Theme for this Newsletter: ‘Water in the Garden’

CONTENTS

Newsletter Timing & Themes .......................................................... 2
Comments from Lawrie ................................................................. 2
Theme for Issue 103 ................................................................. 2
Extracts from Past Newsletters .................................................... 3
The Importance of Water in a garden ................................. Ros Walcott 6
World Expo 88 – water a major landscape contribution .......... 7
Landscape Conference in Melbourne ................................. Diana Snape 8
‘Yarra’ Native Habitat Garden .............................................. Leanne Dunn 9
Our Garden in SE Queensland ......................................... Colleen & Geoff Keena 10
Members Snapshot Contributions ........................................ 12
From the Post Box ............................................................. 13
Coming ‘Garden’ Events ........................................................ 13
Treasurer’s Report .............................................................. 13
Membership Matters .............................................................. 13
Newsletter timing & Themes

These are the proposed 2018 Newsletter dates and themes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Theme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>104</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>Natives and exotics - mixed together?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>Coastal gardens - sun, sand and wind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>Framework trees and shrubs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td>February</td>
<td>Sunshine and Shadow as a design tool</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please ensure that your submissions reach the editor at least two weeks before the publication month.

Comments from Lawrie

Hello everyone! It is wonderful to be able to communicate through the Newsletter and share our individual garden design experiences and observations. Your contributions are vital for the success of the study group no matter how few words you write about a subject of interest. A paragraph and a photo only takes a few minutes and no matter where we live your comments will be appropriate, because good design knows no boundaries and the principles and your ideas can be interpreted by other members for their own situation.

Today in Brisbane it is a spectacular sunny day, not a cloud in the sky, with a temperature of 26 degrees, but I know that further south winter is already biting and I wonder if in colder climates you retreat from your garden, let it look after itself and plan in front of the fireplace what you want to do in spring? I’m still planting because autumn is really the best season here with the balmy days and the garden is still developing using the deep soil moisture resources deposited by summer rains. Winter is drier but the weeds will be less vigorous and many plants are commencing their main flowering period to peak in the warmer seasons to come. Spring is the driest time of the year as we wait for the return of the summer rains, hopefully in December but not always! This brings me to the theme for this issue of this Newsletter 103.

Theme: ‘Water in the Garden.’

Queensland members discussed the GDSG Newsletter theme topic ‘Water in the Garden’ at our recent meeting. We considered more than twenty dot points that in some way relate to, or reflect the role of water in the garden. The unrealised intent was that several members would pen a paragraph or two for inclusion in the June Newsletter!! So if you would still like to share your thoughts, please send them in for the next Newsletter.

These were some of the observations GDSGQ members made for ways that water relates to garden design:

- Water keeps plants alive – but use it sustainably
- Water-wise techniques – require careful selection of suitable species
- Water conservation & harvesting – basically related to landform to catch, direct and absorb water
- Dealing with climate change – higher temperatures and less water will demand new species selections
- Natural creeks, lagoons, lakes, rivers or seas – assess their attributes to inspire detail garden design elements
- Building water features – observe nature! The best source to inspire creative natural water elements
- Garden character or theme - including water as a design element adds special aesthetic attraction
- Using greywater in the garden – however must be applied and used carefully; consider plant selection
- Garden water zoning - grouping plants together with similar water requirements is fundamental
- Natural water features – streams, lagoons, lakes; treasure them if you have them close
- Formal water features – pools, fountains, waterfalls; create and need a distinct design palette
- Abstract water features – can enhance a garden by creating a unique and sculptural character
- Reflection in water elements – adds variety to garden appreciation and can enhance the apparent size
- Cooling effects of water – evaporation, humidity, moisture, misting; all contribute to quality of the plants
- Aquatic plants in containers – provides botanic interest where space is at a premium
- Plants that have an affinity with water – marginal and aquatic plants soften the perimeter of a water feature
- The sound of water – really adds that special garden ambience as nothing else really does
- Wildlife, water and gardens – probably something that all native plant gardens aspire to do
Irrigation systems and methods – using technology to ensure minimum and sustainable water application
How much water does my garden (and lawn) need – a fundamental question which all should determine
Structures for water – bridges, decks, edges, etc; careful design makes a major contribution to garden design
Quirky water gardens – there can a place for this to add humour and interest in a garden – with care!

Extracts from Past Newsletters (Issues 5 to 8)
The GDSG Newsletter index on the ANPSA website is a great way to find out specific ideas and recommendations offered by members in relation to garden design over the years since the first Newsletter in May 1993. There are many gems of inspiration similar to the following excerpts that are worth repeating as they are still as relevant today as they were when first published.

Newsletter #5 - May 1994
ED: This issue contains so much interesting and informative material you will need to read cover to cover!

