



**GARDEN
DESIGN
STUDY GROUP**

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Newsletter
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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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Leader's Comments

As you have seen in the previous *Newsletter* and in the correspondence section of this one, The Garden Design Study Group is fast approaching its 25th year of existence. The Group was founded by Diana Snape who led it for 10 years and during that time produced the first book on using Australian plants in Australian garden design. Both efforts had a profound influence on Australian gardens and their design and led others to follow. From the beginning of the Study Group, Diana has been running the Melbourne section of the Group and, as you can see in the Correspondence section, is looking for a new person(s) to take over the major burden of organization for that group. We hope that someone will step forward and continue Diana's excellent work. Thank you, Diana, for all your hard work on behalf of native plants and their use in our gardens

All the Native Plant Societies are facing the same problem that our active members are getting older and many aren't able or willing to continue to do the same jobs as they used to do. There have been many attempts to try to get younger members into our groups but generally they haven't been very successful. It isn't that the interest isn't there as most of the 100's of customers who come to ANPS Canberra's plant sales are young families. They are knowledgeable about native plants but they have little time for meetings or other Society activities. I think the best thing we can do is to put information out there as broadly as possible and hope that as people retire and their families grow, they will have time to continue our work. Having this *Newsletter* on the ANPSA website and free to members who get it by email has helped increase our readership. More and more of the Study Groups are choosing this method of operation.

Finally, I am pleased to report that we are making progress on the design and implementation of the garden at the National Arboretum in Canberra. Lawrie Smith has produced an exciting concept plan which will be further refined and developed into a more specific plan when he visits in May. Angus Stewart is confident he can obtain some of the newer cultivars and hybrid native plants to go in it from various nurseries. So far, we have raised about \$ 60,000 towards the project so we are making good progress on all fronts.

News Flash: Our garden will be shown on ABC's Gardening Australia in the 28th May broadcast. Costa is the presenter and so it should be an interesting segment.



Correspondence

Diana Snape, Vic

As with many organisations nowadays, I'm finding we only have a few younger members and they tend to be very busy with little time for volunteering. Our older members also seem to have many commitments, especially family, and a reluctance to undertake any new responsibilities.

The letter below that I sent to the members of the Melbourne Branch of the GDSG on April 5 reflects the frustration I have recently been feeling and my thoughts about my continuing leadership of this group.

Those who have replied so far to the last two questions indicate a keenness for the group to continue and a willingness to take part in discussions focusing on design, which is good, but no more than that. When we have our next meeting, I hope we can find a solution. Possibly another member (or members) will offer to either lead as an individual or contribute to the leadership - for example, I'm always happy to write garden and meeting reports if someone else organises the dates and garden venues.

So I wanted to let you know that I'll be resigning officially from the leadership soon and certainly by the end of this year. 25 years of leadership is a long time. I'm sure I'll always belong to the GDSG though and be interested in visiting gardens and thinking about plants and design. Members really do enjoy meetings when we have them, so I hope we'll be able to keep the group going.

(Ed. Aren't we all fortunate that Diana has led us so well, and for so long. Congratulations, Diana, on a superlative and unique contribution to Australian native garden design.)

This is the letter that Diana sent to GDSG members in Melbourne

Once again, I am having difficulty getting commitment from sufficient members to make a GDSG meeting viable. This happened at the end of last year, which meant we did not have an opportunity to plan meetings or dates ahead for this year.

I have been considering for some time now how much longer I would continue leading the GDSG Melbourne (Victoria) branch. As Ros Walcott told us in the last *Newsletter*, this year we'll see the 25th year of the Study Group and the 100th edition of the *Newsletter*, so I've led the GDSG or its Victorian or Melbourne Branch for about 25 years - quite long enough, really! - and I think it's time for some-one else to take the lead at some stage during this year.

I have also been worried that meetings have tended to become just another garden visit, rather than have a real focus on design. Are our meetings of real value in this regard? A few members have indicated in their comments on the proposed visit on Sunday week that they think of it only in terms of a "garden visit", not a study in design followed by a meeting with discussion.

It is very difficult to effectively plan ahead without a good attendance at a meeting.

So firstly, can I have a definite commitment ASAP from members who wish to come on Sunday week (bar disasters of course), no ifs or buts or maybes? We'll see whether it should go ahead or not. Secondly (this can come a little later), how keen are members that the GDSG meetings continue? Thirdly, who would be able to make a greater contribution (not necessarily lead) in the planning of visits and meetings (even assisting other members with transport) if it does?

I hope everyone will take the trouble to read this email carefully and answer it as fully and as soon as you are able to.

Thank you, Diana

Carolyn (and Mark) Noake, NSW

Hi Ben and Ros,

I look forward to learning about garden design and am also hoping to implement some of this knowledge into our own garden.

Other than watering and trying very hard to keep the poor plants alive, we have just started to get back into the garden with some makeovers in the offing. Those really hot days in excess of 45 degrees accompanied by the very hot north westerly winds was the undoing of some of the newer plants unfortunately. Most of the plants have survived amazingly enough. My fern area has been dug out (ferns back in pots in green house) and planted with hardy grevilleas and banksias. The area gets hit from sun, baking heat and winds ALL year - don't know what I was thinking putting ferns there! Pleasure over sense I would suspect.

Hope your *Calytrix tetragonas* survived and you managed to get some cuttings. (Ed. Yes, thank you!) I have propagated the pink calyx variety if you need more of those with the black, maroon and yellow varieties to be done as soon as we get rain and there is a bit more growth on the plants. They are tough little critters though.

The Gallery of Gardens (at the National Arboretum) sounds wonderful. Can we assist with propagating plants from down here? I'll ask on behalf of Mark. At the moment he is doing more cuttings of a particularly unusual banksia for Angus (Stewart) for Nutcote in Sydney.

You (Canberra ANPS members) are most welcome to revisit our home and garden, it was lovely to meet so many like-minded native plant enthusiasts. But give me a minute or two to replant the valley of death :-). Cheers Carolyn



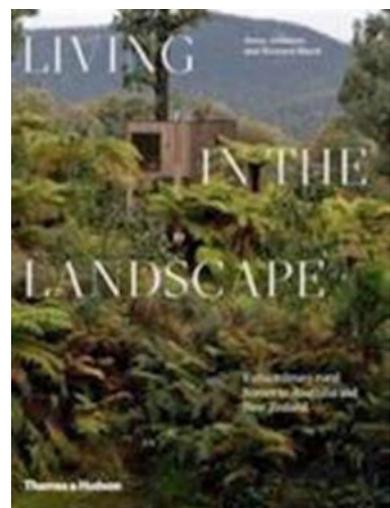
Noake garden view of the pond (photos by Ben Walcott) *Isopogon anemonifolius* in the Noake's garden

Nicky Zanen, Vic

My dentist was running late today which gave me the chance to pick up a coffee table book in the surgery titled "Living in the Landscape - Extraordinary rural homes in Australia and New Zealand" compiled by Anna Johnson and Richard Black and published in 2016.

Therein gardens were featured from all over Australia and New Zealand from the point of view of architects designing houses to blend in with the landscape.

