

ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS

**GARDEN DESIGN STUDY GROUP**

NEWSLETTER No. 6

August 1994

Study Group leader: Diana Snape

Dear Members,

This is the first newsletter which is definitely in our second year; it's tricky when the first year is somewhere between 12 and 16 months long. I think we achieved a reasonable amount in our first year but with gardens (and garden design) we can't expect results to be instantaneous. Our momentum and influence should increase gradually with time.

I have been quite excited by the correspondence and articles from members during the last year but just a little disappointed that more members have not responded (however briefly) to ideas that have been raised in the newsletters. Your response doesn't have to be immediate - you can think about it for as long as you like - but do send us your thoughts. (I know some people enjoy writing more than others do, but you don't have to write pages.) One request (or plea) is for your current favourite combinations of plants (surely almost every member has at least one!). There are a few more requests later in the NL.

Barbara Buchanan has suggested we might try to follow a particular theme in each newsletter, to concentrate the mind and for ease of reference. I've thought of doing that too, but I must admit I rather like having a variety (hotch potch?) of subjects. If you agree with the idea, two suggestions of mine for themes are 'water in the garden' (both conservation and features) and 'small gardens' - please let us have your suggestions too. I'm not sure how we'll go on coordinating articles; we'll see how enthusiastic the response is. Articles on other topics are still welcome of course. Please send any articles and ideas in as soon as you can, as I'll be away (in W.A.I) for all of October. It would be helpful if I could type up some of NL 7 before I leave in September, otherwise it will probably run rather late. I'll also apologise in advance for delayed replies to letters which arrive while I'm away.

Our first GDSG weekend, at 15 Mile Creek Camp in Victoria, is coming soon in the first weekend in September. More information straight after the index.

MEMBERSHIP was up to 165, but is currently about 115 with some late or non-renewals for 94/95.

So far I've received just one letter from a member unable to continue because of other pressures. I'm sending a note to those who have not renewed asking if it was an oversight, or they've been away, ill, too busy, etc. or else had decided not to renew. If the last, they're encouraged to tell us why not - we need to know what members want and what they think. (This applies to all aspects of our SG's activities.)

FINANCES \$1497.26 in the bank on 5/8/94. This includes deposits which have been paid for the Camp and must cover the cost of this year's four newsletters.

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GDSG weekend at 15 Mile Creek Camp in Victoria Sat. 3rd & Sun. 4th September

At this stage we are expecting at least 30 people for the weekend and they'll receive further information with this newsletter. It will be exciting to meet together and have enough time to really think and talk about garden design issues, both general and specific. Our speakers, Rodger Elliot and Paul Thompson, will inspire us with their ideas and we'll enjoy seeing gardens and also members' slides of gardens. I am sure the very different garden design projects will stimulate our creativity. For those who are 'possibles', you can still register for all or part of the weekend if you're prompt - the cost for a day visitor is \$25. We need to know final numbers very soon and our absolute limit is 40 people. See NL5 for details and please contact straight away if you do want to come.

Extracts from members' letters

"My trip to America has crept up on me sooner than I thought and I've been struggling to get things done in time.

I leave on 27th May and probably won't be back until October, therefore please accept my apologies for not attending the next few meetings, the weekend camp or the Melbourne Wildflower Show. Good luck for the rest of the year!"

and, a little later.....

"Dear Diana & GDSG friends, In the past 2 weeks I've already been driven through 10 different states and seen the most spectacular landscapes. Sth. Dakota boasts Mt. Rushmore and "The Badlands" (which is a great example of the effects of wind erosion) and it is where I roamed with wild buffalo. The Rocky Mountains are quite awesome and I explored some of the high peaks which are still covered in snow as summer sets in. It is a beautiful area with colourful wildflowers and elks, chipmunks & marmots dashing in and out of the rocks and vegetation. All this greenery and fresh air is a great contrast to the dry desert landscape of Las Vegas where I shall be spending a lot of time. Some of the Vegas landscapes are definitely not a good example of Garden Design." Aliko Zouliou

"Glenda and I have had further discussions (for the Australian plant garden in the Albury Botanic Gardens) and I have put some sketchy plans on paper. At the bridge end we have decided on an eclectic section, followed by the rainforest section, a callistemon/grevillea section, the dry grey foliage section and the woodland/grassland section. ...I feel the site at the bridge end with the existing trees of Eucalyptus citriodora (Lemon-scented Gum) and E. albens (White Box) lends itself more to the eclectic garden. This could be made to blend in with the rainforest section so the transition

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would not be too obvious.... On my return from leave I will be organising some earth works such as the installation of a path and the placing of several rock boulders in the 'eclectic' section." Patrea Cook (Curator, Albury Botanic Gardens)

"The newsletter is great - informative, but easy to read. I have moved to the Southern Highlands for work - please keep the mail to Pennant Hills though - and am adjusting to colder climate and trying to find out what Australian plants perform well under these conditions. Regards to all the Vic. members." Stephen Thomas NSW (Dale Nurseries)

"Winter has begun with vengeance here by the coast near Apollo Bay. Any plans for garden design must be thrown out until the wind problem is lessened. Our garden design so far has been simply to plant trees that we know to grow well in the wind, everywhere, in the hope some will survive and form the basic framework for future garden design. Sometimes, dare I say, I'm tempted by a row of pines - they seem hard to beat!!" Marion Bakker Vic

"The attached piece was started several months ago and has proceeded regrettably in fits and starts, when on holiday (and by definition not at home to remind myself of smaller details) or on what have proved to be quite rare wet weekends when I did not have my work to preoccupy me.... I felt that it would be better to describe just half the garden (the front or top half) in this (shall we call it Part 1 ?), with the bottom or back half to follow sometime. It is probably not particularly informative from a landscaping perspective, but then I confess to being a rank amateur. It certainly raises some of the landscaping concerns/questions, which I think I posed for you in reply to your initial questions. I would obviously welcome advice and new ideas." Vanessa Elwell-Gavins NSW

"Once again, a really great Newsletter. I agree with the member who says that the Newsletter is the best publication around. There is certainly heaps of reading, in fact it takes several readings to absorb it all.

Now for a little planning scheme. I have enclosed a rough plan of the Koroit Court House - I have been asked to suggest a planting/landscaping plan for the area which the Koroit Lions Club will organise, plant and maintain. I have suggested that the Club involve the students at the Primary School next door with the planting and mulching. Now, of course, they want Australian plants so I have drawn up a tentative plan, something they can work on costing. ... The Club want access along the western boundary to bring in the Rider Mower to cut grass and they feel that just a boundary planting along the back and sides would be adequate. However, clump plantings may be better and then they could run some Roundup along the fence line to keep out invasive weeds. Aesthetically, clumps would be more pleasing than rows of trees, don't you think? There is good shelter from all sides really and the front of the building facing north will be ideal for plantings of low colourful shrubs which will appeal to the students too." Cherree Densley Vic (another GD project!)

"I am yet to start my Australian native garden, as we have not finished the house. It looks like 1995 will be the year of the garden. I am enjoying the newsletters and, as I read them, ideas are forming in my mind (accompanied by a few underlinings)." Wendy Geale Tas

"When I was 24-25, I created an all-Australian garden from a boggy mudpatch of a new house site. Friends and family considered me ridiculous and fanatical, but I was so pleased I stuck to my guns. After 2-3 years of growth (I grew many plants from indigenous seed) these same people (and my new neighbours) were asking me for advice on their gardens and for my excess seeds and cuttings. I learned heaps from the experience - I lived with the garden for six years, watching the "evolutionary succession on mud", the successes and failures. I'm presently caretaking my brother's house ... and he is hoping I'll do something with it for him." Anne Highfield Vic

I am particularly interested in using plants suitable for cut flowers or foliage, and my hobby is propagating as many varieties as I can. ... Also in broadacre garden design - using the natural features of the landscape including fallen trees and wombat holes!" Gwen Sanders Vic

"My wife, Wendy, and I recently joined SGAP and attended our first meeting last week and were most impressed by the friendliness and helpfulness of the members. We expressed an interest in landscaping and after reading GDSG Newsletters 2, 3 and 4 which were loaned to us, we are keen to join your group.

A few months ago we bought 20 acres in the NSW Central Tablelands. Although we may not move there for six months, our thoughts have turned to designing the house paddock garden (5 acres). At present the paddock is a cleared, sloping area consisting of introduced grasses and some deciduous trees bordering the dirt driveway leading up to the house. There are very few Australian plants and we would like to develop an area of the paddock as a walk through native garden.

We are interested in Landcare projects and had hoped to conserve some bushland. However, the property has been worked for about 130 years and our 20 acres hasn't any native vegetation remaining. We've decided to nurture the endangered species Grevillea Wee Jasper as our Landcare project.

A couple of weeks ago (unaware that I would shortly join SGAP) I enrolled in the Landscaping for Rural Gardens and Small Landholdings TAFE course which begins next week. I am looking forward to the course having been inspired by SGAP and our seasonal visits to the National Botanic Gardens." Ken Thompson ACT

"I generally have to think small through necessity, however my interest extends to most areas of garden design. Use of grasses and mass planting of limited species gardening is where I'm at, I think, with long or short term maintenance being a major consideration." Gloria Thomlinson Vic

"I have prepared a landscape plan for my son's 2.5 acres in Frankston South - clay soil, with lots of ground covers required for paving blocks surrounding tennis court; also a miniature rainforest around pool! He is indoctrinated with the need for Australian plants and is happy to use them! I will keep a photo record as we continue to plant and let you know the results. (I've been back-reading the newsletters for aid.)" Betty Drummond Vic

"Our drought continues up here on the Darling Downs and most areas of Queensland. Gardening is a little disheartening at times but one needs the activity to clear the mind occasionally. . . . I shall try to contribute toward future newsletters. I need more hours in my day, time for oneself. All in the same boat I guess!" Robyn Hartley Qld

"Members who call here on their way to the camp will see a very young garden and the great potential on this site, as well as appreciate the challenge of marrying a garden to the natural forest without seeming to intrude. The part I planted last spring is taking shape but still young and susceptible to damage from wild animals. I used to think rabbits were enemy No 1 but koalas and possums are just as destructive. While I was away we had a severe frost which has caused some destruction but time will tell how much death. A *Kunzea baxteri*, which flowered for the first time and looked wonderful when I went away, is dead." Margaret Garrett Vic

One of the three garden design projects for the Study Group weekend in September:-
Jacquie Winder's ideas for her new garden (Vic)

"Our new house is moving along and colour schemes for the exterior are being finalised. We chose these by picking eucalypt and acacia leaves from surrounding vegetation and mixing and matching the colours from these. Along with these colours we will be adding a bright red accent (a waratah red) to doors and these colours will form the basis of the garden. We will try to form the basic structure of the garden from indigenous plants and add others according to design and growing requirements.

