy 2017! The years do seem to slip by with great rapidity. There are several things that have happened since the last *Newsletter*.

First, we have decided to make membership in the Study Group for those receiving the *Newsletter* by email **free**. Some study groups have all their memberships as email ones and charge no fees (means no bank accounts and handling money). Our Study Group is very fortunate to have a significant bank balance thanks to Diana Snape and the other authors of her book who donated all their royalties to the Study Group. The original idea was that we might produce another book, perhaps on small gardens, in the future. After discussions with Diana and others, it seems that no one is interested in producing such a book. Many of us feel the value of such a book would be limited as people these days are getting their information on the web. To that end, a while ago, we decided to post all the *Newsletters* on the ANPSA Garden Design website as they are published. The only expense that the Study Group incurs is the printing and posting of the paper version of the *Newsletter*. At present about ½ of our members get the *Newsletter* by post and the other ½ who pay membership for the electronic version are subsidizing those members. We anticipate that more and more members will accept email *Newsletters* so there will be less printing and postage costs. We hope that such a no fee option will encourage more people to sign up to the Study Group and participate in its various activities.

Second, we are delighted to inform you of the establishment of Garden Design Study Group Queensland. Lawrie Smith and others have established the group in Brisbane and have had an inaugural meeting. They have about 18 members so far and have visited gardens, most recently the Roma Street Parkland (see report later in this *Newsletter*). It will be wonderful to hear about tropical gardens and the plants that Queenslanders can grow. They have established a Google Group for sharing pictures and comments on gardens in their region and we will put some of these in the *Newsletter*.

Finally, over a year ago I, as ANPSA President, put forward a proposal to the National Arboretum here in Canberra for a formal native garden to be part of their "Gallery of Gardens". We felt that it would be a great opportunity to showcase how Australian native plants can be used in formal gardens to great effect. Recently, there has been a change in the management of the Arboretum and the new Executive Manager, Scott Saddler, expressed enthusiasm for the project and just before Christmas we received formal approval. Now the task is to raise \$150,000 to design, build and maintain the garden. Lawrie Smith has agreed to lead the design team, Angus Stewart will help with the design and liaise with the nurseries to source plant material and Ros and I will provide some local knowledge. It is a daunting task to raise the money but we are cautiously optimistic that it can be done in a timely fashion. It would be something important for ANPSA to do in addition to the Study Groups.