For one garden from Victoria, *Boonwurrung* from Fenby Point, the chapter opened with:



"The pale green *Pterostylis baptistii*, otherwise known as the King Greenhood Orchid, is a delicate little flower with the tell tale geometric flourish of the orchid species. Along with the Blunt and Trim Greenhood, the King Greenhood is a terrestrial orchid commonly found in the cool moist forests around Melbourne, Victoria. Forming in colonies, their presence signals a healthy ecosystem and overall community diversity. These wildflowers are one of several plant species that Baracco & Wright Architects, owners and the architects of Garden House at Western Port Victoria, are keen to protect. Site, the landscape and how it can be protected, shared and regenerated, is critical here as the architecture becomes a kind of 'act of reconciliation' where site is privileged. These architects look to the ecology and hydrology that typically might be an overlooked – even ignored – aspect of an architectural project. With that in mind, as well as a love of the beach and surfing, they purchased this site and undertook a project that would become part of the broader revegetation corridor and a test of living intimately with the landscape."

The aim of the authors was to bring the discussion of looking for a new way of living in a natural landscape, and they observed that in contrast to New Zealand architects, Australian still have some difficulty with landscape and how to live with it.

I tried to skim through the book quickly and the one place that stood out was a holiday home which was a square 3x3 m cabin like structure of timber and corrugated copper. When the residents come home, the walls are lifted to give instant eaves.

I found a photo and short article on the web – <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/life/weekend-australian-magazine/living-in-the-landscape/news-story/e85271d868405ab1c341dbf5b58d348f>. The principle is good, some of the designs interesting. All told, a great way to be distracted before the filling.

Ed. Thanks very much for your 'dental' contribution to the NL. I agree with you that the houses shown in the article are quite amazing. Not sure that I agree with the authors about the NZ architects being more au fait with their environment than Australian architects. NZ is a much easier proposition in many ways because the NZ landscapes can be quite similar to European landscapes, while Australian landscapes are definitely not.

Anyway, certainly of interest, so thank you. Hope your tooth is fine now.

Catriona Bate, NSW and Canberra

Hi Ben and Ros, great *Newsletter*. Pleased to hear about your decision not to charge any more - we forgot to pay you for membership last time we saw you so I can take that off my to do list now! Enjoyed your article on eremophilas very much. We too have had the eremophila epiphany at Langs in Mildura. What a shame they have closed now. There always seems to be eremophilas in flower no matter what time of year.

It's going to be a wonderful year for Banksias in our garden this year. Flowers galore judging by the budding up. Over the last few months we have been enjoying Christmas Bush, flowering gums, an enormous flower spike on a grass tree, and even our very own Christmas Bell. The kangaroo paws have been great as always - I have only just noticed that it seems to be the red ones which are the summer feature.

Despite the heat and humidity we haven't had too many losses although some dryandras on their own roots have recently succumbed.

Hope you got some rain yesterday.

Regards
Catriona



Eremophila fraseri

Annabel Murray, NSW

Thank you for sending the ANPSA Study Group *Newsletter*, an engaging publication- I now feel I have the measure of the organisation. I commend your move to digital communication and wish to take up your offer of email only subscription, thank you.

Coincidentally, I was briefly able to attend your excellent talk for the APS in Moss Vale last Thursday. Sara Cains has requested I write a report and I have accepted, hoping to do justice to your presentation. Perhaps I will contact you to check any uncertain details prior to publishing.

My interest in your and Sara's organisations stems from my background as a landscape architect and daughter of a landscape designer, Gay Stanton, now based in Merriwa, Upper Hunter district. Gay's work, mostly in rural settings for clients demanding predominately exotic gardens, shares my fascination for design with Australian plants. Having moved from Sydney to the Southern Highlands, I have joined the very active and layered community of gardeners, artists, historians, bush-regenerators and bon-vivants with enthusiasm. My professional interest in the resilience of natural and cultural landscape meaning through evolving land use springs from the rapid change in Sydney landscapes and the possibilities of great design demonstrated in the Griffins' Canberra. My own designs often strive to create places that enhance biodiversity in an artful way and experience tells me I have so much yet to learn. Your idea of a 'catalogue of woes' is very amusing.

Due to end of term commitments I was unable to meet you after the talk. I do apologise for leaving early.

I look forward to meeting at a similar event in the near future.

Kind regards, Annabel Murray

Registered Landscape Architect #1093

(Ed. Our treasured indexer, Glenda Browne, has trawled through the indexes to 97 of our soon to be 100 issues of GDSG NL and has found gold. Please notice the variety of themes that we have covered in the NL over 25 years and let it stimulate you to write an article for our 100th issue in November)

GDSG Newsletter – history through the index

Glenda Browne, NSW

I have indexed all of the issues of the *GDSG Newsletter*, starting with a batch of about 60 issues in 2009, and then continuing to update the four new issues every year (<http://anpsa.org.au/design/GDSGnews.html>). I therefore probably know the *Newsletter* better than almost anyone except the three people who have edited it over that time.

To celebrate the upcoming 100th issue of the *Newsletter*, I used the index to extract themes, and to investigate the things that have changed, and those that have remained constant. This has turned out to be more difficult than I expected, as every entry I consult leads me to a page of interesting information, and more things to look up, and more ideas...

So, to keep it manageable, I have divided my ideas into a few sections, starting with people, the most important part of any group.

People

Diana Snape founded the GDSG and served as leader and editor for 10 years. She has such a presence in the *Newsletter* that I had to add subsections under her name for 'articles by' (208 page numbers here), 'contributions of' (including her authorship of *The Australian Garden*), 'garden visits', 'letters from' and 'media appearances'.

One of Diana's interests was the classification of garden types (eg, issue 9.12), but a look through her index entries shows that there were few areas she didn't discuss:

- Plants (daisies, grasses, mistletoes, grevilleas, banksias) and fungi

- Design (complexity, serendipity, gnomes)
- Science (eucalypt DNA, biodiversity, climate change)
- Landscaping (green roofs, lighting, edging, coppicing, glass pebble 'jewels').

Jo Hambrett took over from Diana as both GDSG leader and editor (issue 42.1). I am pleased that I was able to meet her when I started indexing (all my other contacts are via email). She also contributed many articles, book reviews and letters. Her house and garden, Yanderra, has its own index entry, including one subheading for 'on the market'. The 97th newsletter reported with pleasure Jo's return to Sydney.

Ros Walcott took over from Jo as editor, while Ben Walcott took over the group leadership (issue 81.1–2). Their garden also features in the *Newsletter*, with discussions on designing a native meadow, and the need to look on plant loss after a storm as an opportunity to plant anew. The index also links to the news that the Walcotts' garden was featured on a stamp in the Australia Post garden series (photo and report in issue 88.2–4).

In addition to the editors and group leaders, the *Newsletter* relies on the work of many people, including website managers, treasurers, branch leaders and all the contributors of articles, news, letters and photos.

Events

Over the years the *Newsletter* has reported on meetings of GDSG branches as well as external events. Reports on overseas and Australian flower and garden shows include the Chelsea Flower Show and the Hampton Court Flower Show in London, where the 'Essence of Australia Garden' won 'Best in Show' in 2014 (issue 87.1-2).

There are index entries for 'Open Gardens Scheme: Australian gardens in' from 1993 to 2014, when the program closed. GDSG member Jeff Howes opened his garden regularly for this scheme.

Study Group members regularly visit local and regional gardens, and write reports on these visits. Some of the gardeners provide regular updates on the progress of their gardens (eg, Cloudy Hill, Blayney).

Histories

Newsletter entries sometimes give a potted history.