Pruning in the Australian Garden - Geoff Simmons Qld
Pruning is used for many purposes to create a garden and there is no lack of books and articles describing how it should be done. Mostly the recommendations are for exotic plants. What can be said about pruning practices in gardens based on an Australian philosophy? ED it is worthwhile to read the full text of this article.

A 'whispering grove' of Casuarina cunninghamiana - Janet Woodroffe Vic
I certainly concur with the idea of a 'whispering grove' of Casuarina cunninghamiana, having one myself. The sound on a windy or rain-lashed night is something to be remembered. I've never heard anything like it before. Loud - certainly, penetrating - yes, but strangely comforting. 
ED: another theme subject for the Newsletter ‘Sounds of Plants’?

Australian Garden Plants - Rodger Elliot Vic
1841 Rev. Wollaston, recent immigrant: 'Trees although evergreen, want freshness, their foliage is of the most sombre uniform hue imaginable.' Like the early explorers, our first impressions are often based on conditioning. Take time to experience the environment. Look at the intricate patterns of rocks and flowers, leaves and sky; close your eyes, take a few deep breaths and listen to the sound of the wind and birds, smell the scent and the soil. TAKE TIME TO DISCOVER, TO APPRECIATE, TO UNDERSTAND.
ED: this is another wonderful work to read in full

Do fashionable buzz words fit into the GDSG concept? - Geoff Simmons Qld
Ecology, ecosystem, permaculture, sustainable development - these are some of the buzz words now in vogue, but I would question the extent of their relevance to this group of SGAP. The aim of the group should be to express and improve the design of gardens with special emphasis on the Australian ethos. Because of their background of intelligent interest in Australian plants and widespread awareness of environmental factors, members will consciously or subconsciously incorporate ecological aspects when designing gardens. The task is to build on this knowledge rather than take the view that members should be explained the basics of good environmental practices. GDSG should avoid diverting energy to these aspects and concentrate on the task of advancing the art of creating new and better Australian (native) garden design philosophy. The influence of GDSG will be diminished if it indulges in multifaceted activities.
ED: Now there’s a statement that will engender comments I feel sure! But read the full article first.

'Soft' and 'Hard' Garden Design - Diana Snape Vic
I have recently recognized one of the problems some people (not us of course) have with what appears to them the lack of design in many Australian plant gardens. It is because the design is 'soft' and subtle, not 'hard' and obvious. It is easy to see the intention and achievement of a formal (or formalistic) layout. Use of paving, paths, walls, steps, fountains, statues, arches and other built structures suggests mastery over nature, as do closely clipped lawns and hedges and an imposed symmetry and order. The greater the departure or difference from the
autonomous look of nature, the greater the consciousness of ‘design’. Such obvious designs can be very pleasing and satisfying, whether using Australian and/or exotic plants, but they are certainly not the only acceptable or justifiable type of design. _ED: much food for thought in the full article._

**Views of the Australian Landscape (part 2) - Tony Cavanagh Vic**

In 1688, William Dampier landed at present-day Cygnet Bay and unenthusiastically reported that the land consisted of dry, sandy soil; no surface water; some thin grass and stunted trees; little animal or bird life. His description of the inhabitants - "the miserablest People in the World" - was to live long in European memory. Yet Dampier was to return in August 1699 . . . . _ED: Fascinating little known stories and observations to read_.

**Newsletter #6 - August 1994**

**Ideas for my New Garden** - Jacquie Winder 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 . . . . _ED: Interesting colour strategy and garden ideas_.

**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. _ED: some interesting ideas in this plant list_.

**Design with Australian Plants** - John Patrick Vic

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.

**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". _ED: Why not inject some fun and frivolity in your garden?_

**Parliament House Gardens** - Laurie Dunn ACT

The New Parliament House in Canberra receives some 570,000 visitors each year. What most visitors don’t see, however, are the extensive, landscaped Australian native gardens on the southern, eastern and western perimeters of the building. _ED: now we know what the politicians enjoy behind closed garden walls_.

**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 1500 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 . . . . _ED: more interesting information about our first gardeners_.

**Newsletter #7 - November 1994**

**Plant List for Cottage Garden Effect** - Anne Pye S.A.

**Planting under established eucalypts** - Jan Hall Vic

Planting under established eucalypts has challenged me often as our 20 year old trees change the nature of the garden. The ongoing problems are not only which combinations look well together but those that will survive with a minimum of care and water. _ED: some invaluable suggestions and observations in this article_.
A leavening of leaves - Geoff Simmons Qld
A characteristic of Australian vegetation is the evergreen nature of its flora so it is not surprising that design will reflect this property. The varying shades of green, mostly rather subdued, may tend to give a drab and monotonous scene. It is certainly a challenge to overcome this factor or, on the other hand, use it to advantage.  
ED: a new appreciation of leaves

Hakeas in our Garden - Diana Snape Vic
Hakeas are good, honest, reliable plants requiring only sunshine and satisfactory drainage to flourish. Most are medium to large shrubs with attractive form and often superb foliage. Hakeas are closely related to grevillea’s and have interesting variety in their flowers, but only a limited number are usually available from nurseries. Scores more deserve to be better known.  
ED: read about some tried and tested specimens for Melbourne

Favourite plant combinations - Several members tell of their successful experiments in combining differing genera and species in their gardens.