My general garden concept is along Asian lines - serene and tranquil - rather than replicating the 'bush' environment. This is a challenge indeed as I am not familiar with this style of gardening although I am endeavouring to learn - it is a style which I feel will suit our contemporary house and the artistic flavour I hope it will have. I am also inspired by the gardens surrounding the National Art Gallery in Canberra - designed for the display of sculpture and sculptural in itself - and what is a garden but a changing and growing sculpture made from plants? I would like to try something unusual and avant garde. I want to have lots of native grasses and paving and sculptural plants. I am looking into this at present. This is an interesting exercise for me as previously I have wanted a plant of some sort, bought it and then tried to find a place for it to go. In my new Australian/native garden I am working from an aesthetic viewpoint first and choosing plants to fit into an aesthetic criterion - other requirements such as plants for birds etc, will come (a close) second. Thus hopefully my garden will become more of an artwork in its own right rather than a collector's garden (as keen gardeners tend to produce!). My first (exotic) garden is a casualty of this latter approach.

I am looking forward to the visit to my garden by our design group - even if it will be a fairly barren sight! I am really excited at the prospect of having members of our group visiting our 'space' and picking their brains. Hopefully I will be able to learn more about designing with plants and about the wealth of wonderful Australian plants that we are blessed with in this part of the world."

Plant Small?

Geoff Simmons Qld

"On page 7 of NL 5, Metrosideros queenslandica is recorded as nil survival out of 15. This does not surprise me as I lost about a dozen plants - very frustrating! After this experience with very healthy nursery grown plants in 125-150 mm pots, I decided that it may be better to use the experience that was advocated a decade or so ago for Geraldton Wax

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namely, use very small plants to obtain better survival and growth. I asked a local nursery to obtain plants only 5-8 cm in height. To date none of the six plants have died even though planted in same places where I lost 8 plants.

All my plants have been surrounded with netting covered with shade cloth about 30 cm high so the amount of shade is constant. Although the small plants were planted when cooler weather prevailed, I believe the critical factor is a constant water supply to the plants until roots are well established. Hence very small plants have less transpiration and roots can grow to produce greater support for the leaves. Time will tell if this approach is the correct one but to date it looks promising."

Extracts from friends' letters

"Our garden selection criteria, stated in the front of the guidebook, are very simply design strength and quality, significant plant material, historic significance, and a reasonable standard of maintenance. These criteria are broad enough to encompass every style of gardening undertaken in this country. I agree it is very difficult to make comparisons between large long-established exotic gardens and small relatively new native gardens, but the Scheme aims to offer our visitors gardens of all types. From our point of view, we regard all our gardens as valid expressions of people's creativity so we are equally interested in both categories. We will continue to explore the use of symbols for the guidebook. These must be readily identifiable to achieve their purpose." Neil Robertson, National Executive Officer Australia's Open Garden Scheme

"Thank you for your letter and help with our display. . . . which was put up at the Sydney Garden Festival. There was a lot of interest in designing with Australian plants, though this display was not on creating good design but on the environmental impacts, for people and flora and fauna, of what is done. I am enclosing one of the leaflets which was given out; it is an exact replica of the text in the display, while the pictures conveyed most of the information about Australian plants." Val Williams, president SGAP North Shore Group NSW

A comment on the GDSG classification scheme

Professor George Seddon W.A.

I greatly appreciated getting your schema. It is idiotic to talk about "Native Gardens" as if they were homogeneous and your proposed classification is a brave attempt. Much of it makes sense to me, but not all. I like category 1, and the first two sub-groups 1.1,1.2, but not 1.3, in that the first two are largely determined by the choice of plants, while the third is by the form of the plants. You don't need an 'ethos' to do this. You can imitate 'heath', for example, by choosing shrubs that naturally form a low canopy eg Melaleuca acerosa, Acacia drummondii, Homoranthus flavescens. They can be indigenous or Australia-wide, or even a mixture of Australian and exotic plants (Epacris & Erica?), and it wouldn't matter. In one sense this would still be naturalistic, in that one is following a natural community form.

Formal and formalistic are OK; they publicize human intervention. But 'theme gardens' is a real rag-bag; although the list of contents is legitimate. There are indeed these kinds of gardens. I have nothing better to offer, but suspect that a matrix is the way to go. Simply list all the defining characters e.g. generation of leaf litter (which is regarded as an asset rather than a liability); provenance of Australian plant material e.g. rainforest margins (many of our popular trees come from this environment, e.g. Schefflera actinophylla, Grevillea robusta, Stenocarpus, Brachchiton acerifolia, etc) or heath or savannah woodland. Actually it's all too hard! Congratulations for trying. It will get people thinking.

GDSG Slide Library

The GDSG Slide Library is underway, with donations of sets of slides by several Melbourne members. At the September weekend we'll be viewing members' slides and trialling the improved record forms for our data base. If you have slides for the library, please let our ~~slide librarians~~ know and they'll send you a copy of the latest form to go with each slide. For NSW
~~Dennis Marsden,~~ Vic (& other states) ~~Doug Melver,~~

Geoff Simmons (Qld) suggests the current form needs to be simpler - what do you think?

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Booklist

I asked **Doris Gunn Vic** to let us have her list which concentrates on books with particular relevance for **small gardens**.

(Eight other books recommended by Doris were included in the booklist in our first newsletter.)

Berrisford, J. (1968) *The Very Small Garden* Readers Union
Brookes, John (1979) *The Small Garden* Collins, Australia
Cane, Percy (1967) *The Creative Art of Garden Design* Country Life, London
Forrester, Sue & Molyneux, Bill (1986) *Gardens in Miniature* Kangaroo Press
Grenfell & Grounds (1990) *The White Garden* Crowood Press
Houghton, Anne & Heyning (1974) *Garden Design for Small Spaces* Macmillan
Masters, Margaret (1977) *Landscaping for Australian Gardeners* Rigby Ltd
Perry, Frances (1951) *The Garden Pool* Readers Union
Reinhardt, M. & T. & Moskowitz, M. (1989) *Ornamental Grass Gardening* Macdonald & Co.
Walling, Edna (1948) *A Gardeners Log* Anne O'Donovan
Wilson, Jim (1990) *Landscaping with Container Plants* Houghton Mifflin Co.
Nelson (1976) *The Ellis Stones Garden Book*
Penguin (1988) *The Garden Magic of Edna Walling*
Readers Digest (1973) *Home Landscaping*
Sunset Books (1976) *Patios & Outdoor Living Spaces*
Sunset Books (1973) (3rd edition) *Walks, Walls & Patio Floors*

Jacque Winder Vic recently made a request for recommendations of books with good examples of **avant garde / sculptural / contemporary landscape design** (not necessarily using Australian plants). The following suggestions were made by **Paul Thompson Vic**:-

Three books from the Process Series (available in Melbourne from Technical Books and McGills):-

No. 85 'Landscape as Art' Peter Walker

No. 90 'Philosophy of Landscape' Garrett Eckbo

No. 95 'Japanese Landscape Designs' Shoda Suzuki

and also 'Experiments on Surreality and Flatness' Peter Walker, Harvard Univ. Grad. School Design
(Rizzoli New York publishers)

'The Meaning of Gardens' Ed. Mark Francis/Randolph Hester Jnr (M.I.T. Press)

"Grounds for Change" W.H. Adams - Major Gardens of the 20th Century: recommended by **Jo Hambrett NSW**

"Whilst obviously not an Australian book of design or horticulture, it is most interesting if one is interested in the history of garden design over the last 100 years. The author feels landscape architecture has a reticence about itself as an art form and he argues strongly for the acceptance of landscape architecture among the other fine arts."

GDSG Library

Three more donations to the GDSG library:-

'Living in the Environment' by Alistair Knox 1975 (Compendium) donated by Paul Thompson

'Landscaping with Australian Plants' by Glen Wilson 1975 (Nelson) donated by Diana Snape

'Australian Native Gardens: putting visions into practice' by Diana Snape 1992 (Lothian) donated by the author
(If you somehow find yourself the owner of two copies of a suitable book, please remember the GDSG library.)

Special book offers

A small number of copies of '**Pruning ; a practical guide**' by **Rodger Elliot** 1984 (Lothian) are available for GDSG members for the low price of \$6 (including postage). Recommended for advice about pruning Australian plants. (Order directly from Rodger Elliot, 35 Royal Ave Heathmont Vic 3135.)

The price of '**Australian Native Gardens: putting visions into practice**' by **Diana Snape** 1992 (Lothian) has just been reduced to \$29.95 to clear remaining stock. It is available through booksellers or you can order directly from the author at \$29.95 (including postage) - but not during October. (If you are a fan of this book I hope you may take this opportunity to buy an early Christmas present.)

Plant Sales

VIC SGAP Spring sale Sat 29 & Sun 30 Oct hosted by Alvina & George Smith, Tyalgee Native Garden, Tynong North.

The Growing Friends of the Royal Botanic G. Melbourne Sat Oct 8 (10 am - 4 pm) & Sun Oct 9 (10 am - 3 pm), Old Melbourne Observatory Grounds, Birdwood Ave S. Yarra - Australian and exotic plants, many not generally available.

STREET TREES

A few members have told us of information already available (or becoming available) regarding street trees. In particular, **Catherine Drew Vic** gives details of a book **Street Tree Directory** edited by T.E. Arthur and S.D. Martin, put out in June 1981 by the Royal Australian Institute of Parks & Recreation, Victorian Region. The contents include: Landscape and street trees; Street tree practice and problems; Tree selection; and Table of trees suitable for street planting in Victoria. Very detailed information is given under the headings: General; Cultural; Landscape characters; Tolerances; Special uses; Problems. 28 sub-headings include a summary of which out of 17 different towns or districts (including Wangaratta and the North East) the trees have been grown in. For example page 70 lists 36 eucalypts (from *E. gregsoniana* to *E. steedmanii*), indicating a good range of species, though not all data about these has been located. The Directory covers both Australian and exotic trees, but it certainly contains a large amount of valuable information about Australian trees.