Queensland branch

proposed (Smith) 64.6-64.7

'Queensland Chapter Germinates!' (Smith) 97.13-97.16

Not every mention of a topic warrants an index entry. By chance while exploring for this article I noticed in Diana's editorial in issue 54.1, a mention that 'Lawrie Smith hopes to get a branch going in Brisbane as soon as his overseas commitments allow.'

There is also a happy story in the entry for 'National Arboretum Canberra' (you have to read the subheadings in page number order, as alphabetical order can scramble chronology).

National Arboretum Canberra

proposal for formal native garden 94.1

proposal for formal native garden accepted 97.1

proposal for formal native garden rejected 95.1

(Ed. Note that entries for NL97 and following will not appear on the website index until 2018.)

Themes

Content in the *Newsletter* has been fairly consistent, with occasional bursts of interest in certain topics, and sometimes the end of discussions (eg, there is no longer discussion about a slide library).

Vertical gardens/green walls were first discussed in issue 21.11 (talking about Brussels), with roof gardens featuring in 39.1. Climate change was first indexed in issues 22.4 and 34.1. These topics have all been written about more frequently in later years.

Food in the garden has been discussed occasionally; a little more earlier on than in later years.

This is a topic I'd be interested in reading more about, although my initial attempts with *Persoonia* (geebung) and *Austromyrtis dulcis* (midgen berry, midyim) have not been great successes.

At times the *Newsletter* has reported on real-world garden design projects that members have been involved in. These might have been to help a member design their garden, or to help a community group. For example, Shirley Pipitone wrote on 'Canberra Branch plans to design a garden' (issue 56.9), Glenda Datson (reporting on the NE Victoria Branch meeting) wrote on 'Suggestions for planting Gloria Thomlinson's garden' (issue 22.14) and there were regular reports about Friends of Gardiner's Creek Valley, Dunlop Street Reserve (issues 11.17, 13.2, 13.3-13.4, 14.15 and 28.18) and Ormond East Primary School (issues 11.17, 12.15, 13.6-13.7, 14.15 and 27.12-27.13).

In addition, the *Newsletter* has published hypothetical questions, to which readers were invited to send answers. These were gathered under the heading 'garden design ideas: for fun'. For example, issue 10.17 asks 'Imagine. The Landscape Design Brief calls for an outlandish – almost gaudy – planting in a small (0.5 acre) public park.' Grahame Durbidge's suggestion included a maze and some topiary (depicting a giant's head!)

Other group projects have included the development of design criteria for judging gardens and for describing gardens. These were used to develop a format for maintaining records of significant garden designs.

Book reviews, letters and quotes

The main change I can see in the index is that we have gradually had fewer and fewer book reviews.

There were 36 book reviews in the first 16 issues, with 20 in the next 16, then 15, 6, 9, and only 4 in issues 81 to 96. In some issues new books were 'noted' rather than being reviewed. There has also been a decline in the number of these notes, though not such a steady one.

The reasons for this decline might include preferences of editors, availability of reviewers, a decline in relevant books being published, and readers' preference to get information such as reviews from alternative sources. The 97th issue of the *Newsletter* notes that Diana and others in the study group are not interested in publishing another book, in part because people these days are getting their information on the web.

The *Newsletter* has always featured a lot of letters, but I think over time there has been less of a conversation in the *Newsletter* in response to points made in articles. When I notice these, I try to maintain the thread in the index by using the same basic entry for the original article and the response, for example:

poetry: 'In praise of cushion bush' (Baghurst), response to 59.5

shaded areas: 'In - Decision' (Buchanan), responses to 64.7

I have occasionally captured 'quotes about gardens' in the index. There are less of these in later years; perhaps less were included, or perhaps I was less diligent in picking them up. They include:

quotes about gardens'

'at home they [eucalypts] speak' (Balfour) 37.12

'morse code -- dots and dashes across the landscape' 34.6

old eucalypts as 'apartment blocks' for wildlife 35.17

Conclusion

The *GDSG Newsletter* has been going strong for 100 issues, and looks set to keep on for many more. The move to free membership in the Study Group for those receiving the *Newsletter* by email is likely to increase the readership and spread of ideas.

Years before I started indexing, Maxine Armitage created a preliminary index for the first issues. It contained one of my favourite index entries:

plants: eschewed, not chewed, by kangaroos.

A useful topic! Perhaps it will also help me in my ongoing search for plants eschewed by possums!

Calm and beauty in a Japanese Garden

Diana Snape, Vic

I was interested to read Ruth Crosson's article in the February *Newsletter* on the Japanese garden at Toondoon Botanic Garden in Gladstone, Qld. We had just recently visited the established Japanese Garden in Dubbo, NSW, and I'd already started writing an article on this topic. To me, the attraction of a Japanese garden is its sense of calm and beauty, so I was trying to analyse - what creates this sense of calm and beauty? Perhaps it's a number of ingredients that can easily be present in a garden of Australian plants, though possibly a rather formal one.

One ingredient is the obvious respect for trees, which are placed very carefully in the garden. An individual tree can be appreciated from different angles, or a group of trees becomes a special part of the structure of the garden as a whole. Pruning is sometimes used judiciously to shape a tree, though it can be quite extreme for a more formal treatment.

Our Australian gardens are usually more relaxed. Our sense of calm and beauty may rely on the more casual feel of our natural landscapes. Still, I think we should always venerate trees and be aware of their importance in any landscape. Careful placement of trees is crucial in our gardens, whether formal or naturalistic. In a formal garden, most species of eucalypts don't appreciate straight lines, though other Australian genera can conform better. Eucalypts have such a marvellous variety of individual forms.



Tree placement, All photos by Diana



What one tree can do

For a really random arrangement of trees, I remember Edna Walling's method of throwing a handful of potatoes over her shoulder - but I wonder whether she ever cheated a little by altering the resulting arrangement.

Water is another important ingredient of a Japanese garden, as of many an Australian garden. I'm sure it's partly because water is one essential for our life. It's also the liquid nature that fascinates us, as the only liquid in the landscape. A pool - formal or naturalistic - has a really fundamental appeal to everyone and the visual magic of reflections gives us double value in the garden. A large water area creates interesting open space. The sound of moving water, often achieved in a more formal way in a Japanese garden, appeals to an additional sense.



Importance of water - space, liquidity, reflection

I like the careful use in Japanese gardens of inorganic materials, to complement the plants. Sand and pebbles may cover areas of ground to create space, or even be used to represent water. Rocks are treated as important and often have a symbolic significance, though their unnatural arrangement doesn't always appeal. In our gardens, these materials are used in very different ways. Any hard landscape and buildings in a Japanese garden are carefully designed to fit harmoniously into the landscape. (Do our fences and garden sheds?)



Hard landscape

So far I've hardly mentioned plants! With shrubs, of course, there's the characteristic massed planting and pruning. I wonder whether those controlled, sculptured forms of shrubs in the lower storey (among the contrasting groundcovers and strap-leaved plants) do help us feel calm. Everything's under control! With our naturalistic gardens, I think it's more the unity and harmony among compatible plants that achieves this feeling of calm. Combining these two quite different approaches successfully is possible with care but can be challenging.



Massed planting with 'unnatural' rocks

I find any contact with nature calming, whether in bushland or in a garden, but more so in a Japanese garden than most other exotic gardens. Is it because colour and flowers are not the most important element? Trees, water, rocks and foliage, well used, are sufficient. Surely this is also true for many Australian gardens. Flowers are certainly an added bonus and have a great appeal but should they be the main attraction?