Newsletter #8 - February 1995
Landscape in the future - Paul Thompson Vic
The need to collect and spread information on cultivation, experience and methods is now more important than the earlier need to collect plants themselves. Collecting plants was, I believe, the motivation for many of the thousands of enthusiasts who furnished gardens, streets and parks over the last 37 years since the formation of the Society for Growing Australian Plants. The excitement was such that travellers spread all over the continent to find and collect new species and plants that may be worthy of cultivation. Early collections promoted both the hardy and the difficult. The approach was to increase the interest and use of our plants for horticulture, and through this process assist in the preservation of natural areas - preservation through cultivation.  
ED: Make sure you read this article in full! It is very inspiring

Different Approaches to Australian Garden Development - Diana Snape Vic
I think there are as many different approaches to Australian garden development as there are gardeners. However some aspects should be consistent in general terms, although they'll differ markedly in actual details. I came to this conclusion while doing the research for my book, Australian Native Gardens: Putting Visions into Practice, which gives details of thirty different gardens in the four south-eastern states.  
ED: Read this informative article then re-read Diana’s book

Defining Trees in Terms of Function - Geoff Simmons Qld
There are many ways to define trees - deciduous or evergreen, gums, pines, tall or bushy. These terms serve to give the reader an image of a plant but not necessarily an idea of the reason for choosing it as part of the design.  
ED: Geoff discusses some of the terms that imply an element of function in this article.

Other articles on Trees – ED: the following pages of this issue cover much valuable information and provide species lists for various site and design conditions, tree sizes and various genera.

A Garden design with a Difference, Reflections on Geoff Simmons garden - Colleen Keena Qld
Geoff has designed and constructed a large garden with a difference or, more accurately, a number of differences. While I could not do justice to a description of Geoff's design concept, I not only enjoyed the time spent in his garden but was left with some lasting impressions in spite of the fact that large sections as well as collections had just been destroyed by a bushfire  . . . . . . .
ED: This garden is certainly one with a difference with many ideas you may like to follow
The Importance of Water in the Garden - Ros Walcott, Canberra

Photos Ben Walcott, Some photos where noted by Angus Stewart

Water in the garden has a long history, as long as gardens themselves. Any history of gardens and gardening will show that the Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Chinese, Roman, Japanese, Persian, Mughul, Aztec, French, Italian, Dutch and Spanish gardens all featured water prominently in their designs. I particularly remember reading The Gardens of Mughul India, text by Sylvia Crowe and Sheila Haywood, with photographs by Susan Jellicoe, published in 1972, which showed the essential nature of water in these gardens of Persian tradition introduced into India during 1500-1700. The Paradise Garden was enclosed and always included water, in the form of fountains, pools and rills. The water added a delightful feeling of coolness and raised the humidity in these dry gardens. The tradition of dividing the garden by rills continues to this day, for example, in Spain at the Jardin de la Noria.

Gardens that we have visited that use water particularly well include Villa d’Este near Rome, Italy. Not everyone has the means to divert a whole river to provide water for the fountains and pools of their garden, but Cardinal Hippolito d’Este did just this in 1550. Water is present everywhere in this garden, spouting from every orifice of every statue and culminating in a water organ, which does play sweetly.

The garden at Ninfa in central Italy was built in 1921 amongst the ruins of a medieval town which was devastated by malaria in the 1500s and was deserted for several centuries. These picturesque ruins provide a romantic backdrop for the garden, but the major feature of the garden is a stream that runs through the whole garden. This stream, drawn from the nearby mountains, is so clear that the bottom vegetation is seen as bright green, gently waving ribbons.

The sound of water is featured in many gardens. At Villa Lante near Rome this ornate water feature provides a background tinkling sound that enhances the garden around it.

Gardens which occupy the best sites always include water in the vista. The Jardin de Santa Clothilde in Spain includes the ultimate water feature, the sea, in its design on the Costa Brava. The designer of the garden at Villa Carlotta on Lake Maggiore in northern Italy is careful to feature the lake in every garden view.

Formal ponds which reflect the garden are always welcome in any setting, such as here at Hampton Court in England. Reflections double the pleasure of plants in the garden.

One of the most beloved water scenes has been constructed at Giverny, outside Paris, in the garden of the Impressionist painter Claude Monet. A lake filled with waterlilies provided much inspiration for Monet and for countless painters after him.
In Australia, a dry country, water has always been included in our garden designs. At the Royal Botanic Gardens in Cranbourne the water features are large and impressive. The Rockpool Waterway consists of an escarpment wall built of red rusted steel and a wide shallow waterway with flat rocks included. The dry river bed with ephemeral water is symbolic of all the dry creekbeds and riverbeds around Australia.