Thank you, Catherine, for drawing GDSG members' attention to this useful reference.

Nicky Rose Vic tells me that our SGAP Victorian Research Officer, **Bill Gunn** (husband of GDSG member Doris Gunn), is in charge of a project of listing trees suitable for street planting.

Nicky also sent me a report she wrote for the Foothills newsletter of a talk given this year by **David Beardsell**, of the Institute for Horticultural Development, Knoxfield. David is one of the five people there who are concentrating on Australian plants and he is currently working on developing reliable Australian (native) street trees in a special project. He noted the following points:

1. Develop superior clones of Australian trees.
2. Develop seed orchards for elite seedlings.
3. Encourage the use of local ecotypes.
4. Introduce new species to horticulture.

Melbourne City Council have provided a grant of \$25,000 to try propagating vegetatively superior trees. There has been difficulty with rooting and in grafting, and tissue culture is also not successful. David showed examples of eucalypts inbreeding, hybridising and vigour failing.

The State Electricity Commission of Victoria has recently produced a free 32-page booklet "Your Guide to Tree Planting near Powerlines", Some local Councils are also producing information for their residents.

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Problems/questions *Please write in with ^@WF ideas and suggestions.*

Plants that harmonise with conifers - Fred Young ACT

"I am finding it difficult to obtain information on plants that harmonise with conifers. From nearby gardens and my personal library, I see plants such as callitris, diosma, azalea, erica, box and hebe seem to work well. Probably conifers do best by themselves, but sometimes it may be necessary to alleviate some of the conifer theme, yet tie it into the rest of a garden that also has conifers.

Can you suggest any Australian plants that would be suitable? I'd like to show that Australian species may have the strength and characteristics to blend into a garden whose structure is already established with conifers."

A few suggestions to start

The following plants have a definite, strong form and/or foliage of a reasonable density, compatible with that of conifers. (I am assuming generally green foliage tones rather than yellow-green or blue-green.):-

Trees (in addition to callitris) - some allocasuarinas & casuarinas, melaleucas (e.g. *M. linariifolia*);

Lophostemon confertus, *Stenocarpus sinuatus*, and a number of rainforest trees

Large shrubs - melaleucas e.g. *M. lateritia*, *M. incana*; many banksias; *Baeckea virgata*

Small/medium shrubs - thryptomenes & astarteas (to replace diosma);

some correas e.g. *C. bauerlennii* (to replace azaleas in the shade)

& some grevilleas e.g. *G. victoriae* (in sunnier positions);

Leptospermum flavescens (*polygalifolium*) 'Pacific Beauty' or other cultivars;

low forms of *Baeckea virgata* and homoranthus species e.g. *H. flavescens* & *H. papillatus* (quite conifer-like themselves);

westringias (which can be pruned to shape).

(The golden-leaved form of *Melaleuca bracteata* or variegated *Lophostemon confertus* could blend well with yellow-green conifers. A number of acacias (e.g. *A. podalyrifolia*) and hakeas (e.g. *H. petiolaris*) have lovely blue-green foliage to go with blue-green conifers.)

Browsing kangaroos

Gwen Sanders Vic

We have 8.5 acres of very hilly land near Fraser National Park. As we have to protect every plant, large or small, from grazing by kangaroos (so far this totals over 600 plastic guards and 1800 stakes!) I would be interested to know of any species that our native friends don't include in their diet. Some westringias & hakeas have to date proven the most resistant to chewing & are developing a pleasing, compact bushy form.

Spacings/growth rate

Vanessa Elwell-Gavins NSW

These would be helpful:- Information/advice on * translating theory/expectations into fully fledged vision - how you visualise the mature garden when you plant everything at no more than six inches (15cm) high;

* growth rate and desirable spacing around plants to allow them to reach full size without being crowded out;

* also managing (1) frost and temperature extremes; (2) grasses and weeds.

A book to help with that 'clay bank' problem

Another recommendation from Catherine Drew: - 'A good reference may be *'Gardening with Australian Plants'* by Rodger Elliot (Lothian). There is a good section on clay soils & list of plants suitable for heavy clay soils p.47; also a plan and diagram for an embankment planting with the plants specified! on p. 14.'

Planting under established eucalypts

Nicky Rose Vic

I have had good success with *Myoporum parvifolium*, *Darwinia citriodora*, *Solanum laciniatum*, *Sollya heterophylla*, *correas* and a *pimelea*. Three eucalypts were planted along a fenceline and these plants have all grown well under them. (I might add I have planted hundreds of plants underneath these trees over the years and lost a great proportion of them, but these plants have survived and thrived.)

'GARDENS FOR TOMORROW CONFERENCE

'The Perfumed Garden' by Geoff Sanderson reported by Alik Zouliou Vic

A most delightfully unpredictable presentation was delivered by Geoff Sanderson at the 1994 Garden Design Conference in Melbourne. Geoff took his audience on a colourful journey through Moorish gardens, the Middle East, India and the South of France, to share in a celebration of cultures and explore how a garden is more than merely a place for plants, and design is more than patternmaking.

We observed how the design of a garden reflected lifestyle - the integration of colour and texture with personal flavours and individual fragrances. By allowing our imagination to open up our senses, these elements became strongly apparent. The scent of baked earth of an extremely arid region; the freshness of the element of water in a garden; the rich aromas of Oriental incense and Middle Eastern cooking wafting out into the yard.

This unique experience was a conglomerated sample of the many overseas encounters Geoff has to share. His wealth of knowledge stems from a diverse professional life including an academic background in horticulture and landscape design, and former presidency of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects. He has undergone considerable research of gardens and plants worldwide, from designing the redevelopment of Maranoa Gardens here in Melbourne through to his involvement in interesting projects in Japan, India, France, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain - where he designed several palace gardens and assisted in the restoration of pre-Egyptian historic sites.

It is through this professional experience that Geoff has been led to believe that ...

"Gardens are places for much more than gardening and too few creators of gardens consider the esoteric, the subjective and romantic role gardens can play in an otherwise humdrum existence."

We cannot help being inspired and encouraged by this belief to experiment with romance, mystery, individuality and spirit of place in garden design. By capturing the essence of everyday life we can express our own cultural passions!

'Design with Australian Plants' by John Patrick reported by Nicole Lenffer Vic

The theme of John Patrick's talk was the design potential of Australian plants and their use within the landscape setting. I was surprised at the extent of John's knowledge of natives, as he is perceived as a designer of English and cottage style gardens. John discussed several important issues regarding the use of Australian plants and the direction of garden design.

John questioned the use and acceptance of flora from countries around the world other than Australian flora. Gardeners have improved the performance of introduced plants by pruning, fertilizing, hybridization etc., yet gardeners don't use these practices with Australian plants. He asks why we cannot have clipped native hedges and pleached avenues of natives. We should use Australian flora for their own qualities and

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unique diversity and extend their use into the design of the garden, with the well established horticultural practices and techniques. However John stated that we can't totally replace exotics with Australian plants in particular landscape designs e.g. clipped box hedges and we need to use a mix of natives and exotics to achieve the desired effect. (What a challenge for the Study Group to prove John wrong!)

The most significant and impressive landscape settings are based upon low diversity of plants. It is the repetition of plants, the simplicity and subtlety of colours, textures and forms of the Australian flora that create significant and unique landscapes. John believes that we should recognize that we don't need to recreate the Australian landscape in garden design but that we should carefully think about the relationship between the elements within the landscape and the composition of the landscape in creating garden designs.

The aim of future landscape design, according to John, should be to reduce the large number of individual plant species within a design, to mass plant the same species, to repeat certain elements - colours, textures and forms - and to group plants with the same horticultural requirements. This will also reduce the amount of maintenance required.

Finally, John's most important point was the need to be more informed about Australian flora, to understand their ecology and horticulture so there is more extensive knowledge and use of Australian flora in landscape design.

Reviews of Garden Styles' by Helen Armstrong reported by Michael Bates NSW

When Diana asked me to write an article about the Garden Design Conference my immediate thought was to write about Helen Armstrong's talk *on* Australian Garden Style because of the questions that her talk raised for me personally. For me, a Sydney Gardener, driving around in my ute for the last decade, speculating about what, how, when & why things were built and what permutations of what styles influenced their creation, Helen's talk hit quite a few nails squarely on their heads.

Helen's non-judgemental academic approach to building a story by tracing the history of architectural styles and influxes of immigration and connecting the two, using some very illustrative images, was a thoroughly worthwhile exercise. A major reality of the nature of Australian society - a pluralistic, multi-cultural nation - is all too often forgotten by us - the people who want to contribute to the establishment of an ethos of Australian Garden Design - who are all too often of Anglo-Celt origin. Perhaps it is not possible for a unified approach to the Australian gardens to emerge, as there are too many disparate views and ways of relating to the Australian environs.

So thank you, Helen, for this shake up, encouraging me to pause for a minute and contemplate the futility of my life's mission. But I do continue, trying everyday to understand a little more this wonderful mish mash that is Australian society and when it all becomes a bit confusing I head for the Grand Master herself who teaches me very slowly - the bush.

Melaleucas, leptospermums and banksias

Jo Hambrett NSW

I have used *Melaleuca armillaris*, *M. quinquinervia* & *M. incana* over the years and have only had luck with *quinquinervia* - and then only just. I feel Dural is really just not wet enough to keep them completely happy; they are much more comfortable closer in to Sydney - a pity because I adore them. *M. armillaris* & *M. incana* succumb eventually to the grub as do any leptospermums I put in, with two exceptions and they are both straggly pathetic spectacles.

Aah but the **Banksias!** I have planted *Banksia robur* in a boggy patch and they're quite happy, and *B. ericifolias* are dotted throughout the bush; however pride of place in my garden goes to that most Australian of trees - *Banksia serrata*. This Old Man earns top billing in my garden because:

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
| 1) of his quintessential Australianness | 2) he is strongly architectural | 3) he is long lived |
| 4) he is highly individualistic | 6) he is everchanging | 6) he is full of interest and character |

I have tried to ensure I can see a *B. serrata* from every room as I never tire of his thick rippling corky hide, his pale green new leaves softly tipped with pink, stretching very straightly skywards, to gradually spread with age to become inverted cupolas of glossy dark green. Often I am reminded of a prehistoric floral candelabra when I see the wonderful great hairy pods arranged like so many candles along his branches - or maybe they are banksia men but I'm sure they're not as bad as May Gibbs would have us believe!