Anniversary Year 2017

Ros Walcott, Editor GDSG NL

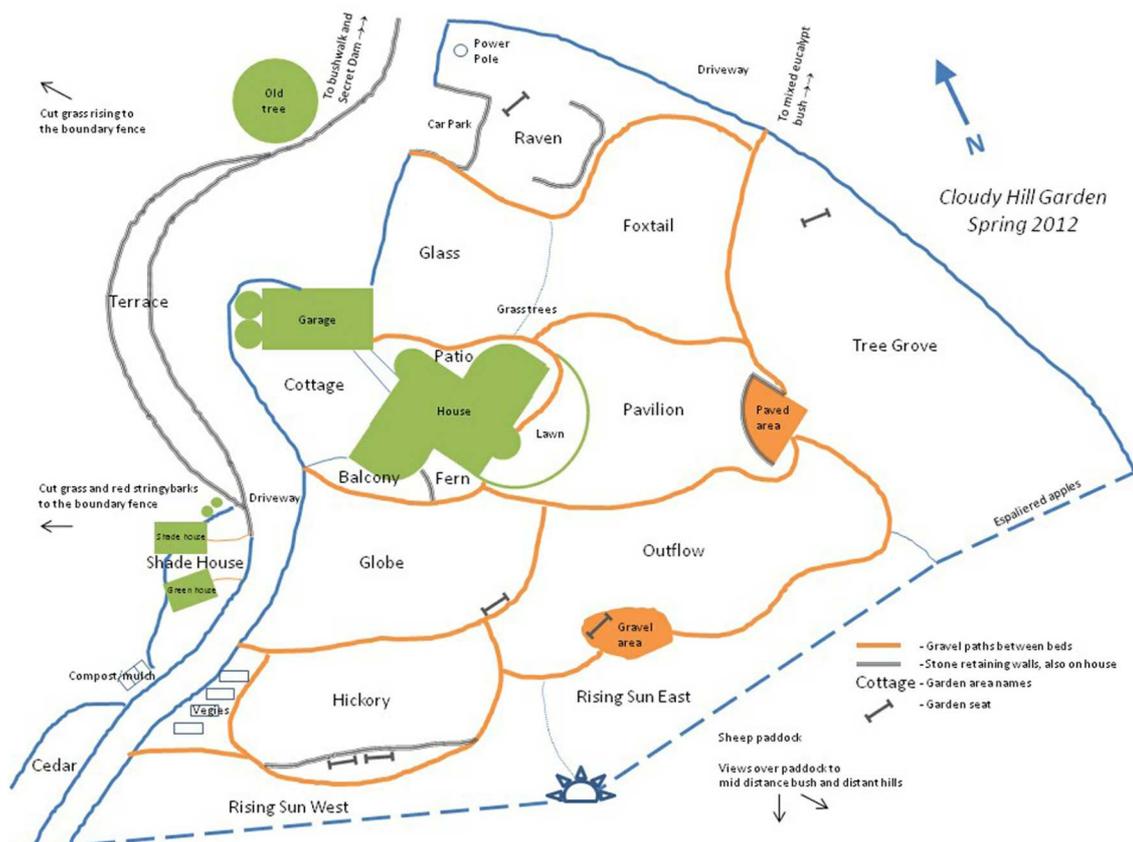
GDSG Newsletter will reach its 100th issue in November 2017! Founder of GDSG and *GDSG Newsletter* Editor for ten years, Diana Snape should feel rightly proud of the success of her publication. Jo Hambrett was the *GDSG Newsletter* Editor for another ten years before handing it on to me. (I am pleased to report that Jo is back in Sydney. Welcome back Jo - we have missed you.)

We must celebrate our 100th issue of the *Newsletter* with a bumper edition devoted to the history of garden design with Australian native plants. Twenty-five years is a milestone for our Study Group, so please start thinking about a contribution to our *Newsletter* to mark its importance.



This article has been extracted from a talk that Fiona gave and her notes have been interpreted by Ros and Ben. All photos are Fiona's.

Fiona and Alex took early retirement from jobs in Canberra and moved to Fitzgeralds Mount near Bathurst where they found a property with a view and room for a shed. Fiona has family ties in Bathurst and the property had a nice combination of dams, cleared spaces and trees. The climate has four seasons and (marginally) more rain than Canberra.





Fiona's gardening philosophy includes gardening for wildlife, as well as aesthetics, while working with the constraints of soil and climate. Another aim is minimizing the use of herbicides and pesticides while having the garden being able to be managed by two people. The views (see above) should be maintained and the garden should be a pleasant place to stroll around with a glass of wine at the end of the day. In winter (see below) the garden should still be able to be enjoyed from within the house.



Why Australian native plants?

Initially planted exotic trees did very poorly and were removed. Fiona always liked natives and exploring the bush with her mother identifying flora. Native plants complement the house and landscape and provide a challenge and learning experience. Fiona and Alex are not purists and plants from anywhere in Australia are used - there is also an exotic cottage garden near the house and some fruit trees.

The Challenges:

Having a large green fields site and not really having experience with where to start but wanting to get started quickly. The site was difficult with snow and exposure to cold and winds and very variable soil conditions, with some good soil and other places having almost toxic soil. Also there was a problem sourcing plant material for the garden. Animals, rabbits and macropods, also posed a challenge.

So what did they do?

They planted a tree grove to reduce the size of the garden to about 1 acre. They engaged a professional garden designer to help develop a basic garden plan (see previous page) and to advise on plant selection. The garden plan was to be implemented in three stages over 3 years commencing in spring 2008.

We started by spraying the grasses with herbicide, rotary-hoeing the dead grass into the soil and ripping with a single tine on a tractor. They spread some compost, newspaper layers and mulched the garden beds. When planting, they put water crystals in the holes and overplanted, keeping a record of what was planted where.