The magnificent Horse Island native garden on the south coast of New South Wales is surrounded by the Tuross estuary, which forms a background to the whole garden. This garden also includes a formal pool and rills at the centre of the main garden.

Even small water features can have tremendous impact – here is a small pool in the garden of Peter and Lyn Woodbury at Googong which serves as a gathering place in the garden.

Our own garden has a series of pools connected by a creek running over stones which provides background water music for the garden. The largest pool has a natural clay bottom and is filled with life in the form of reeds, fish, turtles and birds.

So for all these reasons, add a water feature to your garden design. For the wildlife, for coolness, for the sound of water, for reflections, for humidity in dry times and for what water adds to the character of the garden.

**World Expo 88 – water a major element contributing to landscape character** – Lawrie Smith
I cannot let the 30th anniversary of Australia’s Bicentenary Exposition pass without comment - particularly because water was such an integral and exciting element of my landscape planning & design.
Recently I attended the excellent Australian Landscape Conference in Melbourne, organised by Warwick Forge (the publisher of The Australian Garden) and his wife Sue. The theme was "Design with Nature: Reconnecting People and Place" and over 700 people attended. If you're interested, you can probably still go on line and find out about the Conference. You can certainly check the individual speakers on line and see more photos of their gardens, which I'd really recommend.

There were just two Australian speakers and it wasn't surprising their presentations included very familiar themes and ideas. Dr. Kate Cullity is one of the three designers of the RBG Australian Garden at Cranbourne. (She mentioned the importance of seeing the wood for the trees but also seeing the trees.) Sam Cox is a young designer following on in the tradition of Gordon Ford (and earlier, Ellis Stones and Edna Walling). He prefers the term ‘resilience’ in gardens to ‘sustainability’. I think ‘resilience’ emphasises the role of the garden itself (and sustainability suggests a gardener).

Each of the overseas speakers gave two presentations. Many of these gave me some completely new perspectives, not all relevant to designing our private gardens. Kathryn Gustafson and Bernard Trainor in particular work on landscape scale, either public or large private properties. Some also design smaller gardens (including the demonstration gardens created by Andy Sturgeon for the Chelsea Flower Show).

Miguel Urquijo from Spain showed some very barren landscapes, even deserts, where he has created oasis-like gardens, completely dependent on walls and irrigation to survive. Without attractive natural vegetation or landscape to connect to, the gardens are a complete contrast to the surroundings. Stone walls in particular give an attractive background for the garden and create space by defining it. (There are rabbits too!) A planted hedge for a border takes a long while to get established.

This approach is the exact opposite of trying to blend a garden into (or to link with) an attractive surrounding landscape, as we try to do in Australia. It might be more applicable to a garden in the middle of a city, where no landscape is visible.

Miguel Urquijo said a garden should have a unity of theme or style; the planting should combine repetition, fluidity and intermingling. His beautiful gardens were usually colourful and exciting, or simply green, calm and tranquil. He thinks a garden should look good in a black and white photo, "not like porridge", with either contrasting forms and linking colours or tones, or vice versa. I liked two quotes he gave: "Beauty is half-way between order and complexity" and (from Plato) "The beautiful is difficult".

Prof. Cassian Schmidt is the Director of the Hermannshof Gardens in Germany, a renowned experimental botanical garden - and very beautiful. He spoke about using natural vegetation types as a template and inspiration for planting design, even when not using indigenous species. He said in the Gardens he has to balance ecology, aesthetics and maintenance costs (we all do, in a way). He aims for stress-tolerant plants, as plants under stress grow more slowly, need less maintenance and have a longer life. There they even have to worry about salt tolerance in winter, when icy roads are treated with salt to melt the ice, leading to salty water runoff.
Prof. Schmidt’s basic aim is for a dynamic and mostly self-regulating system. Their research has established 36 different planting models for diverse situations and habitats, and they use randomised planting patterns when any one particular model is repeated. We in Australia have plants that have been evolving since our Gondwana days, millions of years ago, so we have thousands of species in our flora. He said plants in Europe date from the relatively recent Ice Age (less than 20,000 thousand years ago), so their range is limited. Many are smallish perennials, colourful when in flower, used widely in many of their garden designs. He used the term “aesthetics of decay” in regard to recognising the interest and colour of their seed-heads, for example.

Commenting on the persistence of lawns in Australian gardens since colonial days (rather than using Australian groundcover plants, for example), Michael Warner from Warner Nurseries, one of the main sponsors of the conference, used a term that appealed to me - 'lawn imperialism'.