Craig McLennan Qld suggests that "if someone has a difficult site or is stuck for ideas, they could send in a rough plan of site, which could then be distributed to our members who I'm sure would come up with plenty of great ideas." (Craig's particular interest is in designing small gardens, incorporating water into his designs, using natural materials such as rocks and timber.)

I think this is a very good idea and the plan can be included in a newsletter. However the plan shouldn't be too rough if suggestions are to be really useful. Check the guidelines below (under **PLAN**) for details worth including. These guidelines were written partly in response to a letter from an SGAP member asking for help in planning and designing her garden. Other options are: using professional help; being involved with GDSG member(s) in a Garden Design Project; talking to GDSG members in her district group for ideas.

PLAN Draw a plan to scale, showing the existing boundaries of the site; location of any fixed structures e.g. house, garage, shed, fence; location of services e.g. S.E.C., gas, etc.

Mark in aspect, slope, high & low points, sun direction (areas of sun & shade), prevailing winds, drainage lines (wet areas), frost prone areas, existing vegetation to be retained, soil types, wildlife habitats, significant features, views - desirable & undesirable, panoramic & enclosed. Note climate & temperature ranges.

SKETCH DESIGN This involves observation, assessment & judgement of the site & its features.

Points to consider at this stage:

Areas of open space

Have you thought about the final proportion of open space to planted areas that you want? e.g. you might want two large, separate north-south open areas, so eventually one planted area between them also running N-S. Wide paths provide open space too.

Will large open areas be grass (which is relatively high maintenance)? Is a water area an option for you?

Boundaries

Do you have any views ('borrowed landscape') you want to retain?

What boundary lengths do you want to screen?

How dense do you want your boundary plantings to be?

Do you need windbreaks along any boundaries?

Land use

Do you want paved areas, or any areas required for specific uses or activities (e.g. play area, swimming pool, barbecue, clothes drying)

Existing or desired character of the site

What style of garden would you like to achieve? e.g. a slightly formal style or a more natural one? (Often a garden is rather more formal close to the house.)

Do you want to follow a theme e.g. foliage colour or form, flower colour, landscaping to attract birds?

Are there significant features or plants you want to retain e.g. rock outcrops or large trees?

Observe carefully the form, line, colour, textures and scale of the existing vegetation and landscape.

If your block is flat, are you considering any earthmoving to give interesting, natural-looking changes in level? Raised areas or beds improve drainage too; low areas can collect and conserve water.

Are there any problem areas that need to be changed?

Trees and shrubs

Firstly where do you want trees, and in what combinations - scattered groves, rows, large clumps, small groups of 3 or 4, individual "specimen" trees? (Tree areas are relatively low maintenance, but consider the areas they will shade.)

Next where do you want areas of large shrubs? Identify the priority order of developing/planting out areas (which can be varied according to availability of plants).

Are you thinking of using indigenous trees and shrubs to help establish a framework? They are likely to be hardy and reliable.

Are you happy using repetition of trees & shrubs which you find are successful? It's a good idea from an aesthetic point of view as well as a practical one.

Include favourites you think are likely to grow in your conditions.

"Collecting" can be useful in the early stages to help identify successful plants.

FINAL DESIGN STAGE

This stage involves incorporating the above features on to the plan. Try to show how the location and type of activity areas, the circulation (pathways) around the garden, the vegetation and the existing or desired character of the garden all relate to one another.

The next step is to choose carefully the appropriate plants based upon the conditions of the individual areas of the garden and the style/theme selected. Start with the large trees and shrubs to establish a framework for the garden. Make sure the size (mature height and width) and the growth habit of the plant will fit into the area. Then choose the smaller plants and groundcovers that will fit in between and under the larger plants, or fill their own areas.

Mark the selected plants in on the plan, showing the mature width of the plant (say 2/3 the maximum diameter given in references). Ensure that all plants are appropriately spaced so each plant has room to grow. (When you're planting, resist the temptation to move them closer together - plant small 'filler' plants such as daisies instead.)

A few Design Ideas - for fun.

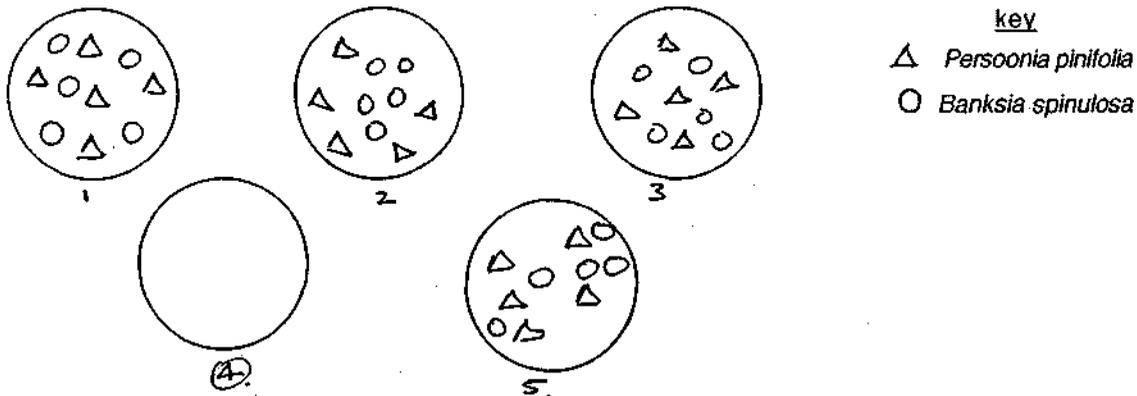
Grahame Durbidge NSW

Design ideas? They represent creative energy. It's transposing the vision into something real to be experienced and enjoyed that is the fun. The drive to create something beautiful stems from the spirit. A beautiful garden provides us with "a place of sensual indulgence" (Rodger Elliot, NL 5). Within this frame of mind, all the attributes of a space are assessed. Ecological, financial, aesthetics, purposes, longevity, microclimates, aspect, time, soil, maintenance, growth rates - ad infinitum.

The best possible planting scheme will emerge. The space is planted - time passes and the beauty matures - change comes - does the beauty remain? Ultimately the idea is to design, create, maintain and rejuvenate a beautiful space (a garden). Words indicate the style a design may take. Peaceful, tranquil, restful, impressive, imposing, colourful, exciting, secret, showy. If the style is to be, say, colourful then I would like it to be beautiful also. If the style is to be restful, then beautiful also. Naturalistic, formal, thematic, eclectic then beautiful also. Would anyone try to create an ugly garden? Yes, maybe, but can it still be beautifully ugly? What is beauty? It's with the beholder.

To this beholder I thought a planting mix of 5 *Persoonia pinifolia* and 5 *Banksia spinulosa* would be beautiful. The foliage of these two proteaceous plants seem to complement each other. The flower colours (yellow persoonia and yellow-orange banksia) would harmonize if flowering should overlap. They can reasonably be expected to grow at similar rates and attain similar size. *Calothamnus quadrifidus* or even *Banksia ericifolia* could be used if the persoonia were not available. It's just that *Persoonia pinifolia* has finer texture foliage and this is appealing.

Here's a bit of fun. Try to visualize 5 *Persoonia pinifolia* and the 5 *Banksia spinulosa* at say three years after planting. Imagine the planting site (a circular garden bed) can be viewed from any direction and everything has proceeded according to plan. (Fantasy, I realize, but change is O.K.) Is Beauty still there?



Which planting arrangement is preferred? (4) is blank if you prefer your own scheme. I like an even mix of open space and plants: a design where the combination looks good and feels right over time for a lot of reasons.

Just a few design ideas - for fun.

Grahame's planting arrangement question inspired me to think of another one. Picture a long bed, say three metres wide against a fence. There are three species of plants to be planted, five of each species. One is a groundcover plant (G), the second a shrub a metre or so high (S) and the third a small tree (T). The groundcover could be *Brachyscome multifida*, the shrub *Thryptomene saxicola* and the tree *Eucalyptus leucoxyton*, or you could choose any other combination which appeals to you. How would you arrange them?

T	T	T	T	T
S	S	S	S	S
G	G	G	G	G

Probably not like this, unless it's a very formal and regimented garden! There are really a huge number of possibilities - think about them, for fun. DO send in YOUR suggestions for either or both planting arrangements (with reasons too if you like).

Diana Snape

A Visit to Peg McAllister's Garden

Bev Hanson Vic

On our visit to Peg McAllister's garden with Diana and Brian Snape and my daughter Jenny, we found Peg to be a lovely lady with a delightful garden of Australian plants. She has a small suburban block and set up the garden about two years ago, eliminating any lawn and preparing her soil before planting a great variety of interesting plants. Her garden is essentially a collector's garden with many unusual species, especially smaller plants, including a number from Western Australia. It could also be called a wildflower garden. Even though it was summer when we visited we were surprised by the number of plants flowering, giving a spring feeling. The blue shades of wahlenbergias (Bluebells) and gold of anigozanthos (Kangaroo Paws) were particularly memorable.

Peg also grows flowers for cut flowers in dried arrangements and had some lovely varieties of ixodia. As it is only a young garden it lacked elevation which would be achieved in time with taller plants blocking out side fences and softening sheds. Peg's block backs on to railway land which she looks after, removing weeds and nurturing the indigenous plants. We'll look forward to another visit in spring.

The Kevin Hoffman Walk - a Suburban Streetscape

Diana Snape Vic

Suburban streetscapes in Australia are rarely exciting and even a pleasant avenue of trees is usually much admired. In Lara, between Melbourne and Geelong, a beautiful garden featuring all Australian plants has been created alongside a street which runs parallel to Hovell's Creek. The horizontal distance between road and creek bed is approximately 20 metres and this incorporates a levee bank 6 m or so above the normal level of the creek. In this area, over 25 years, Kevin Hoffman has sculpted and planted nearly 0.5 km of landscaped pathway for the use and enjoyment of the public.