The Results:

Initially during the dry years, the plants grew well in the clay based soil, but it started to rain in 2010, the hillside became waterlogged and they lost many plants. The solution was to build terraced garden beds and to add sub-soil drainage in several areas. They also selected plants that were more tolerant of wet or variable conditions and used planter pots as well.



Lessons learned:

Plants really do appreciate wind shelter. Prostrate plants and ground covers live in the coldest zone and are most susceptible. They are also the most difficult to keep weed free. Organic mulches hold the frost longer than bare soil and there is a big difference between 'frost hardy' and 'cold hardy'. Don't believe labels as all conditions are different and plants respond differently. Digging in the dirt is therapeutic and weeding is mostly meditative. There is great value in propagating your own plants as often it is the only way of replacing ones that have died. It is fun to experiment so don't always play it safe. Try growing new things from areas you might not expect to thrive but sometimes work well and other times they fail. It is best to use hardier plants in the bulk of the garden so that failed experiments are not so obvious. Fiona's staple plants are banksias, callistemons and leptospermums but overall she maintains over 100 different genera in the garden.

What would she do differently?

Not cut the house site into the ground and control the builders and contractors to keep them from contaminating the designated garden areas. She would try to understand the soil types before starting and to amend problems in advance rather than retrospectively. Finally, keep the exotic violets OUT.

The garden is not a bush garden, but is a relatively formal shrubby garden, still in progress, and enjoyed by birds, insects, lizards, the odd snake and Alex and Fiona



A '5 star' native bee hotel

Terry Langham

Friends of the Waite Arboretum, University of Adelaide

Reprinted from 'Eucalypt' No 47 Nov. 2016 (Newsletter of

Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens)

The Waite Arboretum was established in 1928 and is a part of the University of Adelaide's Waite Institute, home to agricultural science departments. The Arboretum is a collection of 2,300 trees. Its Native Bee Hotel is a sculptural and functional 'five star' accommodation complex for solitary native bees and is situated on the edge of the Mallee section of the Arboretum. It was designed and constructed for research, education, and biodiversity conservation. There are approximately 500 species of native bees in South Australia and 2,500 across Australia. South Australia's native bees include Green Carpenter Bees, Reed Bees, Blue Banded Bees, Teddy Bear Bees, Leafcutter Bees, Resin Bees, Homalictus bees and Masked Bees. They range in size from less than 2 mm to 24 mm. The hotel was made using six timber logs from Arboretum trees with fallen limbs from age or storm damage. One of the logs was sawn and positioned to create an overhanging eave to provide some protection for the nesting holes and materials. A variety of holes were drilled into the other five logs, ranging from 3 to 38 mm diameter and 60 to 150 mm depth. A number of these holes form nesting 'homes' for the bees and some of the holes can have various materials placed into them, for example paper straws, bamboo, and some native grasses. Most of the gaps between the timber logs have been tightly filled with 150 mm lengths of bamboo. A number of the larger diameter timber and bamboo nesting holes have been filled with elderberry, crocus, salvia and wheat materials to create a wider selection of habitat for the bees to reside in. In addition, rebates were cut into the top and bottom of the logs to allow placement of nesting materials, for example, dried herbaceous garden plants (raspberries, brambles, teasels and elder), soft deadwood such as banksia, mud bricks of rammed earth and various mixtures of clay and sand. In January 2015 evidence could be seen of some of the over 120 species of local native bees residing in the eight and 16 mm diameter holes.



'Hovering cube' wins best design for National Botanic Gardens new conservatory

By Jana Black Reprinted from the ANBG Website



PHOTO: An artist's impression of the winning design. (Source: Australian National Botanic Gardens)

A 'hovering' glass cube will take its place at the Australian National Botanic Gardens after the design was chosen for a new conservatory.

Sydney-based architect firm CHROFI won the national competition to design the new Ian Potter National Conservatory. Described as "unique", the mostly glass box will be home to Australia's most rare and endangered tropical plants.

CHROFI's John Choi said. "We really thought [about] having a different take on a conservatory, still giving you the allure of what the building is from the outside, but holding off on revealing what's within until one walks inside." Mr Choi described his design as "a gallery for plants in the 21st century".