The overseas speaker I found most relevant was Dr. Noel Kingsbury from England - but that’s for a separate article.

ED: Diana is preparing a follow up article for the August Newsletter.

‘Yarra’ Native Habitat Garden - Leanne Dunne, Mt Gravatt East Brisbane

‘Yarra’ garden is established on a 607 sq.m. block which has been home to Leanne and Terry and their two sons for 38 years. Early in 2011 Leanne planted a native bush garden to replace the grass on each side of the driveway, and around the rear and side boundaries to reflect the borrowed view of the 5 hectare Chester Park Reserve on the ridge not far to the south. The front garden is dominated by a large Melaleuca linariifolia as high as the two storey house with decorative papery bark enhancing the irregular pattern of trunks and branches; the fine soft foliage provides patterns of filtered sunlight over the grass below. This is Leanne’s favourite tree and it was only a head high shrub when the house was purchased in 1981.

Callistemon viminalis ‘Dawson River’ similarly dominates the back garden and provides welcome shade under its grey green weeping foliage which comes alive with red brushes periodically when they attract hundreds of Lorikeets and other honey eaters.

Wisely, Leanne has also planted a Eucalyptus curtisii the Plunkett Mallee which is thriving on this hillside as it should since this hilly section of southern Brisbane is its natural habitat. The multiple contorted peeling grey trunks and fine weeping foliage emerging from the lignotuber, give a decorative transparent screen through which to view the borrowed landscape of the nearby bushland reserve.

Leanne explained how the key elements for a wildlife habitat garden; shelter, water, and food/host plants have been addressed with old tree logs, rocks, mounds of dead wood, fallen leaf litter, mixed species selections, bowls of water (at varying heights), lizard hide, a new ‘native bee hotel’ still awaiting the first guests, and a new water plant bowl for frogs! A cart wheel, old rustic garden items and a few hand-made mosaics are incorporated skilfully for added interest. A spacious middle lawn has been retained for a game of backyard cricket with the grandchildren who love to explore Leanne’s little bush garden.

The garden uses many hardy native grasses to provide under-storey, texture and contrast among the mature trees and taller shrubs defining the gently sloping back yard. Leanne’s favourite plant Lomandra glauca ‘Blue Ridge’ is massed together in a drift winding through the garden.
With the natural contour in mind, Leanne added a skilfully created small dry creek bed to take most of the stormwater run-off in the rainy season. We discussed how it could be carefully widened to capture all of the flow and enhance the immediate garden area. The orientation of the garden and the influence of shade trees on neighbouring properties has provided a range of microclimates which Leanne has carefully considered in ensuring optimum species selections – although Leanne says ‘sometimes by trial and error’!

The shallow topsoil over clay and shale subsoils make correct species selection important and Leanne has certainly planned, designed and established a garden with a very appropriate plant palette. She has tried some very interesting ways to deal with the soils with some success. One method is to use commercially available rusted metal ‘tree rings’ to hold a well-draining sandy soil mix to suit some of the more ‘difficult’ species with specific soil requirements. The use of gravel mulch in many areas has created an appropriate character for the differing garden areas and to suit the species selections. The protected shaded areas are ideal locations for a number of small shrubs - Austromyrtus dulcis, and covers - Peperomia blanda, and ferns – Doodia aspera.

Our members felt that ‘Yarra’ was a credit to Leanne and that she had expertly captured and interpreted the essence of the local environment. It is a garden that will develop and increase in its attraction to wildlife as well as providing a wonderful outlook from the home. Next stop Mt Gravatt Reserve.

Mt Gravatt Lookout
Many of us wondered how we could live in a city for many decades and never take the time to drive to the top of Mount Gravatt the highest peak in the centre of the bustling southern suburbs of Brisbane. Its steep forested slopes are quite dominant in views from all sides but you always stay on the freeways and arterial roads as you pass by. Now that we have ‘found’ it, I’m sure that many will go back for a longer time to explore this ‘botanic island sanctuary’. We found several special trees which are not all that common, most notably:

Sterculia quadrifida - Peanut Tree, looking quite magnificent, fully foliaged in shiny dark green leaves from ground level to the apex at approx. 10 metres and in full bud – it will be a picture once the cream flowers and scarlet pods and black peanut like fruits mature.

Codonocarpus attenuatus – Bell Fruit Tree, an uncommon deciduous tree here growing in formal pyramidal form in excess of 10 meters, with the glossy bright emerald green leaves weeping attractively around the light brown corky textured bark. The immature bell shaped fruits were massed over the top of the canopy giving promise of a rich harvest in a short time.

Our Garden in South East Queensland - Colleen and Geoff Keena, Glamorgan Vale, Qld.

ED: This garden expertly applies design principles for very practical reasons to create a unique character that does not set out to meet aesthetic parameters but actually evolves to be functional but also attractive and memorable.

