



## UPDATE APRIL/MAY 2016

Dear garden-lover

Open Gardens Canberra is more than our gardens. We are a great bunch of people, garden-lovers all. And now you're getting a proper newsletter at last.

This newsletter covers the following topics:

Open Gardens Canberra in the public eye

Queanbeyan Gardens Weekend

Our last garden for the current season

Supporting charitable organisations

News about membership

Looking for lovely gardens

### Open Gardens Canberra in the public eye

#### The National Trust

The National Trust of the ACT invited Open Gardens Canberra to participate in their Open Day on Sunday 3 April to mark the opening of the 2016 Heritage Festival. We had a great day talking to garden-lovers.



#### ACT government community

Open Gardens Canberra is now listed on the ACT government [community directory](#)

#### CAP EXPO 2016

Open Gardens Canberra attended its *second* Connect And Participate EXPO on 19 March this year. CAP EXPOs are sponsored by the ACT Government so that the people of the Canberra region can get to know the huge range of interests being pursued by community organisations.

This year three members volunteered to tell everyone about Open Gardens Canberra. We spoke to about 180 people, including about 7 of our members, and we engaged with about 20 gardeners of the future, ie children.

Last year the EXPO was held on 31 March, 38 days before Open Gardens Canberra became an incorporated association. At the time of the EXPO, we had three members and five people volunteered to help on the day! At the EXPO 62 people signed up to our email list and almost all of them subsequently joined.

We displayed an A3 poster for every garden opened or still to open in the 2015-16 season.

# Queanbeyan Gardens Weekend 16 17 April

Make Queanbeyan your family destination for this special weekend.

## Kathleen

21 Downey St, Karabah NSW  
Open 10am to 4pm



## Art Studio Garden

48 Brereton St, Queanbeyan West  
Open loam to 4pm



## Railway Park Community Gardens

Cnr Henderson Road and Crest Road, Queanbeyan  
Open 10am to 1 pm





## Queanbeyan Sensory Garden

Ray Morton Park, off Waniassa St or Trinculo Pl, Queanbeyan Open 12 to 4pm



**Our last garden for the current season:**

## Carol's Hillside Oasis

109 O'Connor Circuit, Calwell ACT

Open 10am to 4pm



## Supporting charitable organisations

You may have noticed from our flyers and calendar that Open Gardens Canberra is not charging an entry fee to the public for either the Railway Park Community Gardens or the Queanbeyan Sensory Garden.

This is our first opportunity to work towards achieving our object of supporting charitable organisations. The Queanbeyan Sustainability Group maintains Railway Park Community Gardens and I'm sure they could do with some financial help. We will be encouraging all visitors to make a donation to the Queanbeyan Sustainability Group, just as you would donate to a charity supported by one of our private garden owners.

The Sensory Garden is a public garden — obviously it would not be appropriate for us to charge for entry. You can read all about the Sensory Garden on our website: a lovely illustrated description of the [garden and its history](#) and a brief article on why we are supporting it [here](#).

Very briefly, Open Gardens Canberra is keen to acknowledge the wonderful work being done by Richmond Fellowship, the Queanbeyan City Council's genuine

commitment to supporting people with disabilities, and the creative way the whole Sensory Garden came about by involving the community and local artists.

There are some very interesting artworks at the Sensory Garden. Some of the artists involved will attend our event to talk about their artworks and/or give a demonstration of the musical instruments hidden away in the garden!

Richmond Fellowship will also be represented at the Sensory Garden so they can spread the word about the services they provide to people in the Canberra region with mental illnesses. Please consider making a donation to Richmond Fellowship, even if they aren't asking for donations.

## News about membership

First, a very warm welcome to our 43 new members.

### Our new membership deal

How is the time for you to join Open Gardens Canberra and tell your friends about our great deal for new members! If you join now, your membership will continue until 31 August 2017. That means you will have free entry to about an extra month of gardens for the same annual fee.

## Looking for lovely gardens

Please tell us about any lovely gardens you know in the Canberra region.

## Yes, this is the closing

Best wishes, happy garden visiting and enjoy your gardening.

Shirley Pipitone  
President

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Open Gardens Canberra Inc  
PO Box 344  
Jamison Centre  
Macquarie, ACT 2614  
Australia

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