An artist's impression of the interior of the Ian Potter National Conservatory. (Supplied: Australian National Botanic Gardens)



Botanic Gardens director Judy West and architect John Choi with the model of the winning design. (Photo Jana Black)

"Rather than one uniform glazed enclosure, we created a series of rooms that offer a diverse and immersive space to really enjoy the living exhibit within," he said.

From 39 entrants, five finalists were chosen and put before a panel of judges. Australian National Botanic Gardens director Dr Judy West described the process as difficult, because of the high quality entrants. "Most of the conservatories or glasshouses around the world are just totally glass and fairly conservative looking," she said. "We wanted to have something different and obviously the CHROFI design came up with a very different scale and the design, [and] being sustainable environmentally as well."

The unusual design meant Dr West's initial reaction was one of shock. "My God, it's a box. How is this going to work?" she said. But architects on the judging panel were able to see the qualities of having such a unique design. "Immediately they saw the design they loved it before the rest of us were loving it," she said. "They thought it was, internationally, a design winner."

The conservatory will include plants from Kakadu and Christmas Island, grown from seeds from the National Seed Bank. The Ian Potter Foundation donated \$1.5 million to the project, with the rest of the \$6 million project funded by the Federal Government and through fundraising.

Construction will begin next year, and the conservatory is expected to be open to the public in 2018. The conservatory is part of the garden's 20-year masterplan.

Taking a chance on *Eremophilas*

Words Ros Walcott, Canberra
Photos Ben Walcott, Canberra

Eremophilas can be marvellous plants in the garden, but their reliability in a variety of soils and climates is still being established by their many devoted growers. As so many *eremophilas* have been only recently brought out of the wild and introduced into our gardens they are still a work in progress as garden plants. They have so many good points for garden design; many are small, compact plants which bloom over long periods and attract both birds and insects. They come with a variety of flower and foliage colour and form. Most of them react enthusiastically to pruning, even harsh pruning. They can be clipped into hedges or larger plants used as screens and windbreaks. Many *eremophilas* make successful groundcovers.



Eremophila 'Roseworthy'. Ground cover (left) and detail (above)

My garden history with eremophilas has been passionate but uncertain. When I first met a wide variety of eremophilas at Lang's Nursery in Mildura in October 2010, I enthusiastically purchased ten plants new to me. Despite planting them in full sun in a mixture of native potting mix and sand, they all died in the Canberra rainy season of 2010-11. This was discouraging, but they were not the only group of plants which died during that rainy period.

On searching through my garden records I find that I have purchased 423 eremophilas of 167 different species, hybrids and cultivars in the last 13 years of which 30% have died or been removed for failure to thrive. I also notice (thankfully) that my success record is improving over the years – either I am choosing more wisely, Canberra's weather is milder, or I am growing eremophilas better, probably a mixture of all three. I had fixed in my head that I could not grow the silver or grey leaved eremophilas as well as the green leaved ones, but my statistics show that there is little difference between the two groups, 28% failures in green leaved varieties and 33% of deaths in silver or grey leaved varieties.



E. alternifolia



E. calorhabdos x viscida



E. longifolia

According to my notes the majority of deaths, 53%, occurred during winter (my comment is usually 'frosted off'). Equal low percentages of plants died in the rain and the heat, only 8% for each, and 20% were removed for failure to thrive or have outgrown their space. The others suffered various accidents and tribulations, such as 'dug up by possum', 'stepped on', 'did not recover from being cut back', 'overwhelmed by other plants', 'blown out of the ground', 'unearthed by fox', 'whipper-snipped in error' or 'nibbled off by raven', the usual catalogue of garden woes.



E. alternifolia x Myoporum platycarpum



E. calorhabdos x splendens 'Beryl's Gem'

Eremophilas bloom for a long time. In 2016 in our garden 27 different varieties of eremophila flowered for more than half the year and two, *Eremophila maculata brevifolia* and *Eremophila maculata* 'Aurea' flowered every week of the year, even during Canberra's winter. This is important for both birds and insects. 'Approximately 75% of eremophilas are insect pollinated (entomophilous), with the remainder being bird pollinated (ornithophilous), or adapted for pollination by either.' (Colin Jennings, *Newsletter of the Australian Plants Society (South Australia)*, August 2001). Long periods of flower, particularly in the winter in Canberra, can keep both insects and birds alive.