The garden is an almost an acre in size. Initially in 2000 the environmental weeds were removed but huge Poinciana trees were retained for shade and protection. Where possible, before planting the ground was deep-ripped and then beds were constructed to allow for the retention of all water. Beds were covered with sugarcane mulch. Plants are watered when planted, then mid-week, then a week later and then a fortnight later.
established, plants receive only rainfall unless conditions are extreme such as on a steep slope. A seaweed product is used as it is reported to protect plants from harsh conditions such as drought and frost whilst promoting strong, sustained growth. Five winters out of the first seven reached -5°C or below. Summers are hot, with the maximum so far being 47°C.

Plants have been chosen because they are edible or for their ability to attract wildlife but mainly for their suitability for local conditions. There is a focus on Australian species of Malvaceae, especially Hibiscus, Alyogyne and Gossypium, with some Proteaceae, like Banksia, Grevillea, Myrtaceae such as Melaleuca and Eucalyptus, and Lamiaceae, particularly Westringia. The flowers on native plants are rarely picked as they attract a range of creatures and so a number of non-native plants chosen for their cut flowers are grown in the Food Garden. Edible species such as Hibiscus heterophyllus and some of its crosses, Backhousia citriodora, Syzygium species, Davidsonia sp. and Tetragonia tetragonioides give us double enjoyment. We enjoy the landscaping aspects of these plants as well as the results when they reach the table.

There are other reasons for the choice of plants. A deciduous native tree, Melia azedarach, modifies the temperature of the house by reducing the heat on the north side of the house in summer yet it allows full sun into the house for winter warmth. Minimal cooling is required in summer and no heating in winter. A wide range of species attracts wildlife including birds, butterflies, frogs and lizards and the large number of creatures that visit are a constant source of delight. We enjoy flowers, both in the garden and inside but we also grow plants grown to stimulate other senses: the sight and sound of trees such as Casuarina that glisten with raindrops; plants of Alphitonia excelsa that present such a contrast between the two surfaces of their leaves in windy conditions; the rough texture of the leaves of Sandpaper Figs such as Ficus opposita, the textured bark of Melaleuca and the furry foliage of some Hibiscus.

The following lists are not exhaustive. ‘Sp.’ indicates more than one species is grown.

1. CLIMATE CONTROL: Melia azedarach trees shade the house in summer and allow sun to warm it in winter. Dianella sp. and Lomandra sp. grow under trees beside feature plants like Alpinia sp., Graptophyllum sp., Gardenia sp., Brachychiton sp. Plumbago zeylanica is used as a ground-cover.

2. FOOD GARDEN: This contains a large variety of fruit trees, vegetables, herbs and cut flowers. Daisy, mint, and carrot family flowers attract beneficial insects. Australian plants include: Tetragonia tetragonioides, as a ground cover under Sandpaper Figs. A Finger Lime bears well and we love the leaves of Abelmoschus manihot. Other local edible plants include favourite forms of Syzygium. We also enjoy tropical food crops such as Yams, Tapioka and a variety of Sweet potatoes.

3. CUTTING GARDEN: Planting includes Malvaceae, especially Alyogyne sp., and Hibiscus crosses with edible petals such as Hibiscus ‘Citrus Mist’ and Grevilleas. Plants for cut flowers include Heritage Roses, Lavenders, Rosemary and a variety of Basil sp. with attractive flowers.

4. ROAD SCREEN: This area is under power lines so planting is restricted. Hibiscus heterophyllus, H. splendens and H. divaricatus and crosses between them such as H. ‘Pink Ice’ were initially planted. Hibiscus divaricatus, which flowers in Spring and Autumn, has proved the hardiest in droughts, the longest lived and its seedlings are...
mostly ‘true’, not the crosses prevalent amongst other hibiscus. Tall grevilleas such as ‘Elegance’, its two ‘Sensation’ seedlings and ‘Sandra Gordon’ provide frost protection for hibiscus and food and protection for birds.

5. DRYLAND SCREEN: Early screening plants remain. Malvaceae is represented by Hibiscus insularis, H. tiliaceus, Lagunaria patersonia, Thespesia populnea and hibiscus crosses, chosen for long flowering and/or flavour when making drinks and jam. Acacias provide colour and perfume, especially Acacia fimbriata. Banksias such as Banksia ‘Giant Candles’ feature beside a wildlife pond; there are smaller grevilleas such as Grevillea ‘Superb’ and taller grevilleas like G. ‘Moonlight’ and G. ‘Golden Yu-Lo’. Melaleucas are mostly large, e.g. M. quinquinervia. M. viminalis, (with Mistletoe). Casuarinas filter wind and protect smaller plants. Local rainforest species were also planted and augmented in 2014, including: Syzygium sp., Alphitonia excelsa, Flindersia sp., Hymenosporum flavum, Lophostemon confertus, Rhodospheara rhodanthema, Toona ciliata, Drypetes deplanchei, Ficus sp. Plants of Lomandra hystrix and Crinum pedunculatum were used to edge paths however only half the Crinum survived due to damage by grubs. Local rainforest species are now appearing, e.g. Melia azedarach var. australasia and Cupaniopsis parvifolia.