Four ingredients - trees, water, rocks and foliage, with not a flower in sight

GDSGQ Meeting Notes

Date March 10, 2017 @ 9.30 – 2.00

Venue Susan Rouse & Mark Shuman, 42 Norman Street, Coorparoo

We commenced the meeting with morning tea & coffee supplied by our hosts.

INTRODUCTION

All those GDSGQ members who were able to come to our March meeting enjoyed a great time inspecting and discussing together with Susan & Mark their very personal garden. We were all very impressed by the excellent planning and design strategy they have developed and followed to build by their own hands, a wonderful garden that in so many ways is unique. It certainly provides a functional and impressive setting for the expansion of Susan's collection of native plants. We gave lots of suggestions for species that suit the colour, texture or size parameters that Susan has defined for many of the specimens still needed. However I will not say anymore because Susan is going to write an article about her philosophy and how she planned and developed the garden (see [page 13](#)). Well done Mark and Susan your garden is remarkable and a great example of how to treat a relatively small inner city site.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Attending**

Joan & Joe Abercrombie; Bob & Beris Bannon; Jane Fountain; Wendy & Dan Johnston; Lynn Vlismas; Peter Vlismas; Susan Rouse; Mark Shuman; Lawrie Smith;
Apologies: Ruth Crosson; Joan Dillon; Colleen Keena; Ian & Chrissy McMaster; Jan Sked; Carol Guard;

2. **Today's Presentation**

After the garden inspection using computer, projector and screen, Lawrie demonstrated how he has developed a 'simple' system to draw a garden layout using the computer program Word. He distributed a handout which will (hopefully) assist members to follow step by step how it can be done. With some basic knowledge of Word you should be able to draw up sections of your garden landscape and insert species names of your plant collection on the drawing. Mark also demonstrated how he has developed the construction drawings for their garden. The handout is attached to this email. *Ed. This presentation will be included in the next Newsletter.*

We then enjoyed our BYO lunch in the cool breezy of the carport and under the adjacent shady pergola before a quick 'business' meeting.

3. **The GDSG Newsletter**

Don't forget to check out the GDSG website where all of the newsletters for many years are available – it is easy to use the index to find items of interest.

4. **Newsletter contributions ex GDSGQ**

Through our GoogleGroup members garden descriptions, photos, drawings, questions, answers and suggestions will be available for selective use in the *Newsletter*; Susan's story of their garden will also be included in the *Newsletter*.

5. **GDSGQ Membership**

a. We have two new members since last meeting - currently we have 19 memberships for 28 people.

6. **Promotion of GDSGQ**

We have previously requested promotion of GDSGQ thru NPQ Journal, Website, etc; we will ensure that the new Journal editor and WebManager receive information.

7. **Communication through Google Groups**

- a. There has been almost no use of our GoogleGroup site since the flurry of entries when first established;
- b. Mark encouraged everyone to get on the keyboard and share your experiences, questions, triumphs and tragedies.

8. **GDSGQ Meetings**

a. Agreed that 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.

b. 2017 GDSGQ - COMING EVENTS

May 19 Carol Guard, 110 Friday Street Shorncliffe;

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

[note this meeting has been rescheduled from May 12 as Lawrie will be addressing a meeting of ANPS Canberra Group]

July 15 & 16 we are invited to join the NPQ Pine Rivers excursion to gardens in Gympie & Great Sandy Region; all agreed that they favour a two night excursion to maximise what we can visit

September 8 Jane Fountain, 5 Kirkdale Road Chapel Hill

[note this meeting has been rescheduled from September 1 as Lawrie will be addressing the State Gathering of APS NSW in Coffs Harbour]

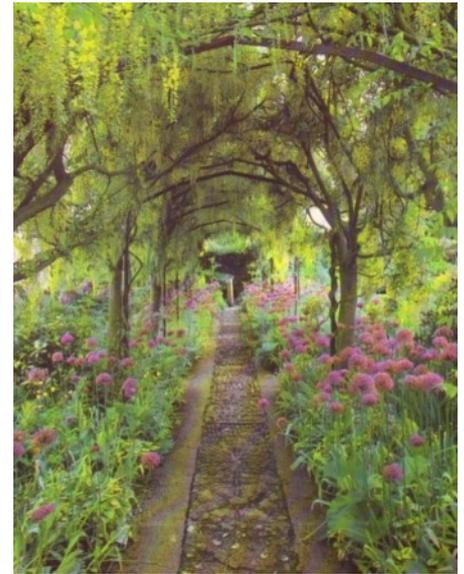
December 2 Join in with the NPQ Christmas Gathering in the new Queensland R&T Garden at Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha.

See you all next time! Keep your questions, answers and suggestions coming in to GoogleGroups!

Garden Plan and Development

Susan Rouse & Mark Shuman, Coorparoo March 10, 2017

When looking for ideas for our own garden, pictures that appeal to me have a recurring theme of dappled green light, intimate garden rooms and paved courtyards surrounded by overflowing garden beds. Likely a reflection of growing up in a perennially verdant street in New Zealand and a desire to create a private cool outdoor space for Brisbane's hot humid summers.



I have never seen such a garden in Brisbane. Our DIY experience has shown me that there may be many reasons for this, not just the displaced climatic origins of these aspirational images. The decision to use terracotta pavers (next page) for the driveway moved my ideas from an analogous verdant colour scheme to a triadic one. Now dominated by an immutable orange in the hardscape, this triadic scheme brings in green and violet. A planting colour theme along the lines of one I admired in the Auckland Regional Council Gardens (next page).



Another area which caught my eye in these gardens was a blue-grey and lime green tussock planting (below left). These colours come together in our own garden with the *Acacia podalyrifolia* contrasting with a fine shower of *Acacia fimbriata*. The same combination appears in my latest library book about Californian subtropical gardens (below middle) and again on our walk through the Spectacle Gardens at Roma Street Parklands last Sunday (below right).



We are keen to preference Australian plants in our garden, particularly those which will provide habitat for local birds, bees, spiders, skinks and lizards. Having the GDSG come here was to be privileged to a supercharged flow of ideas tempered with local knowledge. Persistent dilemmas were skilfully resolved at a glance, ideas for plant selections spun this DIY garden a cloak of foliage to soften and cool the dominant hardscape.

We are in Coorparoo, around 4Km south of Brisbane CBD. The block is approx. 835m² and lies in a north-south orientation with the short axis and rear of the house facing due north. The removal of three (3) large *Melaleuca bracteata*, the dramatic collapse of an aged poinciana (*Delonix regia*) combined with the loss of our western neighbour's mature jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*) left the back yard exposed to all day sun. The damage caused by these and other trees has been significant. We need shade and quickly. To this end we have chosen to build pergolas for vines.



Deep (600 to 900mm) eaves shade all of the windows from direct sun year round. Neighbours' houses to the east and west contribute to shading the block and house up until 9am and from 4pm on in high summer, while the rear of the house is in full sun all day. Completion of a double carport shades up to SW front boundary while the SE corner has a pergola for kayak and trailer storage.

Mark's CAD drawing (attached at the end) shows the "apparent" western boundary (the chain wire fence) and the actual boundary. While it came as a surprise, at least all future work was done on the right side of the boundary. The overall fall appears less than the 3.5m height difference. Combined with very little vertical drainage this has been a source of problems for years. We unearthed three (3) concrete paths laid directly on top of each other. Half a metre depth of concrete slabs ran from the pedestrian gate to the front porch where it had buried three house steps. We believe this was a part of how run off was directed towards the back of the house.