I have purchased eremophilas from more than twenty different sources over the years, as well as receiving many as gifts from propagating friends. Most have come from sources close to Canberra, Yarralumla native plants sale, Stocks Native Nursery, Heritage Nursery and ANPS Canberra sale, but some from Adelaide Australian Plant Society sale, and nurseries such as Belair, Port Augusta, Maffra, Kuranga, Goldfields and Sunvalley.



E. bignoniifolia x *polyclada* 'Big Poly' (left)

E. maculata "Aurea' (above)

Some of my favourite larger plants are *Eremophila alternifolia* for its deep pink bloom and long flowering period; *Eremophila alternifolia* x *Myoporum platycarpum* for its delicate pink flowers; *Eremophila bignoniifolia* x *alternifolia* 'Meringur Isaac' for its large pink/purple flowers; *Eremophila bignoniifolia* x *polyclada* 'Big Poly' for its spotted lilac flowers; *Eremophila bignoniifolia* x *viscida* 'Meringur Midnight' for its large dark purple flowers and long green leaves; *Eremophila calorhabdos* for its upright form and bright pink flowers; *Eremophila dempsteri* for its dense flowering habit and *Eremophila longifolia* for its dusty pink flowers contrasting beautifully with the grey-green leaves. The fruit of *Eremophila longifolia* are eaten by emus, useful knowledge if you happen to have emus in your garden.

Some successful groundcovers are *Eremophila biserrata* with its perky orange flowers, *Eremophila* 'Belalla Gold' for its bright yellow flowers over a long period; *Eremophila glabra* 'Fruit Salad' for its bright orange and yellow flowers and *Eremophila glabra* 'Roseworthy' for its flat habit, dense flowering and even spread of foliage.



E. subfloccosa var. *subfloccosa*



E. glabra 'Silver Ball'



E. arbuscula

Some long flowering small shrubs are *Eremophila* 'Beryl's Blue' with glorious blue flowers and stunning grey foliage; *Eremophila calorhabdos x denticulata*, a non-stop performer with bright pink flowers; *Eremophila decipiens* with fine bright green foliage and brilliant red flowers; *Eremophila* 'Fairy Floss' orange buds, pink flowers, which never stops blooming; *Eremophila glabra* 'Rottneest Emu Bush' with pleasing contrast between red flowers and green foliage; *Eremophila glabra* 'Steep Point Green' with even brighter red flowers; *Eremophila glabra* subsp. *albicans* (orange) for its cheerful orange flowers; *Eremophila maculata* apricot form obtained from Port Augusta Nursery and our best performing plant, one that we have propagated many times; *Eremophila maculata* 'Aurea' and *Eremophila maculata brevifolia* for their all year round performanc;, *Eremophila maculata* 'Compact Lemon' with lovely lemon flowers on a neat bush; *Eremophila maculata* 'Elf', a compact bush whose foliage turns burgundy in winter in Canberra; *Eremophila maculata* (purple), sometimes called 'Thundercloud', with large purple flowers; *Eremophila maculata x viscida*, a large and vigorous bush with masses of mauve flowers; *Eremophila oldfieldii* 'Honeyeater Cheer' with bright green foliage and tons of orange flowers beloved by spinebills; *Eremophila oppositifolia* 'Hardy Harry' with lovely grey foliage and white flowers for a long period; *Eremophila racemosa* with orange buds and pink flowers, and *Eremophila* 'Yana Road' with lovely contrast between grey foliage and pink flowers.



E. divaricata



E. polyclada x divaricata
'Summertime Blue'



E. maculata brevifolia



E. bignoniifolia x viscida
'Meringur Isaac'

Eremophilas work well in pots. I have a group of nine *Eremophila* 'Desert Passion' in planters near the front door which flower well. I have also had many years of growing *Eremophila* 'Yana Road' in a pot. When I tried to transplant it into the garden it died. I notice from my notes that many eremophilas do resent being moved – I have had a series of deaths after transplantation. However, the super plant *Eremophila maculata* 'Aurea' was originally ripped from the ground and discarded, before being resurrected and moved to another position where it thrives, so not all eremophilas balk at being moved.