In 1982 an award for the best developed and maintained street in Victoria' encouraged the Corio Shire to continue supporting Kevin's efforts. Over the years the garden suffered a series of disasters which would have discouraged most people - floods, fierce storms, sewerage being put through right underneath, the installation of a flood mitigation system. Each time, the Council funded the restoration of the garden while Kevin did it. Then, following a record flood in December 1988, it was decided the levee bank had to be raised an extra half metre. The Council provided all the material and Kevin carried out the work by hand (and wheelbarrow) over a two-year period. One disadvantage of this area is the lack of access for heavy machinery. Another is the threat of flooding and the creek's powers of erosion, important factors limiting the development of its lower banks. Kevin is philosophical about the many setbacks, saying that with each re-working the garden improved because his own knowledge and experience had grown.

The initial view of the garden is from the street, on the far side of a fine green lawn. In the garden are several hundred species of plants of great variety, combined with sensitivity and sufficient repetition to avoid any feeling of disharmony. Trees and shrubs are in balance with groundflora: prostrate plants, daisies and monocotyledons such as kangaroo paws and grasses. A small pool set in the garden adjacent to the lawn is a lovely, cool spot attracting birds and people. Kevin has installed sprinkler systems in some areas of the garden, but still waters others right through summer until the autumn break. The garden is extremely well drained and does tend to dry out under trees, so is occasionally watered at other times of the year.

The local Council has supported the project from the start, supplying materials and paying for plants, and Kevin's hobby (or passion) consumes his every spare moment. He patronises many nurseries, including 'Kuranga' in Melbourne, 'Wakiti' at Shepparton and Peter Dowling's at Mount Gambier, and also plant sales of the Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP). A fertilizer, Osmocote with low phosphorus, is used when planting.

There are two entrances to the main pathway leading through the long garden. It is really quite restricted, being just a narrow strip running north-south, with a steep bank facing west and incorporating the levee bank. In one section a second, lower path diverges. Hundreds of tons of soil, scoria and rocks have been imported to the site and barrowed in to final position. Soil has been built up and heavily mulched with red scoria - a strong colour, often very difficult to use well in

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a garden. Its use here is for pragmatic reasons - because it's not too expensive, it's readily available and practical: not blown or washed away, nor dug up by blackbirds - and is most successful. It is excellent as a background to silver-grey and blue-grey foliage, shrubs such as *Eremophila nivea* and *Leucophyta brownii* (Cushion Bush); low groundcover plants like *Chrysocephalum* species and tufted grasses such as *Dichanthia sericium* (Queensland Blue Grass) and *Poa australis*. Most shades of green are pleasant against its colour; it complements white, cream, lilac, mauve and blue flowers, and red/green combinations. Even shades of pink or yellow do not clash when mediated by foliage colours.

Paths are just wide enough for two people. Mounded garden beds on either side provide excellent drainage and, because the beds are narrow, trees, low shrubs and other groundflora predominate rather than more substantial shrubs. Large rocks, some sawn tree stumps and logs are placed with discretion and flair to stabilize level changes. Attractive vistas appear along the pathway as it passes through sunshine and shadow. There are wonderful tree trunks, single or grouped - eucalyptus , allocasuarina, melaleuca - and strongly patterned shadows of trunks and branches. There is a little more room at the northern end of the walk allowing tiers of vegetation. Here beds are very sunny and dry; larger shrubs include banksias, grevilleas, chamelauciums and acacias.

All the design and virtually all the work and maintenance have been done by Kevin, with occasional help in heavy work such as building timber retaining walls. He designs instinctively - there are no plans drawn on paper. Each section of the path evolved as he first decided on the course of the path, with gentle curves, interesting variations in level and the careful placement of rocks and trees. He likes to create vistas and surprise areas - the path as adventure. Kevin concentrates on combinations and contrast of foliage rather than ephemeral flowers. One can pause almost anywhere and pay attention to details - groundflora (for example bright green cushions of *Scleranthus biflorus*) which soften the edges of the path; a tussock-grass beside a rock, a scaevola or hibbertia draped over it; clumps of anigozanthos (Kangaroo Paws) beside a couple of eucalypt trunks; silver seedheads of *Stipa elegantissima* against fine, hanging, very dark green foliage of an allocasuarina (She-oak). It is definitely not a "bush garden" nor even a "bush" path, but instead has more than a touch of formality.

Many plants thought difficult to grow in Melbourne thrive in mounded, well drained sunny beds, including less well known (and some rare) species from Western Australia, e.g. the endangered *Banksia goodii*, beautiful *Prostanthera magnifica* and a number of dryandras, eremophilas and verticordias. Not all are rare and difficult plants - brachyscomes, correas, callistemons, hakeas and many other genera are suitable candidates for any garden. At every time of year there is interest - beautiful colours in tree trunks and foliage; pleasing variety of leaf shape and texture; buds, flowers and fruits - all changing with the season.

The garden suffers almost no vandalism and many local people come to the Kevin Hoffman Walk to get ideas for their own gardens. Tour groups visit (Kevin says elderly people in particular appreciate it) and recognition of its achievements has been given in many awards. The path is still being extended and, across the far side of the creek, a local group (including Kevin) is revegetating an open area with indigenous species. Not everyone lives near a creek, of course, or has much space to work with in their 'nature strip', but then much less work is required to transform a small area. Suburban streetscapes, especially where neighbours cooperate, can certainly be touched with inspiration. I think this one is.

(I expect this article to be appearing in the August edition of 'Landscape Australia'. D.S.)

Landscape Australia is currently featuring an excellent series of articles on '[Basic Landscape Plants](#)' by **Glen Wilson** and **Rodger Elliot**. It began with 'Basic Landscape Plants - Some Are, Some Are Not' 2/93 May & 3/93 August; then came 'Low Demand Landscapes' 4/93 Nov; 'Learning From Natural Australian Landscapes' 1/94 Feb; and 'Water Harvesting' 2/94 May. The May issue also included **Gordon Rowland's** 'Brief Impressions of the Landscape Australia 1994 Garden Design Conference' and an article on the interesting Faulkner and Chapman garden, combining Australian and exotic plants, visited by some Conference participants.

The current RHS journal has a review of a German book just translated into English '*Perennials and their Garden Habitats*' (Richard Hansen & Friedrich Stahl) C.U.P.. It describes the methods used for designing perennial borders at festivals and public parks in Germany, which look different from the English herbaceous borders. Designing with nature is the underlying principle and the book promotes a "hands off" approach to gardening. The initial starting point for plant selection is the given conditions. Plant communities are proposed which can cope with these conditions and still look fantastic.

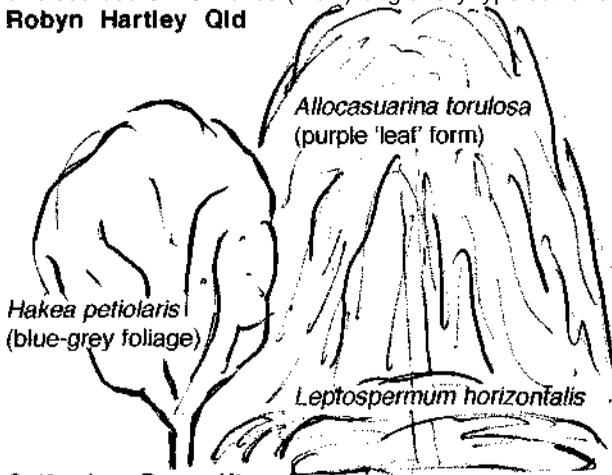
Being German, it is very systematic. The whole perennial spectrum is divided into seven "Living Spaces" ranging from woodland to open ground and water. These are then subdivided into 10-25 headings with lists for viable plant combinations based on natural competitive behaviour of plants and plant associations. The headings deal with communities of species with identical habitat requirements (= conditions appropriate to the wild). There are lists of clump-forming ferns and grasses as opposed to plants with spreading roots. 'Pioneer species for disturbed ground' are suggested and these are cross referenced to lists of 'perennials for wildflower meadows on moist to moderately dry soil' or species for 'dry calcareous grassland and meadow step'. Gradually a key emerges for a narrow range of suitable plants happy for years in a given situation. Now I had been thinking that here is the basis of a book the Group can write but when I was copying out the bit about the lists I suddenly thought "*Grow What Where*". It's hard to better that act.

Pleasing combinations of plants

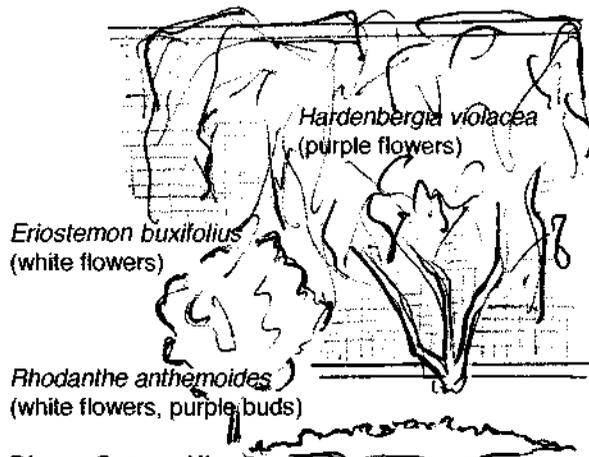
Here, in December, an established area of mainly red-green, red and yellow *Anigozanthos* are enhanced by the white flowers and grey foliage of *Ammobium alatum* giving quite a festive air to the garden. The pleasant mix of warm scents (pleasant to my nose anyway) rising from both, ornamentation and antics of birds visiting the anigozanthos make it worth repeating. Both of these plants have the quality of changing garden space when in flower and *Ammobium* is so easily grown. **Gloria Thomlinson Vic**

A nice combination of four plants I have in the garden together are weeping *Leptospermum* 'Pacific Beauty', *Acacia glaucoptera* (blue, odd shaped foliage), *Hakea francisiana* (upward pointing strap leaves) and *Eremophila punicea* (grey foliage, pink flowers, in full bloom). Foliage shape and colour are different against one another. These are growing in a raised bed 9-10 inches (4 cm) of gravelly type soil and only about three and a half years old but doing very well.