The block at the rear had been earlier levelled by building a flyash concrete retaining wall 1.5m in from the rear and side boundaries. A maze of earthenware pipes was laid, the area filled with ash then topped with soil. The 1.5m wide U shaped sloping perimeter was concreted up to the boundary. During a deluge surface water coming down from the front ran across the concrete race, hit the wall, then continued on gathering speed before hurtling through the downhill neighbouring properties. Over the years the concrete race across the rear of the block had been ruptured by the three *Melaleuca bracteata*. This was how it was when we bought the place. One of our early jobs (see below) was to build a retaining wall with the capacity to act as a massive rubble drain.



Some things were much easier to deal with when it came to designing a plan for the garden. While many people have natural vegetation on-site and features such as rocky outcrops, we had none of that. What we had was a Howard Arkley acrylic on canvas with a Hills Hoist out the back.



The CSIRO Brisbane Soil Map shows we have Pullenvale (Pu) soil which has "little profile development" characterised by "lithosols with thin red-yellow podzolic soils" such as "low hills of greywackes and shales". This miserable profile and lack of drainage were a source of despair. The only way out was up. Large raised beds also provided a sarcophagus for spoils from digging footings and the seemingly never ending supply of busted concrete and clay pipes. All topsoil was scavenged as anything had to be better than the clay substrate seen in the picture (below left) after the driveway was removed.



Money well spent was the hire of a pipe locator as services were either not where the map suggested, not buried to depth (the incoming gas mains was at best 200mm deep) or did some strange twists and turns. The machine proved accurate every time. The blue depth readings noted on the slab in the middle picture above shows the location of the water mains. Turns out it was swinging in towards what was later revealed as a gap in the layer of buried concrete paths. In the picture to the right these paths have been removed leaving the water mains suspended and protected by a tread.

In 1997 I liked this house because it looked like a termite wouldn't eat it and it had a big yard for a dog. I had not considered which way west was. We just got lucky with the aspect and that the double hung corner windows allow breezes to flow year round.

We are on the lower side of the street. Creating a wider driveway and a pedestrian entrance was a chance to capture surface run off from the verge for the western garden via a 90mm socked slotted agi pipe. Seeing 100mm fall in 10 minutes showed me that you can never have too much drainage. We have incorporated sub-surface drainage throughout. Downpipes are directed underground before resurfacing to fill two rainwater tanks with a total capacity of 13 000L. We have used many strategies to capture, hold or slow surface runoff. Any excess continues on down to into the rubble drain and dispersed by the weep holes in the retaining wall. After a couple of decent deluges all we have to deal is some minor shifting of decomposed granite in the path under the main arbour. Something that a ground cover could deal with by slowing and dispersing the rivulet early.

Our view of the trees at the park down the road was taken by the roof of a neighbouring house. We put in a curved central arbour and grew four *Pandorea pandorana alba* which are more of a "No bells" than "Snowbells". Our eastern neighbours also went up a second storey. I put in a *Podocarpus elatus* hedge. Our western neighbours are close enough to protect us from the western sun. This is 100% suburban living. Our garden has become both our view and our privacy.

What has been important to us is that we know the job is done in a way that will last. We are also willing to re-use materials. To this effect we have done most of the work ourselves. A neighbour's driveway pavers were cleaned and used to cap the low walls and perimeter retaining wall. The boxing boards were cleaned, stained then used as partitions in the compost bins. Twelve ornate panels dropped off by someone who thought we could use them were painted black and incorporated into the dividing wall.

Finding second hand solid bricks is difficult in Brisbane, something made harder when the local second hand yard decided I had my fair share and refused to sell me anymore. It has taken some years to complete the hardscape. Our decisions with the layout and materials have been influenced by a combination of function and our brick and stucco box home. When we first moved in, having an outdoor living space meant sitting on the front porch looking at the street while having a cup of coffee. We are now spoiled for choice with a NW facing deck, a SE patio and a series of vine clad pergolas.

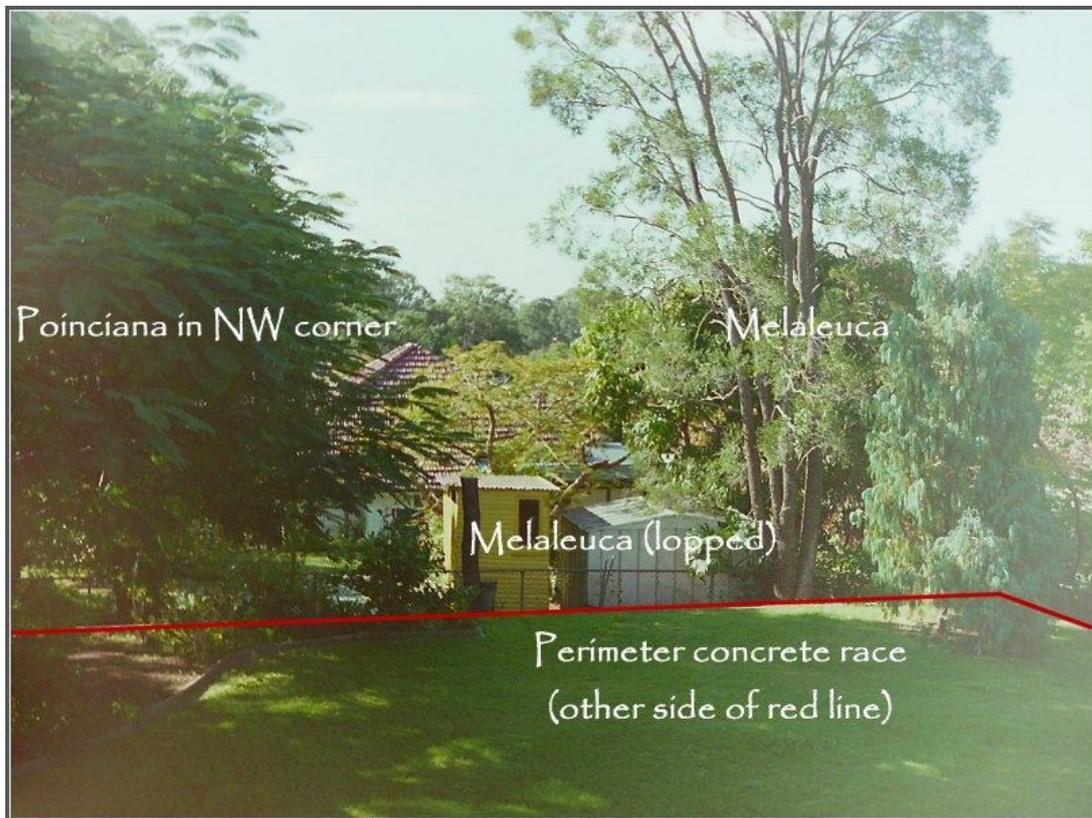
The utility area is located next to the 10 000L tank in the NW corner. The garden bench has access to power, and water. It is next to the first of three compost bins. The area comfortably accommodates a builders' barrow as well as the storage of sacks of manure. Shade is provided by an umbrella held in the post sleeve set in a block column.