E. 'Desert Passion' in planters by the front door

Eremophilas make useful hedges. In the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden near Port Augusta there are some small display gardens which feature eremophila hedges. Both the blue flowering, grey leaved *Eremophila hygrophana* and red flowered, green leaved *Eremophila maculata brevifolia* were clipped very successfully into low hedges and were mobbed by feasting honeyeaters.



Hedge of E. maculata brevifolia at Arid Lands Botanic Garden

Eremophilas are useful plants in garden design. Eremophilas, like most garden plants, appreciate judicious watering, pruning and fertilising to encourage them to put on their best display in the garden. They grow in a wide variety of habitats and conditions and can be used in many ways in the garden, hedges, groundcovers, screens and shrubs. They will attract both insects and birds to your garden.



E. calorhabdos at Nuriootpa in South Australia

Japanese Garden at Tondoon Botanic Garden, Gladstone Qld

Ruth Crosson, QLD

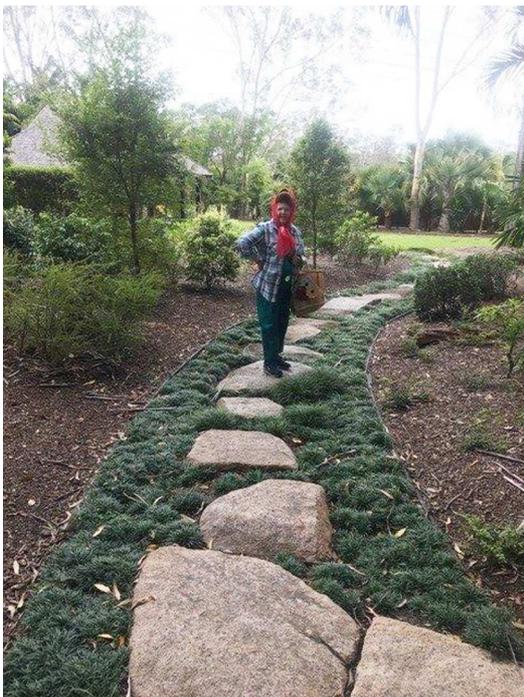
At last the entrance gate has been constructed, and leads into the Japanese Garden at Tondoon, Gladstone Q. The bamboo fence encloses the area within the Tondoon Botanic Garden. When a visitor walks through the gate they are supposed to leave all their worldly worries and stress behind and walk into a calm and tranquil area and gain mental relaxation from the Japanese Garden experience.

Focal point of the Japanese Garden is the Tea House. Constructed from recycled timbers. Design of the garden was by Nick Alderson. It has been slowly developing into a place of calm, tranquil beauty.



A feature in the Japanese garden is the water cascade which flows from a reflecting pool down a rock waterfall into a lily pond, which gives a pleasing cooling calm area within the Japanese Garden landscape. Architect Nick Alderson, was responsible for the original design of the Japanese Garden. Lawrie Smith was Architect for Tondoon Botanic Garden.

The landscape has had many changes over time, some for the better, due to nature having a hand in shaping the outcome.



Paths can be curving in the landscape, much more attractive with stone paving and rocks scattered in bordering beds of a collection of low growing plants.-

Queensland Chapter Germinates!

Lawrie Smith, QLD

For several years now, some of our Queensland members have been discussing the establishment of a GDSG Chapter in the subtropics and tropics. We really appreciate the contributions in the Newsletter about the amazing gardens in the southern states and are sometimes envious of the benign conditions and apparently wide range of small plant species available for garden use. In our hotter wetter (usually) climatic conditions, many native species (and weeds) are much larger and over vigorous, consequently our gardens are very different to the subtle, structured gardens in more moderate southern conditions. So it was logical to form a local Chapter of GDSG so we can investigate, discuss and contribute another facet of Australian garden design.