6. RAINFOREST SCREEN
There is some remnant vegetation, e.g. Owenia venosa, Grevillea robusta and massive Eucalypts. There has been some regeneration, e.g. Acacia maidenii, Dianella sp., Cissus sp. Plantings include edible species, such as Acronychia sp., Backhousia citriodora, Brachychiton sp., Davidsonia sp., Diploglottis sp., Eugenia reinwardtiana, Macadamia ‘Home Beauty’, Pipturus argenteus, Pleiogynium timorense, Podocarpus elatus, Pouteria sp., Psychotria loniceroides, Sterculia quadrifida and a range of Syzygium. Favourite plant families are represented, e.g. rainforest Proteaceae such as Grevillea hilliana. Other plants are Alyxia ruscifolia, Callitris baileyi, Hymenosporum flavum, Pittosporum/Auranticarpa sp. and a variety of Gardenia/Larsenaikia and of Randia/Atractocarpus. Understorey plants include Alpinia caerulea, Cordyline sp., Dianella sp., Lomandra sp., Plectranthus sp., and Pseuderanthemum sp.

We walked all around the garden and liked this section where you come out of shady rainforest into full sun. We think that the plants of Hibiscus insularis work well for the transition from rainforest to dryland plants, as do the 2 self-sown seedlings of Cupaniopsis parvifolia that can be seen in the photo.

Members Snapshot Contributions

Shades of Green – Wendy Johnston, Sunshine Coast, Queensland
In the windy weather of the past few weeks the trees in our outlook have put on a wonderful show. From the dark green of the Dysoxylon molliissimum, the bronze underside of the leaves of the Grevillea baileyana, the white backed leaves of the Alphitonia petriei, the shiny green of the macadamias, the silver of the Grevillea Golden yul-lo, the light green of the Phaleria clerodendron, to the grey-green of the eucalypts and silky oak in the background, the trees have responded to the wind in an ever-changing kaleidoscope of colour.

From the Post Box
Love the newsletter - very interesting to have various views on the garden design sections of the Hobart Conference. Jane Fountain SGC (Brisbane Qld)

Many thanks for this wonderful newsletter for GDSG .
Thanks for all the hard work, the wonderful photos and the gardens of Tasmania.
Wish I could have been there. Paula Wallace said it was best ever. Ruth Crossan (Gladstone Qld)
Thank you for the GDSG newsletter – always interesting. Being smaller, this one came through quickly, which was appreciated. If you don’t mind having to continually meet the deadlines, the bi-monthly idea works well.
Cheers, Margaret Lee (SA)

I was very excited to get NL102 yesterday. It is terrific. I really like all the changes you have made and the idea of looking back at the older NLs that we have not read for many years, or not read at all. There is a tremendous amount of good sense in some of those earlier writings. It is great that we have a change of style from ours to yours. This keeps the NL fresh and interesting to people. Seeing as Ben and I have a great interest in water in the garden we feel inspired to write something for the June NL as well. Congratulations on your efforts!
Cheers, Ros Walcott (act)

Congratulations on your first newsletter! It is great, covering so much! It’s interesting to revisit those early days of the GDSG, when there was just so much for us all to learn. I like your strong emphasis on design and having a theme is a good idea (though I haven’t kept to the theme in my article). Your report of the visit to the Queensland Art Gallery is interesting - Melbourne members, maybe we should visit the Australian Gallery in Fed Square and check out the appropriate paintings there?
I think you are taking on a real challenge to produce a newsletter every two months - a lot of work - so well done and good luck with that aim. Best Wishes Diana Snape (Vic)

Coming ‘Garden’ Events – check out the ANPSA Website for specific details and other events
Please send information for ‘Garden events’ in your region to promote in the next Newsletter

New South Wales: Illawarra Grevillea Park open days @ Bulli – July 7, 8, 14, 15 10am – 4pm
Victoria: 12th FJC Rogers Seminar ‘Goodeniaceae Family’ @ Horsham – October 20, 21
South Australia: Spring Regional Gathering on the Fleurieu – September 14 – 16,
Tasmania: refer to website
Western Australia: Alex George, My Wildflower Odyssey - June 12
Queensland: GDGQ Lawrie’s garden, North Lakes – June 8 9.30am to 3.00pm
Winter Regional Gathering @ Kumbartcho, Eatons Hill – June 17 - 9.30
Biennial Qld Region ‘Yabba’ @ Warwick - September 21 – 23

Treasurer’s report
Cheque account: $ 6,105.07
Term Deposit: $ 26,706.58 (renewed for 12 months January 26, 2018)
TOTAL: $ 32,811.65

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
Welcome to new members
Doris Swarz, Draper, Queensland Will Glynn, Capalaba, Queensland
Teale Britstra, Calliope, Queensland Jo Hambrett, Potts Point, NSW (warm welcome back Jo!!)