During the GDSG garden visit elements of the hardscape were discussed including the capture of surface runoff and the discrete use of LED lighting to highlight features such as the entry gate. Specific questions about how to attain better coverage with a Tecomanthe 'Roaring Meg' over this gate gave a new home for

a second specimen which was not doing as well. My homespun adaptations for buried clay pots and the use of large PVC sewer pipe to raise or adjust the type of soil were considered and suggestions were made for a range of plants for a narrow western garden bed to help create the feeling of a cool green atmosphere as you descend the brick steps to the lower garden. Some choices for hedging plants were suggested as alternatives to the perennially troublesome *Syzygium* cultivars and a cautionary note was sounded for the potential for the unexpected loss of the cherished *Polyalthia longifolia* to a cold season.

In the utility area people noticed the re-use of the fence posts for to create sleeves in low block columns. A persistent dilemma for what to do with an area which had been initially allocated as a pond was given an insightful solution and 'planted'. The cooling effect of the dense shade provided by young rampant passionfruit vines was appreciated during lunch and a discussion followed for their inevitable replacement. This favoured *Tetrastigma nitens* together with *Cissus hypoglauca*. I adore eremophila but tend to give them a wide berth as they sound like they can be very fickle in Brisbane. One person suggested an ideal place maybe the hot sunny spot in the front garden where it was backed by a dark west facing wall. As to which vine for the front fence weldmesh cages, *Aphanopetulum resinotum*. As soon as it was suggested it was obvious as the cages are small and in reach of secateurs.

Lawrie's 'Drawing with Word' presentation have given me impetus to develop a plan (with a smaller grid) to help me avoid my tendency to over plant and become more disciplined and focussed with my plant choices. While I now have clearer ideas as what I want from specific plantings, I do not know which plants to choose. It is such a delight to be able to ask the GDSG for suggestions and look forward to posting more questions via Google Groups.



The above picture was soon after we moved in. It was taken from the house looking NE. The chain wire fence in front of the yellow shed denotes the boundary.



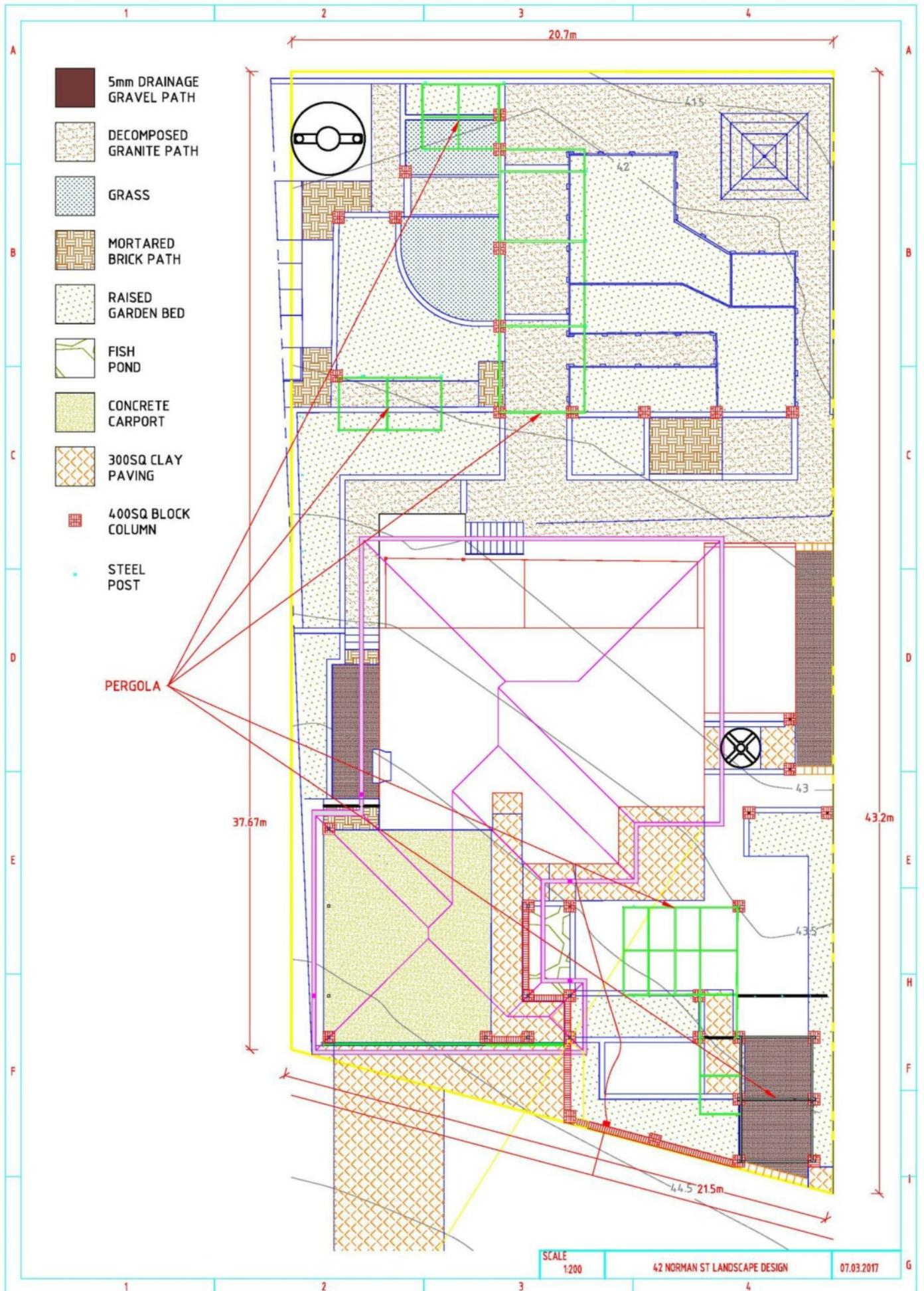
This picture was taken from a similar position today. From left to right are a paw paw (*Carica papaya*) above the BBQ, a *Pandorea pandorana* cultivar 'Sunset Gold' covering a flat pergola with *Salvia* 'Purple Knight' in the foreground. The lighter green behind the pergola are the *Acacia fimbriata* beyond which are the neighbours' African tuliptree (*Spathodea campanulata*) and a *Macadamia integrifolia*. To the right of the light grey coloured weather station is a *Lepiderema puchella*. The next clump of a lighter lime green is *Geitonoplesium cymosum* fringing the end of the curved arbour beyond which *Pandorea pandorana alba* tendrils are silhouetted against the sky. In the borrowed landscape to the right are the dark leaves of a massive Leopard tree (*Libidibia ferrea*) then the yellow hues of the foliage of a Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*) before looking the eucalypts that bound the local park.



Taken today, this picture shows the terracotta pavers leading towards the front door. People's attention is drawn to the water feature.



This is what we see from our main bedroom which faces SE. The outdoor setting is on a small outdoor patio we favour in summer. As with the rest of the plan we are looking to create privacy and an aesthetic appeal in a relatively small space.



Mark's CAD drawing showing the features of the hardscape.



The software Mark uses can create a 3D model. I found this helpful when assessing the impact of any proposed changes to the design.

If you would like to see the 10 minute video we showed of what we did in the back yard you can view it at <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B7AZW5zAFQutLVhtV3Y5V2pweTA>

***Solanum linearifolium* (Kangaroo Apple) - is it for your garden?**

David Herald, Canberra

Our garden is proudly a native garden – and we will happily plant almost anything that is native and meets our plant height restrictions (we don't want tall trees that will limit our astronomical viewing of the night sky.)