Robyn Hartley Qld



Catherine Drew Vic



Diana Snape Vic

Successful combination of species

Jo Hambrett NSW

When we bought our 5 acres, twelve or so years ago, as part of a subdivision of an old dairy we were fortunate enough to acquire a most glorious stand of Turpentines (*Syncarpia glomulifera*) interspersed with angophoras and stringybarks - along with kikuyu grass (if you can't beat it - join it!) and an assortment of weeds that would choke an elephant (enter the Bradley method!).

I found that by underplanting these eucalypts with the following species I was able to combat a rather harsh grey summer vista (by softening it with green, shiny, 'softer' foliage) but not compromise the integrity of the beautiful native trees:- *Eucalyptus microcorys*, to add another leaf shape and different green to the outlook (and in the vain hope of sighting a koala!); *Pittosporum undulatum*-a lot were already there and I've added some; I know many people don't like them, however they provide a lovely glossy green backdrop - in summer especially important.

I have put in some Bangalow Palms where the drainage pools, again a totally different leaf shape. They sit happily amongst the rainforest species such as the cedars - red (*Toona australis*), white (*Melia azedarach*) and pencil (*Polyscias murrayi*) - the lillypillies, yellow woods, Silky Oaks (*Grevillea robusta*), Davidson's Plum (*Davidsonia pruriens*),

Tree Waratahs (*Oreocallis wickhamii*), Cheese Trees (*Glochidion ferdinandi*), Blueberry Ash (*Elaeocarpus reticulatus*), Native Frangipani (*Hymenosporum flavum*), NSW Christmas Bush and the *Acacia elatas*.

Next level down will find Rock Lilies, Birds Nest Ferns, Tree-ferns, eriostemon, westringia, prostanthera, dianella, cordyline, lomandra, *Bauera rubioides*, derwentia, dampiera, helichrysum, albizia, brachyscome, crowea, pimelea and kennedia & wonga vines. To my eye all these plants (and I've probably forgotten some!) get on beautifully together; it is my hope and wish that by adding them to the pre-existing bushscape I have not only improved its aesthetics but increased its vitality.

(For nurseries, I have found ANNANGROVE GREVILLEAS, Annangrove Rd Kenthurst NSW to be both helpful and consistent with its stock.)

An indigenous garden: 'always there is a challenge'

Betty Rymer NSW

We have land sloping to the south which takes drainage from all around including an easement from the road. Hence we have wet areas, plus dry areas, lots of rock (big slab rock) and large trees - Turpentine, Blackbutts & *Angophora costata* - hence lack of sunny areas. So finding the right plant for the right place is always a challenge. The answer often is to use local plants but many are difficult to establish e.g. croweas. However after many trials and losses I have at last *C. saligna* growing between rocks, I think with sufficient water. *C. exalata* (the local form) propagates easily but dies when planted out. I have one surviving (2 yrs +) in what I considered to be a most undesirable position. I tried boronias under the trees to give filtered light - they survive but don't grow. Presumably the trees take all the water and the top soil is too dry.

Shallow soil over solid rock - what to do? In the collection of accumulated rotting leaves, *Lomandra obliqua* grows using cracks in the rock. Ferns that are tough and have rhizomes grow - die down in the summer and come again as it gets cooler and moister e.g. *Pellaea falcata*, *Adiantum hispidulum* & *A. aethiopicum*. *Lomandra longifolia*, *Dianella* sp., *Banksia spinulosa*, *Leucopogon lanceolatum*, *Lomatia silaifolia*, *Platylobium formosum* grow naturally plus hundreds of *Acianthus fornicatus*. Near the easement we have ferns and rainforest plants. Coming on well, mostly planted - *Banksia robur*, Tree-ferns (although they just appear), *Culcita dubia*; *Hypolepis muelleri* (Harsh Ground Fern) is very invasive. Our soil type varies from Wianamatta shales to sandy poor soils. Always there is a challenge - especially keeping weeds out since there is so much moisture around and the easement brings many seeds in.

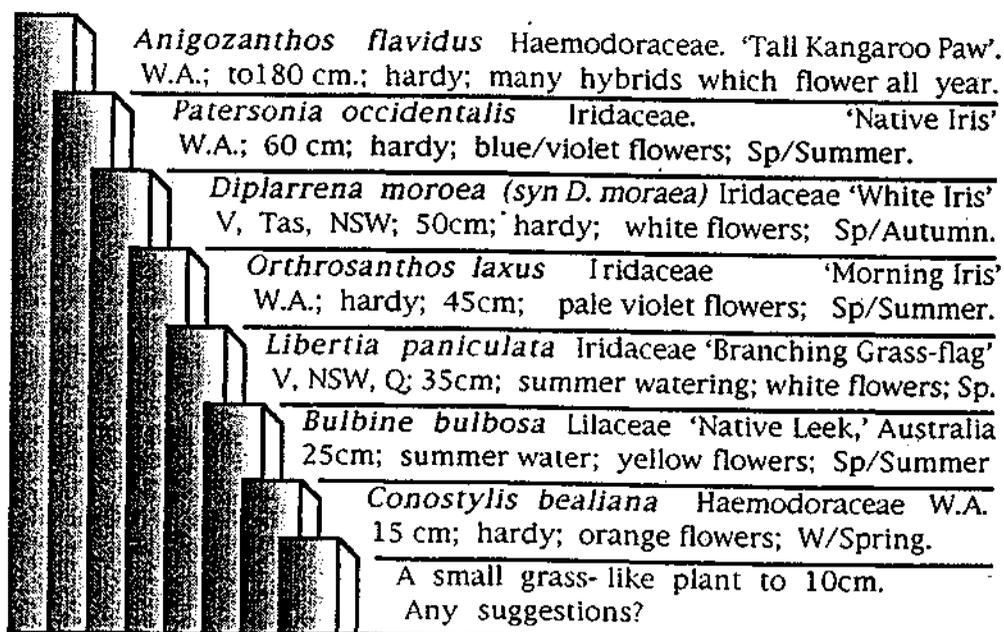
A Strap-leaved Garden

Linda Floyd Vic

Forget the flowers: they're transient.

Ignore their colours: can they really clash with their surroundings?

Think instead of the forms of plants and their silhouettes. These are always present.



The New Parliament House in Canberra receives some 570,000 visitors each year. While people either love or hate the building itself, most applaud the extensive use of Australian materials, craftsmanship and themes employed in its construction. What most visitors don't see, however, are the extensive, landscaped Australian native gardens on the southern, eastern and western perimeters of the building.

The Parliament House Gardens were designed by Peter G Rowlands & Associates. Mervin Dorrrough, now of Dorrrough, Britz and Associates, was one of the landscape architects involved with the design of the gardens at the time. I would like to thank Mervin for the time (and planting plans) he made available during the preparation of this short article. The gardens comprise three distinct areas: the 'Senate garden' sits on the steeper slope between Parliament House Drive and the western portion of the ring road; the 'House of Reps' garden lies on the flatter area between Parliament House Drive and the eastern portion of the ring road; while the 'Ministerial Garden' is at the southern end of the building, furthest from the main public areas.

The overall theme of the gardens is one of simplicity. There is strong repetition of plants, combined with an uncomplicated layout of paths and siting of amenities that effectively link the three gardens. Mervin Dorrrough describes it as an exercise in replacing the 'plant material' that was removed from the hill during excavations for the building. The intention was to reproduce a relatively indigenous cover for the hill that would link in with the surrounding hills of the Canberra Nature Park. (For those not familiar with Canberra, the city is contained in a number of valleys - building on the hill and ridge tops that separate the valleys has thankfully not been allowed.) Given the size of the overall garden, the following comments are largely restricted to the western Senate Garden.

The gardens provide a basic mass from which are 'carved' a number of 'rooms' or areas linked by gravel pathways. The two tennis court complexes in the Senate Garden in particular give a strong feel of being located within a mass of vegetation. The black wire netting that surrounds the courts, providing minimal visual interruption, ensures that surrounding planting rather than the fencing provides the 'walls' of the courts. The feathery foliage of a stand of *Casuarina cunninghamiana* at the tennis courts at the northern end of the Senate Garden provides a particularly effective backdrop. The pavilions attached to each of the tennis court complexes are angular, airy structures that reflect the modern lines of the main building itself and help link the building to the gardens.

On a far more intimate scale, small rounded grassed areas are located at various points along the paths. These smaller areas, backed or divided by low, curving sandstone walls, were a response to the original design brief to provide picnic and relaxation areas for staff from the building. They are one of the many outstanding features of the Parliament House Gardens. One, at the southern end, has a curving sandstone wall that divides it into two smaller segments. The use of *Callistemon* 'Harkness' as a backing would provide a colourful backdrop in spring and summer. At the northern end of the Senate Garden another of these smaller 'rooms' is surrounded by a mixture of *Melaleuca incana* and *Hakea salicifolia* - the grey of the melaleuca contrasting well with light green of the hakea.

The use of exotic grasses in these areas is likely to fuel the debate over their appropriateness or otherwise in the Australian context. Mervin Dorrrough is not sure about the need for irrigated lawn and thinks that Australian grasses would probably be more appropriate. My own view is that landscape design needs to take into account the human and social history as well as the ecological. The 'green lawns' associated with European settlement in Australia, while needing to be seen in context, can have a role to play.

Australian grasses have not been ignored altogether on the site - at least three 'experimental' areas seem to have been established in the western Senate Garden. Below the tennis courts at the southern end a patch

of *Themeda australis* is going well. It has been planted among a grove of *Eucalyptus mannifera* ssp *maculosa* and *E. macrorhyncha* and demonstrates its potential as a ground cover more generally. Two other areas of what appears to be *Poa* have also been established. One follows a drainage line while the other, at the northern end, is set among a group planting of *Callitris endlicheri*. While it simply may take some time to get used to, the combination of poa and callitris doesn't really seem to work.

The gardens are cut by three broad grassed areas (exotic) that rise in gentle contours from the surrounding Commonwealth Avenue up to Parliament House Drive. It is the intention that these 'sightlines' provide a visual link between the building itself and the country surrounding the hill on which the building is located. Time (and more importantly plant growth) will increase the impact of these sightlines. What is clear at this stage, however, is that the current border plantings of *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Constance' and *G.* 'Poorinda Elegance' have not really worked. By and large the plants have become 'leggy' and some serious thought needs to be given to their replacement.