Membership year July 1 – June 30
Membership dues payable annually as follows:
Email Newsletter FREE
Paper Newsletter $20.00
Concession paper Newsletter $15.00 (for pensioners and full-time students only)

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

ANPSA Garden Design Study Group Newsletter
Published bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October and December.
Copy Deadline: first day of the publication month, although earlier submissions will be warmly welcomed by the Editor.
Newsletter Editor: Lawrie Smith, 38 Sandpiper Avenue NORTH LAKES Q 4509
Phone: 0411 228 900 Email: lawries@live.com
Lyn Mackenzie Garden – Narangba, Brisbane

It was an unseasonably hot autumn afternoon when eleven stalwart Pine Rivers members gathered under the shade of Lyn’s back veranda to escape the air temperature of 33+ degrees. There was not much cooling breeze to start with so we really appreciated the row of mixed tall native shrubs which also protected us from the afternoon sun. One of these was a *Leptospermum brachyandrum* from the Northern Territory looking spectacular with its grotesque but decorative peeling branches supporting a delicate canopy of grey green leaves, almost iridescent in the shafts of western sun. We were impressed by the extensive almost rampant branching of the *Grevillea ‘Kay Williams’* sprawling above the roof level and threatening to split away due to the weight of the heavy branches.

Believe it or not, this was my first visit to Lyn’s garden! It seems that every time we planned a visit I was somewhere else. What a great garden this is! It takes advantage of the location sloping approx. 200 metres down the eastern hillside and almost 100m wide. The house is at the upper levels of the ridge with what appears to be red soils of volcanic origin. The lower section of the slope is sandy loam over clay. These site soils are obviously very fertile given the quality of the vegetation throughout the garden. This is a true Australian ‘walkabout’ garden where the large variety of native species are carefully but irregularly located and managed relative to their specific sunshine and shade likes and dislikes. The layout for the house gardens of smaller species ensure you meander from one interesting plant to another as collectively they enhance the house so attractively. There were so many differing species from ground covers to small trees, all enjoying the eastern exposure to the morning sun and afternoon shade.

It was impossible not to divert away from the house gardens and meander down the hill toward the beckoning rainforest. This was an even greater ‘walkabout’ experience as you investigated larger specimens and many surprising species as you zig zagged down the slope. Then Lyn lifted the cascading rainforest foliage and we entered then gazed in awe at this extensive mature forest of trunks and understory plants that were planted from the 1990’s. It was hard to believe that this verdant jungle could look dry and barren in the drier months as Lyn described. This was verified by two very large semi-mature Quandong *Elaeocarpus grandis* complete with buttress roots, which had simply fallen over in a recent extended dry season when the slope dried out. This species generally requires alluvial river and creek banks to support its huge dimensions.

None of us had seen Candle Nut Trees *Aleurites moluccana* of such proportions as here. The multiple trunks exaggerated the form and size but made an impressive and dramatic feature within the forest and also high above in the canopy. There are so many diverse species in Lyn’s rainforest that you have to really see for yourself – it is a great testament to her ability and tenacity in selecting, planting and maintaining this amazing rainforest. The rainforest extends toward a small dam at the foot of the hillside, surrounded by *Casuarina, Melaleuca* and other moist land species providing ideal habitat for wildlife.

Returning back up the slope we closely inspected many specimens established in groves or as individual shade trees all laid out carefully and separated by irregular lawn walkways which probably increase the distance up the hill threefold! But it is so interesting that this does not matter. One of the values of a garden like Lyn’s is that you can see selected rainforest trees growing basically in the open as individual specimens as well as in dense forest conditions. This Riberry *Syzygium luehmannii* is a case in point, as here it shows its attractive dense columnar form extending up 6 – 8 metres, indicating why it is such an appropriate species to use for tall hedges or screens. On the other hand Little Evodia *Melicope rubra* was growing as part of a multiple species grove and displayed its pink flowers so attractively along the branches catching the eye within the foliage canopy.

*Grevillea ‘Billy Bonkers’* was growing as a rounded shrub about 1 metre high smothered in the red flowers and buzzing with bees – an ideal plant to welcome visitors beside the path to the front door. These were just a few of the many species we saw as we ‘walked about’ with Lyn. I know that I will want to go back to see it at a more leisurely pace. Also I venture to suggest that each of our members has at least one species that originated as a seedling in Lyn’s garden because she pots up many of the plants that pop up here and there throughout the garden using her very green fingers, and places them in the monthly plant exchange. Thanks very much for hosting us today Lyn. Cheers, Lawrie