Some native plants have a reputation of behaving like weeds. One commonly referred to as a weed is *Acacia boormanii*. We have a number of these growing along our driveway near the front entrance. It provides excellent screening along our driveway, and is spectacular when in full bloom. We very much appreciate its ability to self-propagate in the area of planting – an area in which we have had some trouble getting plants well established – and we have had no issues of *A. boormanii* growing uninvited in other areas of our garden. As a result we do not characterise *A. boormanii* as a weed in our garden; rather it as a vibrant plant well suited to our garden conditions.

In October 2013 (when our garden was some 18 months old and still very bare) we bought a single *Solanum linearifolium* from the ANPS plant sale. Subsequently, being impressed with its rapid growth, we planted two more from cuttings.

The ANBG web site provides the following description of this plant under the grouping of 'Aboriginal Plant Use – NSW Southern Tablelands':

Location:

- Tableland

- In disturbed dry sclerophyll such as margins of young pine plantations; common in vicinity of Lake George; also coastal ranges from Sydney to Vic. border (Burbidge & Gray, 1976:320)

Use:

- Food
- Large fruit (2x2cm) was eaten raw or roasted. 'Only eaten when outer skin bursts in summer, mealy, slightly acid taste' (Flood, 1980:96)

Notes:

- Purple flowers, yellow fruit
- Cautionary note on consumption of Solanum (see Cribb & Cribb, 1987:60)

Horticulture:

- Propagated by seed or from cuttings. Very hardy in all soils and aspects. Fast growing excellent screen plant. (Wrigley & Fagg, 1998:467-68)

The Atlas of Living Australia provides the distribution of the plant as:



and describes the plant as:

An erect, soft-wooded shrub, 1-2 (-4) m tall, lasting several years, becoming woody towards base, straggly with age, not clonal, sparsely and minutely pubescent, simple and glandular hairs on leaves, growing points, calyx and corolla tips, general aspect green.

In Victoria the plant has a status of 'Rare' and a conservation status of 'Near threatened'. All of this makes the plant sound like one that should be planted in our native gardens!

Our experience with Solanum linearifolium

We planted the first *Solanum linearifolium* in November 2013, and two more the following year (from cuttings). The plant grows quickly! The following photo was taken in Feb 2014, three months after planting; the red picket next to it is about 90cm high.



The next photo (right) was taken in March 2017. You can see how much it has grown in the three years since the previous photo. The height of the *Solanum* is about 3.5m, and the width as shown is over 5m. The 'small' bush to the left of the base is a *Melaleuca lateritia* about 1.1m high. If it had been left to its own, the *Solanum* would have been much larger than this. One major pruning was to remove a large branch that had split off near the base of the plant. Other prunings have been of arms growing outwards at lower levels that made it difficult to mow the grass surrounding the bed using a ride-on mower. Several of the removed branches had a diameter at the saw cut of 8cm or more. The following image shows the base of the tree, where numerous branch cuts can be seen.



From the rapid growth of his plant, we can recommend *Solanum linearifolium* as a fast-growing medium-sized native plant – with the description in the Atlas of Living Australia:

... erect, soft-wooded shrub, 1-2 (-4) m tall, lasting several years, becoming woody towards base, straggly with age ...

being very apt.

However, from our experience there is a serious downside to this plant. The plant produces a large number of fruit each year, which drop to the ground around the tree. Birds like the fruit, and distribute the seed elsewhere. While some ANPS members have told us they have had difficulty growing *Solanum*, we have found the seeds from the fruit germinate easily and profusely. The following photo is adjacent the overflow pipe for our water tank as shown in an earlier photo. In this photo, you can count at least 10 seedling plants in an area of about 20cm square. [The leaf structure of new germinations is different to older plants – having multi-lobed leaves.]



In fact, we are now regularly finding these seedlings at numerous places across our 2 acres. Over the last 12 months, we have dug out or poisoned well over 100 (200?) seedlings. They primarily occur around the base of our original *Solanum*, and around the areas of two *Solanums* planted from cuttings (since removed) – all from seed-drop. However we are also finding seedlings scattered across our block, presumably from fruit that has been distributed by birds. And last week we noticed a ‘seedling’ on our neighbour’s block when it appeared over the top of a colorbond fence with our neighbour; it had rapidly reached a height of 2 meters – with an unattractive spindly growth to get above the conifers it was growing amidst. (The neighbour has since removed it!)

So what are our current thoughts about *Solanum linearifolium*? They are:

- It is a quick-growing plant, with nice purple flowers;
- It produces copious quantities of fruit;
- The seed germinates easily;
- The fruit is readily distributed by birds;
- The number of seedlings that germinate on our property is huge;
- *Acacia boormanii* might be considered a weed because of its ability to readily germinate/propagate. But on this criterion for weediness, *Solanum linearifolium* leaves *Acacia boormanii* for dead!
- Most notably, we are removing the last of our *Solanums* – the original one we planted 3½ years ago. We are ‘over’ the seedlings, and the plant has grown to be unattractive. We expect to be removing seedlings from our garden for the next year or two (at least). We have a concern that if we are not alert, we will miss a seedling growing in some remote corner of our garden - with a consequential fear of such a seedling reaching maturity and producing seeds for distribution across our block.

Notice of Meeting GDSGQ 19 May 2017

Lawrie Smith, Qld

Hello everyone!

As we prepare to move I am getting in early to give you the information about our next GDSGQ meeting before we get inundated with unpacking and starting the new garden at North Lakes.

Here is the program for the day:

First Garden

Brenda & Michael Meehan - 15 Boronia Court, ALBANY CREEK

Meet at 9.30am for morning tea, followed by a garden ramble led by Brenda from 10 to 11-00am; I have not seen Brenda's garden but I'm told it is quite amazing as her passion for native plants and propagation is expressed by her own words "More is More".

[Brenda says 'there's limited parking in our cul-de-sac, tho we can fit a few cars on driveways for the period of the visit if need be'.]

Second Garden

George & Helen Smith - 6 Creekwood Court, WARNER

Arrive at 11.30am for another garden ramble led by George followed by BYO lunch from 12.30 to 1.30pm; Pine Rivers members regularly enjoy George's garden where the formal gardens around the house merge with the tamed surrounding bushland where our natives grow in some unique ways.

[Plenty of kerbside parking and then walk up the short driveway or through the garden.]

Third Garden

Bob & Beris Bannon - 41 Viscount Street, BRAY Pak

Arrive at 2.00pm for a final garden ramble led by Bob followed by BYO afternoon tea. Bobs is a collector's 'walkabout' garden combining old and new plantings that demonstrate how to successfully interpret nature in the middle of suburbia.

[Plenty of kerbside parking and then walk from the footpath through the garden.]

When you can please let me know if you will be attending so we know to expect you.

Melbourne Meetings

Diana Snape, Vic

Recent Melbourne meetings and garden visits (November 2, April 9)

For our November 27 meeting last year, we had planned to visit the new Childrens' Garden at the Childrens' Hospital, Parkville. However this meeting did not go ahead because so many of our members had other pre-Christmas commitments - I think Christmas activities have now spread forwards from December into November. However, instead, on December 11, some of us were able to accept a kind invitation from Nicky Zanen to visit her garden and enjoy a delicious afternoon tea. This was not a formal meeting but we admired Nicky's small garden and all the work she has been doing to extend and enhance the common garden area close to her apartment.

Nicky's small, mounded front garden features blue-flowering plants such as *Derwentia arenaria*.