The wilder extensions that surround the gardens have a more indigenous feel to them and provide an interesting contrast to the more 'maintained' garden areas. The two are cleverly linked, however, by a repetition of pathway materials and the small 'viewing' areas backed or divided by low sandstone walls.

The formal garden located on the House of Representatives (eastern) side of the building also warrants special mention. While there are no Australian plants represented at all, its setting within the larger, all Australian garden provides it with a sense of drama and surprise that it would not otherwise have.

While most of the planting is based on repetition and simplicity, there are still some combinations of note:

*A field of banksia (*B. spinulosa* and *B. ericifolia*) between the lowest path and the path winding below the soccer field provides some interesting foliage and colour contrast to the rest of the planting - the orange spikes of *B. ericifolia* stood out particularly well in the autumn sun that marked my last visit.

*The large flat serrated leaves of a group planting of *Banksia robur* stand out on a corner of the pathway as it winds back up above the tennis courts at the southern end of the garden.

*The combination of *Acacia melanoxylon*, *A. cardiophylla*, *Melaleuca ericifolia* and an unknown grevillea along the path below the northern tennis courts provides a strong foliage contrast.

*The group plantings of *Eucalyptus mannifera* ssp *maculosa* and *E. sideroxylon* along the northern top edge of the garden are particularly effective: the dark red/black of the ironbarks, combined with their greyer leaves, provides a strong contrast to the smooth white bark of the manniferas.

Anything more than a cursory examination of the gardens is beyond the scope of this short article. It is one of the few examples of large-scale designed Australian native gardens and deserves to be more widely known. For those with the time and opportunity, a visit to these gardens at Australia's national parliament would be well rewarded in terms of both design ideas and planting possibilities. If anybody needs further convincing, not only is it open 365 days a year, it's also free!

The Australian Garden in the Chelsea Flower Show sent by **Wendy Evans NSW**
extracts from an article by Ursula Buchan, *The Sunday Telegraph (U.K.)* 22 May 1994

'The idea (for the Australian garden) has come from Jill Hamilton, an Australian writer with an enthusiasm for wild plants, who lives partly in London and partly on an island in the Great Barrier Reef. Her ambition is to show how beautiful and diverse an Australian native garden can be. This garden also celebrates the growing movement in Australia dedicated to planting native species in gardens, not only for their looks but because, as most are specific to Australia, they are necessary to support the endemic fauna.

It has been designed by Jon Bannenberg, the Australian-born yacht designer He has built a copy of an early timber homestead verandah, called an old Queenslander; placed in a clearing of fallen eucalyptus leaves and Swan River daisies, it is designed to be glimpsed through a fringe of 15ft tall Tasmanian tree ferns. Nearby is a grove of tall eucalyptus and other bush trees, such as the distinctive *Xanthorrhoea australis*.

The colour comes mainly from the glaucous-green of gum-tree leaves and silver-green of acacia, but there are also flowering banksias, leptospermum, callistemon, correas and grevilleas

I fancy that the organisers are hoping that ... visitors to Chelsea will be fired to grow more Australian plants in their gardens and conservatories. There is a circle to be squared here; Australian plants will not necessarily support our fauna and, as Jill Hamilton admits, a balance has to be struck growing exotic and native plants in gardens. But, as has been the case since Roman times, nothing will cure British gardeners of their passion for exotics

Although there will be more conventionally colourful gardens this year at Chelsea, it is doubtful whether any will be more intriguing.'

Views of the Australian Landscape 3 - the First Settlers

Tony Cavanagh Vic

Following Cook, there were no further visitors to reach our shores until January, 1788 when 11 ships and nearly 1 500 people reached Captain Cook's Sting-ray's Bay (now Botany Bay), The First Fleet and settlement had arrived. In vain they searched for Cook's meadows - "The fine meadows talked of in Captain Cook's voyage I never could see though I took some pains to find them out" wrote the Colonial Surgeon, John White. More importantly, there was no obvious fertile soil and the land was swampy with little free running water - Bank's opinion of Botany Bay was more in tune with reality than the grandiose description portrayed in Hawksworth's account of Cook's voyage.

Consequently, within a week, Arthur Phillip moved the fleet to the then unknown Port Jackson. Although there was water, a magnificent harbour and land that looked reasonably clear and suitable for cultivation, appearances were deceptive. The trees were so large with wide spreading roots that clearing of land for cultivation was painfully slow. English axes of soft steel broke or distorted against the trunks of ironbarks and red gums, and timber, even when sawn, buckled and warped so as to render it useless for building construction. And the soil, derived from sandstones and shales, was sandy and leached of nutrients so that "nothing seems to flourish vigourously long, but they shoot up suddenly after being put in the ground, look green and luxuriant for a little Time, blossom early, fructify slowly and weakly —. Indeed, many of the Plants wither long ere they arrive at these Periods of Growth." What a puzzle it must have been to these early settlers to see the huge trees, the numerous shrubs and the luxuriant native grasses, so well adapted to fire and this environment, growing freely yet they were unable to grow their European crops and fruit trees.

Those who had the time, however, began to appreciate that there was a beauty in the bush, something different to the "green and pleasant land" they had left behind. There are numerous journal and book descriptions of this period of our history and, in nearly all of these, there are accounts of the flora and the landscape. Yet these were not naturalists writing for there were no naturalists on the First Fleet. Rather, they were surgeons, soldiers, sailors, naval and ship's officers and even the Colonial Chaplain and Governor Arthur Phillip himself, captivated by what they saw around them. Below are a selection from First Fleet diaries and books which were gathered together by Lionel Gilbert in his 1962 thesis:-

"The heaths that are free from timber are covered with a variety of the most beautiful flowering shrubs". Arthur Phillip, May 1788.

"The vast variety of beautiful plants and flowers, which are to be found — may hereafter afford much entertainment to the curious in the science of botany". John Hunter, Naval Captain.

"We picked up, in the distance of about half a mile, twenty-five flowers of plants and shrubs of different genera and species —". John White, Colonial Surgeon.

"The rare and beautiful flowering shrubs, which abound in every part, deserve the highest admiration and panegyric". Watkin Tench, Marine Officer.

"We found a very great quantity of shrubs which had beautiful bloom but scarce any smell in them". William Bradley, Naval Lieutenant.

Bowes *"frequently made Excursions up the Country for some miles in search of some natural curiosity or other"* and on one occasion *"collected some seeds from a plant in blossom which was exceedingly handsome and different from any shrub I ever before saw".* Arthur Bowes-Smyth, Ship's Surgeon, 1788.

"Some of the most beautiful shrubs that I ever saw —". John Harris, Surgeon.

"I have taken the liberty of sending you a small box of the seeds of this country —. Have heard that seeds are much sought after in England —. I have but little time or taste for Botany otherwise here in great variety to feast the eyes and amuse the curious". Richard Johnson, Colonial Chaplain.

And finally, one of the most lyrical descriptions of Port Jackson came from the pen of Arthur Bowes-Smyth. The rather grandiose language is, as Proudfoot says, in the best Picturesque tradition -

"the finest terra's, lawns and grottos, with distinct plantations of the tallest and most stately trees I ever saw in any nobleman's grounds in England, cannot excel in beauty those w'h nature now presented to our view. The singing of the numerous birds among the trees, and the flight of the numerous parraquets, lorrequets, cockatoos and maccaws, made all around appear like in enchantment; the stupendous rocks from the summit of the hills and down to the very water's edge hang'g over in a most awful manner from above, and form'g the most commodious quays by the water, beggar'd all description". It is doubtful if those whose job it was to grow food for the colonys ever saw the land in such a light. The production of food for the near starving settlement became Phillip's top priority and gardens as we know them were not to come into vogue for perhaps another 40 years.

Information and quotations were taken from the following sources:

Cavanagh, T. 1989. Natural history activities in Australia and the introduction of Australian plants into England 1771-1800. *Geelong Naturalist*, 26 (2): 37-49.

Gilbert, L.A. 1962. *Botanical Investigation of Eastern Seaboard Australia 1788-1810*. Unpublished honours thesis, University of New England, Armidale.

Proudfoot, H.B. 1979. Botany Bay, Kew, and the Picturesque: early conceptions of the Australian landscape. *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, 65 (1): 30-45.

Terra Australis to Australia, 1988. (ed. by Glyndwr Williams and Alan Frost). Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

A Talking Garden

Janet Woodroffe Vic

I sit here mulling over the progress (or lack of it) in my garden these last two years. I read the garden design newsletters looking for re-inspiration - perhaps even a clue - and then I see it. How is it that no-one has so far mentioned that gardens talk? Not only do they speak to the world about the weighty topics of cultural heritage, social status and class, materialism, attitudes towards the environment, etc, they have a distinctly personal voice and they tell the world about you.

The garden sometimes whispers; has periods of contentment; often beguiles; can induce feelings of guilt and shame and has even been known to scream. But there's more to come. Gardens get answers! Gardens are a conversation with the world; a passage between self and universe and the dialogue is endless. The past is evident, the present demanding and the future calls one on.

My garden speaks to me of the past. Why didn't you leave more space so the allocasuarina could have had a better canopy? Perhaps you shouldn't have lopped off that limb of the callistemon; you've disfigured it. Was that harsh pruning of the banksia really necessary? Did that sawdust mulch make the soil too acid?

And of the present. Why aren't you keener and more vigilant? Don't you care? If you didn't loll about reading the paper and sitting by the fire, you could make guards and perhaps have saved those new little plants that succumbed to heavy frosts. Your lack of commitment has cost you dearly! So speaks my garden conscience. Sometimes the other voice speaks. Those daisies are a success: the school girls stop to look and point. One regular church goer examines my plants daily; (she compares my industry to her own). The egg lady demands cuttings in return for her bounty. The stalls and fetes get bunches of cut flowers and the florist calls in for foliage for a special arrangement at a local wedding.

Occasionally there are victories like the brown hawk that's made my garden his killing fields and the poor blackbirds his corpses. And lost opportunities: that unruly back corner. The play-group children command the swings next door, only one metre away. You could have made a dazzling little corner garden for their delight. Yes, my garden is me and there's no escape. Sometimes it improves. Sometimes it just goes along.

Logos

Q



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ARCHITECTURE

is the science or art of designing buildings, structure involves planes, structure, balance, proportion, symmetry, style, form

Terms used to describe architecture may be adapted to planting design to create a variety of architectonic forms and effects.