View of the lake at the Roma Street Parkland, Brisbane

The final seeds were sown last year and the first one germinated at a three day weekend field trip to the Sunshine Coast in November, where six gardens were visited. As we relaxed on the shores of a large hinterland lake in the late afternoon watching the sun sink behind the Glasshouse Mountains, it was agreed that we would officially form the Chapter – the seed had sprouted!! We planned for the first formal meeting to be held on January 14, 2017 in Roma Street Parkland – a special horticulturally inspired 16 hectare park in the centre of Brisbane, just 15 years old, planned with the theme of World of the Subtropics.

On that day the newly germinated seedling was nurtured by fourteen hardy members (of the eighteen members so far) who braved 36 degree temperatures, maximum humidity, burning sun, and few breezes – a typical Brisbane summers day!! We met first in a shaded court beside the lake, adjacent a formal waterfall with playful jets shaded by *Ptychosperma elegans* and *P. macarthurii* palms, many native ferns, some large Frangipani and *Elaeocarpus eumundi* trees. Traversing up the escarpment steps and cooled by the spray from the waterfall, we analysed the Proteaceae Garden which interprets the various Australian Proteaceae family groups, layered progressively and thriving from lake level to the top of the dry ridge. Then to allow comparative display species of the African Proteaceae family are planted in the adjacent garden with their indifferent growth and health defining the climatic differences of the African climate to that of Brisbane – absolutely opposite conditions in every season!

The Aridland Garden is the next comparative garden encountered. Here some dramatic dryland species from Australia and around the world are displayed on a rocky ridge incorporating inorganic mulches to simulate appropriate regional conditions. This garden merges into the World Cycad Garden to similarly interpret this ancient plant family from the various continents.

For us the most interesting Comparative Garden is Bottle Tree Ridge on the exposed top of the escarpment. This garden interprets many of the native species west of the Great Divide, including those close to the Brisbane region and others further west which just tolerate local conditions. Various species of Bottle Trees, Kurrajong and related species dominate the canopy protecting a wide range of herbs, grasses, tufts, shrubs and covers. The beautifully contorted trunks of a grove of seven *Leptospermum brachyandrum* at the entrance to this garden showed us how gnarled trunks and branches, with a light green weeping canopy can become a great focus for a garden, even when adjacent to a majestic Bottle Tree.



The group hearing from the designer

Fern Gully Bridge some 10 metres above the stream below links the escarpment across to the top of a specially constructed hill on which the Subtropical Forest was planted. This high level viewpoint provides excellent close inspection of the tree top foliage and flowers as well as long views over the parkland to the city centre. The paths and boardwalks spiral down and around the hill to the lake level, passing through many 'rooms' where the most dominant and attractive rainforest species are shown in respective communities. Interestingly we can compare the differing aesthetic qualities of the feather and the palmate palm communities. In this forest we can also appreciate design methods of massing and layering of the foliage to create interesting three dimensional forms and also provide glimpse views between the verdant leaves deeper into the forest.

Perhaps the most welcome section of the Subtropical Forest is the waterway which cascades and meanders down from near the top of the hill in *Angiopteris* Ravine, providing optimum moist shaded conditions for an extensive grove of King Ferns *Angiopteris evecta* with fronds to 6 metres long! The cascade continues through a simulated earthquake formed 'fault' gushing between 'rock' walls of Staghorn and Elkhorn and other ferns to then flow serenely though Fern Gully sometimes lost in the high pressure clouds of mist emitting from among the fern fronds and providing much needed cooling on this hot summers day.

The waterway leads us on through a grove of various Melaleuca and other lowland species, past a wetland with some dramatic native marginal and aquatic species that separates Pandanus Point from the subtropical forest. Pandanus Point interprets the typical sandstone headlands of South East Queensland (such as Noosa or Burleigh) by jutting out toward the centre of the lake. Still a shady and attractive area despite its prominent position which provides visual links to many other Parkland areas.

The Boardwalk along the Lake edge across the wetlands provides close inspection of the way these interesting areas of native and exotic aquatic species effectively biologically filter the circulating water of the various streams discharging into the lake. Stepping across the large circular concrete stepping stones, textured with sandblasted lotus blooms, gives an exciting way to appreciate the dramatic foliage and colourful flowers of Lotus and Water Lillies in the wetlands.