We had difficulties finding a suitable meeting date in March, so our visit to the Childrens' Garden was postponed to Sunday April 9. After a week of beautiful autumn weather, with mild sunny days and cool nights, there was a cool change with rain on Saturday April 8. On the Sunday morning, the weather bureau issued a weather warning of damaging winds and heavy rain for that afternoon. They also advised people to stay indoors and warned not to park under trees or power-lines. I very reluctantly had to cancel the meeting at the last minute.

Next meeting

This will be held on Sunday June 25 at Margaret James' place, 6 Cremin Court, Rosanna (Melway 20A12). Come for lunch at 1pm if you can, or at 2pm for the garden visit and meeting, followed by afternoon tea.

Margaret says "It's a few years since you all came here. There have been some changes in the garden since then and thanks to the horticultural services of Two Birds and a Barrow (run by Bev Hanson's daughter Jenny), the maintenance is being kept up."

I hope there will be a good attendance at this important meeting, where we'll discuss the future of the Melbourne Branch of the GDSG.

ANPS Canberra Meetings

On 14 February, Valentine's Day, 20 members of ANPS Canberra Daytime Activities Group and GDSG visited the Pages' garden in Wamboin. Following is their garden story.

66 Valley View Lane, Wamboin

Lesley and Neville Page, Canberra

We moved to Valley View Lane in March 2004. The day we first inspected the property in January, the temperature was 40 degrees C. The house is double brick, which we have always liked, and it was cool inside; more than 10 degrees less than outside.

The property is 20 acres in an area of yellow box grassy woodland. Much of the *Eucalyptus melliodora* (Yellow Box) is very large, and we assume, quite old. Within the 20 acres is a house block of approximately 2 acres which contains a more formalised garden. The outline of the garden is delineated by hedges (exotic) and low retaining walls built of local stone. When we purchased the property, the house garden had been laid out but not fenced, and the plantings were very immature. We had a sense that many of the plants had been put in just before placing the house on the market. Most of the garden beds contained significant quantities of building rubble, which we've been removing ever since.



In 2004 the land had cattle on it. The previous owners regarded Acacias as weeds, and they eradicated all the *Acacia dealbata* wherever it sprang up. They liked the Yellow Box but not the Stringy Bark. That was for fire wood. Their idea was to create an exotic driveway to the house, comprising Poplars and Claret Ash. Close to the house were, and still are, Manchurian Pear trees. There was also a Norwegian Spruce. To the west were planted Liquid Amber trees and an English Oak.

At the back of the house was *Camellia sasanqua* which did not survive. Forty three roses were planted around the verandah interspersed with Rosemary bushes. Further afield were more Claret Ashes, Japanese Maples and various hedges. Soil was brought in to create a lawn. A playground was at the back for the children.

The house was built to incorporate Feng Shui principles: north/south aspect looking down the valley to a series of dams, on the headwaters of Brooks Creek.

When we moved in we encouraged the *Acacia dealbata*, which chose to grow in all of the areas where the soil had been disturbed, around the dams and so on. This regeneration has been very successful, as it has stabilised the soil and added nitrogen which has encouraged other species to become established. In the time that we have been here – 13 years – we have allowed the land to regenerate. The *Acacia dealbata* has come back and provided a wonderful wind break on the west, along with the Mountain Gums we planted.

At the back of the house, Jan Simpson gave us much tube stock of various species including Acacias and Grevilleas.

On the east we have Ros Cornish's grove which has done really well. Here we have Allocasurinas, Correas and Eucalypts.

We planted on the east a row of *Acacia rubida* which will soon need replacing.

On the west was planted *Acacia convenyi* close to the house. These suffered severe damage from a snow storm a couple of years ago.

The small birds have come, finding sanctuary around the verandahs. In Spring they nest. And too, the tiger snake comes looking for eggs and chicks.

Eastern grey kangaroos abound. Wamboin is an aboriginal word meaning eastern grey kangaroo. We have also seen echidnas roaming, which is said to be a sign of healthy land.

The bird life abounds, with Willy Wagtail, Sulphur Crested Cockatoos, Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos, Galahs, White Throated Tree Creepers, Eastern Rosellas, Crimson Rosellas, Magpies, Grey Currawongs, White Faced Herons, Cormorants, Teals, Wood Ducks, Eastern Spinebills, Eagles, Red Rumped Finches, Diamond Finches, Grey Fantails, White Eyes, Thornbills, Wrens, Scarlet Robins, Scrub Wrens, Emerald Pigeons, Gang Gangs, Noisy Friarbirds, Black Faced Cuckoo Shrikes, Wattle Birds, Yellow Faced Honeyeaters, Hooded Robins, Grey Thrushes, Shrike, and Kookaburras. Swamp wallabies live in the gully down the road.

We see it as a regeneration project with an emphasis on the local indigenous plants. Our aim is to create a natural beauty using the undulating landscape which rolls down to the north. We have plenty of water but the environment is harsh. The winds come from the north west. Winters are cold, as low as minus 6 degrees C. at night to a maximum of 6 degrees C. during the day. We are 840 metres above sea level, and it does snow occasionally.

Ground cover has improved significantly, and the natural regeneration of *Eucalyptus melliodora* has been successful. Further success has been achieved with *E. macrorhyncha*, *E. dives*, *E. mannifera*, which are the dominant trees. Understorey plants include *Daviesea mimosoides* and ground cover plants, *Lomandra*, paper daisies, *Vittadinia*, *Solanum*, *Indigofera australis*, *Hardenbergia violacea*, *Themeda* and *Carex*.

Visit to Fiona Riley's garden in Rivett, ACT

ANPS Canberra's Daytime Activities Group and Garden Design Study Group met in Rivett on a golden autumn day, Tuesday 18 April. There were 25 of us ready to appreciate what Fiona had accomplished in her garden over a decade. The following article is reprinted in part from Gardens50Plus website and tells the story of the transformation of a swimming pool into a native garden.

From Canberra swimming pool to secret garden

MARCH 4, 2016 / LIZ RILEY

The swimming pool in Fiona's Canberra garden was no longer in use with children grown up and away from home so Fiona decided to repurpose the area as a sunken native garden, using many plants endemic to the Canberra region.



The pool in use in 2006



The vinyl lining gone and the project begun 2013



Completed garden awaiting an umbrella and a garden setting 2016

Fiona reused much of the concrete from the pool sides to create her new terraces and steps and created a half gabion effect in her retaining walls, using mesh as the cage and existing concrete and pebbles for the fill. Netting holds the pebbles in place behind the weldmesh. The posts from the old pool were still in good shape so Fiona left them in place and retained the capping for stability around

The soil in this patch of Canberra is alkaline, helped along by all the concrete. Fiona only had subsoil clay to work with so mixed it with coarse sand and compost to form the garden beds. The Canberra region has a range of soil types so not all endemics will grow. Fiona tries to select plants she hopes will cope but removes them after a couple of special treatments if they don't establish.

The stairs and path composed of old clay fill dug from the pool site, it's a good colour and very alkaline so weed resistant

The bottom of the garden becomes boggy in wet weather and Fiona has planted some bog plants, seriously restricted on account of the sewerage lines. The bog circle contains *Lythrum salicaria*, *Isolepis nodosa*, *Baloskion tetraphyllum* and a *Juncus sp.*



Next Canberra meeting:

Tuesday 16 May 2017 at 10:30 AM - Bruce and Lyn Mitchell, 10 Donoghoe Place, Bungendore, NSW

Treasurer's Report

Cheque Account:	\$ 7,696.60
Term Deposit	\$ 26,055.20 (1 year from 25 Jan. 2017)
TOTAL:	\$ 33,751.80

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

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