OUTDOOR ROOMS

* Plant material is used to compartmentalize external spaces; plants may form the framework of outdoor rooms or clothe 'hard' structural elements.

* Spaces are created by the modification of one or more of overhead, vertical & ground planes to create: openings enclosures views screens scale & so on

* Unlike a built structure, a space created with plant material breathes, grows and changes in colour and form with the passing of the seasons.

OTHER STRUCTURAL USES

Plant material used to:

- * Channel/direct traffic
- * Emphasize desired lines
- * Frame/screen views
- * Create shade, windbreaks

SPECIAL EFFECTS

* Juxtapositioning. Different accents and emphasis created by the ways in which shrubs and trees are placed in relation to each other and the ground plane.

* Accent planting. Plants used for particular visual qualities - interesting form, colour, texture and so on.

* Fillers, softeners, unifiers. Plants used in a subservient role as background material to perform a function where bold distinctive planting would be undesirable.

INFORMATION SOURCES

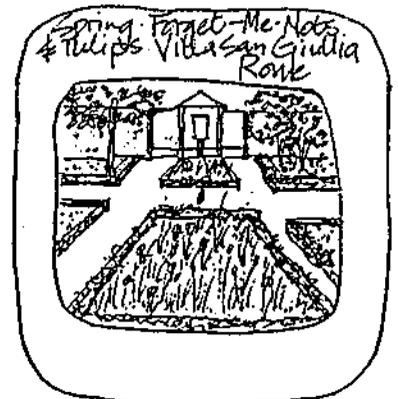
* Clouston, B. (Ed.) *Landscape design with Plants* Heinemann Ltd., 1977

* Booth, N.K. *Basic Elements of Landscape Architectural Design* Elsevier Science Publishing Co. Inc., 1985

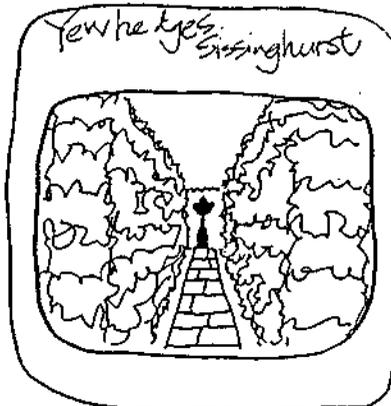
(The illustrations are European with plants exotic to Australia but I liked the presentation. It would be a nice project to think of many Australian plants which fit these different categories and could perform similar functions. DS)



Structural form of deciduous trees.



Cells or compartments of *Buxus sempervirens* used to define planting beds and walkways.



Hedges tall and closely planted to face views towards focal point.



Plants used as a backdrop and frame to highlight the sculpture.

Gardening in the Southern Highlands of NSW**Vanessa Elwell-Gavins NSW**

Greenleigh is a semi-rural area lying to the southeast of Queanbeyan on the Southern Tablelands of NSW. It straddles a rocky ridge surrounded by the Queanbeyan River and one of its tributaries, which clearly define the area from the surrounding town and the Queanbeyan scarp. Up until about 60 years ago the area was apparently sheep grazing country, presumably with relatively little tree cover. We have only one tree surviving on our block which would pre-date this - a venerable *Eucalyptus polyanthemos*, probably some 200 to 300 years old, which contains by far the best real estate on the block for the local fauna from parrots and cockatoos to brush tail possums and native bees.

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Our block is about one and a half acres mostly of dry sclerophyll forest, with a north facing aspect, gently sloping through some 50 m in a northerly direction. The 'soil' is very rocky, although there are patches where digging is relatively easy and the soil quite friable under a good layer of eucalyptus leaf litter. I do not know its acidity, but assume it to be mildly acidic. One of the best landscape features of the block is our borrowed view of the neighbour's dam, lying in the bottom of the gully just beyond our boundary. This is fringed with reeds down the western side and is home to ever increasing numbers of wood ducks which shepherd their ducklings up to our bird-table every year to train them to eat the parrot mix which we put out for the parrots (and everyone else, so it seems!).

Like all of the Canberra region, Greenleigh has a climate of extremes which make a gardener's life a little difficult. ... Summer temperatures can range up to 40 degrees. ... winter day temperatures average about 11 degrees, with some years when we get excited if the temperature hits double figures. Our nights are cold - for three months of the year more than half the nights sink well below zero, with -2 and -3 being common ... with -10 being registered occasionally. Because of our northerly aspect on a sloping block with considerable tree cover, we do not have many areas of the garden which are frost prone. Canberra averages 630 mm of rain in the year. ... I've only recently started keeping rainfall records but it is noticeable that there is considerable variation month-by-month from the average.

The block itself can be divided into a number of distinct areas reflecting degree of disturbance, natural vegetation type and the extent to which we have planted it. My basic philosophy is to leave all the locally occurring plants to 'do their thing', and to plant mainly (but not only) in areas of maximum disturbance. There are some areas where indigenous vegetation and plantings are combined, hopefully reasonably felicitously.

We seem to be developing a collector's garden, rather than a meticulously designed one with lots of repeated themes. I have rationalised this by saying that the 'local yokels' of the dry sclerophyll woodland provide the basis for recurring themes and structure. I plant with an eye to eventual height and habit and the amount of sun, shade or frost that the plant is alleged to be able to tolerate. However, I find it hard, despite the research I do before I plant anything, to envisage what a plant will look like in its mature glory. There seem to be an increasing number of plants in the garden which manage to defy all the researched descriptions of them! Most of the losses we have suffered appear to have been because the plant was pot-bound or it was dug up or broken apart by birds (the choughs are notorious litter rakers) or dogs. At this stage relatively few appear to have succumbed to disease or inappropriate conditions.

Vanessa then described in detail the definable areas and their plants in the front half of the garden (5 years old). Some areas have problems but the pond area - very successful - will be described in detail in a coming NL featuring articles on water use. DS

News from Sydney

Sydney leader: Gordon Rowland,

Michael Bates and Gordon Rowland promoted the GDSG at the SGAP Australian Winter Garden Festival held at Rouse Hill on 23rd & 24th July. The promotion featured an audio-visual display, a display of selected plans & photographs of gardens, and sale of a booklet *Australian Native Gardens : A Resource Book for the Sydney District*. (Copies are still available from Gordon, price \$2 each (send stamps please) or 10 copies for \$10, including postage.)

Members are reminded of the forthcoming Festival of Wildflowers, to be held on Sat 27th & Sun 28th August from 10am to 5 pm at the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, Mona Vale Road, St. Ives.

Sydney meetings & excursions

Sun 21 August: 11 am excursion to Betty Rymer's garden, and possibly to a rainforest garden planted by Michael Bates BYO food.

Tues 27 September: 7.45 pm for 8 pm at Carol Bentley's place,

Tues 22 November: at Anne & Geoffrey Long's place,

Sun 6 November: excursion to the Bankstown Native Plant Garden, 7 Sylvan Grove, Picnic Point, meeting there at 12 noon. BYO food.

Meetings in 1995 are proposed for the fourth Tuesday in March, May, July, September and November.

News from Melbourne - meetings & activities

Sun 7th August: 2 pm at Diana Snape's,
Sat13, Sun14th August: GDSG display at the Melbourne Wildflower Show at the Ringwood Convention Centre. (A brief report of this Show will be included in NL7.)
Sat 3, Sun 4 September: GDSG weekend (See note on page 2 and NL 5 for more details.)
Sun 2nd October: 1 pm, picnic lunch at Beckett Park, Parring Rd Baiwyn; 2 pm, visit adjacent Maranoa Gardens.
Sun 6th November; 2 pm at Linda Floyd's,
Sat 12th November: Diana Snape is giving the opening address at the Beechworth Historic Garden Festival.
Sun 4th December: 2 pm at Diana Snape's
Meetings in 1995 will *continue* to be held on the first Sunday of the month, starting in February.

Reminders to members

- * *check out your slide collection for the Slide Library*
 - * *contribute to the newsletter so we can share ideas and inspirations, for example:-*
 - *combinations of a small number of plants which appeal to you*
 - *ideas of Australian plants to replace exotics*
 - *reports or plans of interesting gardens*
- 'we don't all agree about everything (a good thing) so let us know your thoughts*

New members (for 94-95)(*professional qualifications &/or practice)

Welcome to:
Jennifer Borrell
Elizabeth Brett
Rosemary Cumming
Kay Dempsey
Jan Hall*
Jo Hambrett
Anne Highfield
Margaret Ingall
Pat & Ron McKeown
Gwen Sanders
Gloria Thomlinson
Ken Thompson
Changes of address
Shirley Bloomfield
Ian Percy*

Missing/changed phone numbers

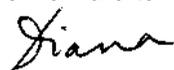
Ron Gornall
Jen Johnston
Margarete Lee

More members who have renewed for 94-95

John Armstrong, Marion Bakker, Barbara Buchanan, Tony Cavanagh, Cherree Densley, Betty Drummond, Laurie Dunn, Grahame Durbridge, Vanessa Elwell-Gavins, Wendy Evans, Margaret Garrett, Wendy Geale, Ron Gornall, Marilyn Gray, Joy Greig, Doris Gunn, Chris Hampson, Bev Hanson, Robyn Hartley, Anthony Heawood, Joan Henderson, Monika Hermann, Jeff Howes, Barry Jahnke, Jen Johnston, Eleanor Lancaster, Barbara & Paul Kennedy, Nicole Lenffer, Geoffrey Long, Dennis Marsden, Doug McIver, Helen Morrow, Bruce Muir, Dorothy Parris, Ricky & Katrina Reeves, Nicky Rose, Betty Rymer, Geoff Simmons, Phil Skillicorn, Ross Smyth-Kirk, Stephen Thomas, Paul Thompson, Phil & Jane Williams, Jacquie Winder, Frederick Young, Aliki Zouliou; Australian National B. G. Library; SGAP Maroondah; A.C.T., S.A., Tasmania.

**Please let me know of any errors or omissions. DS*

Do make contact with other GDSG members who live in your area. (Check previous NLs for addresses.) A warm thank you to all those who have contributed to this newsletter -1 do look forward to receiving your letters and articles. Best wishes for spring!



Diana Snape