Group discussion

We are now not even half way around this extensive and dramatic Parkland but we stop for lunch and our first 'official' meeting of GDSG-Q. We agree to meet bi-monthly in various gardens and have selected venues for each month of 2017 - March, May, July, September and December. To keep in contact with each other, one of our talented members has developed a computerised Google based system.

It was generally agreed that our first meeting was enjoyable and successful, as well as educational as together we observed and discussed a range of garden design issues – everything from construction techniques to soils, to mulches and of course selection, performance and management of many species. Roma Street Parkland provided the ideal 'new landscape' to help us in our own initiatives.

View from Fern Gully to the CBD



Future Plans:

Most contact would be digital through GoogleGroups; we will meet personally five times a year in members gardens and/or other suitable venues. Meetings would be generally be held on a Friday from 9.30am.

2017 GDSGQ Calendar

March 10 Susan Rouse & Mark Shuman 42 Norman Street, Coorparoo

Lawrie & Mark will discuss and demonstrate how to use your computer to draw a garden layout using Word and other simple methods!

May 12 Carol Guard, 110 Friday Street Shorncliffe;

Bob Bannon, 41 Viscount St Bray Park; Lawrie Smith, TBC

July 15 & 16 we are invited to join the NPQ Pine Rivers excursion to gardens in Gympie & Great Sandy Region

Eucalypts at Monash University

Diana Snape, Vic

Brian and I recently visited Monash University to look at the gardens there with APS Maroondah Group, led by Bruce Schroeder. Almost all the plants are Australian, with a very few exceptions such as some old oak trees, remnants from the farms originally on the site. There are eucalypts planted throughout the university and I loved the atmosphere this created, with light shade on a hot summer day, green everywhere and a true Australian feel.

It was interesting to note the use of eucalypts in landscaping. A couple of ways were quite unusual. One involved a group of ten Lemon-scented Gums (*Corymbia citriodora*), closely planted in a mounded bed. These trees had been growing there for many years and this close planting had obviously inhibited their growth as they were not very tall, although they looked perfectly healthy. So you do not always have to plant large eucalypts far apart; they may find a way to cope at close quarters. With recent research showing that roots of neighbouring trees are actually inter-linked by their mycorrhizal fungi, the root systems of the ten Lemon-scented Gums may even act more like one giant root system!



Left: bark of a eucalypt showing colour



Group of *Corymbia citriodora* on mound

In more than one area, other large eucalypts are planted very close to large buildings. They cool the buildings and screen them nicely, and presumably aren't doing them any damage. The scale is appropriate and the general effect very pleasing. Stability of the trees should not be a problem. The roots are able to grow freely in the other three directions and, of course, the building would shelter the trees from any winds coming from that last direction.



In some beds, ironbark eucalypts are planted in association with beds of Kangaroo Paws, to dramatic effect. In addition to different species of *Eucalyptus*, a few Sydney Blue Gums (*Angophora costata*), underplanted with daisies, provide characteristic twisted silhouettes beside one pedestrian 'street'. Many eucalypts also have interesting, beautifully coloured bark.

As the university continues to expand, new landscaping continues to be carried out. Adjacent to the School of Geology, a large new area has been developed containing a very grand rock garden. This acts as an outdoor laboratory, with an enormous variety of wonderful, different rocks (a number of each type and some huge samples) from all over Australia. These are installed among raised areas and plantings - including some eucalypts. A very expensive project! I did not have time to take any photos of this area but will definitely return and spend more time there.



Ironbark eucalypts with beds of Kangaroo Paws



A few Sydney Blue Gums (*Angophora costata*) underplanted with daisies

Treasurer's Report

Cheque Account: \$ 7,891.96

Term Deposit \$ 25,368.38 (1 year from 25 Jan. 2017)

TOTAL: \$ 33,260.34



Pandorea jasminoides



Grevillea 'Coconut Ice'

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ANPSA Garden Design Study Group Newsletter is published four times per year in February, May, August and November.

Copy is due by the first of the these months although earlier submissions will be welcomed by the Editor.

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Membership dues 2016 - 2017: per year

Email Newsletter: **FREE**

Paper Newsletter \$ 20.00

Concession paper \$15.00 (For pensioners and full-time students only)

Dues by cheque or EFT to BSB 032-729, Account # 28-5385