



Autumn 2018 Newsletter

A message from the President

Hi to all our members and welcome to the end of an extremely hot summer and hopefully a cooler Autumn.

After a bit of break from the very hectic and popular Spring program we are on the verge of some lovely Autumn gardens in the future couple of months. All the details are on the website and on Facebook. Also a big thank you to all our Spring garden owners who put in tremendous work to get the gardens ready and spent many hours discussing the respective gardens with our members and the general public.

Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers who helped make the Spring program such a success and hope you all had a wonderful Christmas.

We have also lined up quite a few gardens for our future seasons but would always welcome any suggestions of worthy new gardens for future openings.

Looking forward to the Autumn program and meeting lots of our members at the various gardens.

Chris Lord, President

Autumn Open Gardens

Our autumn season will soon be under way with the following events during February, March and April. In most cases opening times are 10 am to 4 pm both Saturday and Sunday. Entry for members of Open Gardens Canberra is free (membership \$25/year) and for non-members is \$8.

February 24 & 25

Dragonflies and Bluebees

19 A'Beckett St, Watson ACT

This suburban oasis features a natural water pool from which you can admire the water lilies, lotus and water poppies. The garden is highly productive, containing vegetables and herbs. Espaliered pear, plum and apple trees are features, together with cherry, quince, apricot, feijoa, pomegranate and grapes. The Maran chooks enjoy their home under the inoculated hazelnut trees as the owners await their first truffles. Good design ensures that local native plantings (especially correas) integrate beautifully into this productive garden.



March 24 & 25

Haven

31 Drooka Crescent, Crace ACT

This attractive garden on a 540m² flat block is just 5 years old and has achieved the owner's aims to design a garden which is both easily maintained and fully accessible. Being a cottage garden there is interest 12 months of the year be it colour, flower, shape and/or foliage. The garden includes many rare and unusual plants both native and non-native. The backyard has a chook run, fruit and vegetable garden, and several potted citrus trees to complement the owner's plot at the nearby community garden (also open this weekend). Despite its petite dimensions, there is even space for a patch of real lawn!



Crace Community Garden

Drooka Crescent, Crace ACT

Crace is a Canberra Organic Growers Community Garden - this is a relatively new suburb so the garden is providing a great opportunity for locals to get to know each other. The 2000-square-metre garden was built by Crace's developers; there are 30 raised garden beds of varying sizes plus some shared larger plots. Around the perimeter are rosemary, lavender and blueberry bushes as well as fruit trees such as pomegranates and feijoas. Free entry.



Loraine and Geoff's Garden

93 Macfarland place, Pearce ACT

This garden flows beautifully, providing comfort and inspiration and framing views of nearby Mount Taylor. Careful plantings, featuring diverse and effective groundcovers, draw your eye to different garden rooms. A feature of the front garden are the 'steppable' plants in lieu of a front lawn. In the back garden the sloping land allows a beautiful dry creek to run diagonally from top to bottom, linking ponds at either end. Diverse plantings surround several seating areas in which to relax and chat.



April 7 & 8

McLeod's Creek Reserve 11am to 12:30pm

Marked Tree Rd, Gundaroo NSW

McLeods Creek Nature Reserve was created in August 2010. It covers an area of 204ha. and is currently being restored to preserve the White box -Yellow Box- Blakelys Red Gum Woodland and Natural Temperate Grassland. Guided walks at 11am each day will lead by Ranger Susannah Power. Free.



Evalees

1494 Marked Tree Rd, Gundaroo NSW

An informal country garden with views of Lake George. The garden has extensive native grass areas with informal plantings of native and exotic tree. The garden designs have been developed to complement rather than compete with the landscape. There are colourful beds of shrubs and flowers with designated areas and garden names corresponding to places, people and events in the families' lives. There are many quirky additions which will delight children.



April 14 & 15

The Oaks Estate Garden

35 William St, Oaks Estate NSW

Two gardens, back to back, are set in a quiet, well treed neighbourhood of Oaks Estate, in a very historic part of the Region near the Queanbeyan River. The gardens have much to interest all, but characterised by many autumn flowering perennials and shrubs. Native planted areas contrast with more reflective corners, vegetable gardens and the poultry run.



15 April, 10am to 3 pm

Fetherston Gardens

Unwin St, Weston ACT

Heritage event. The Gardens comprise 3.5 hectares of urban parkland with a small arboretum, and woodland gardens. The vegetation is mixed, but includes some outstanding mature yellow box trees. Free guided walks at 11 am and 1 pm.



Late Autumn

In late Autumn we hope to bring you two gardens displaying special water sensitive features that are being developed under the ACT Government's H2OK Program.



We are finalising the details. When available, full details will be on our website.

Open your garden with OGC

Wanted: Sensory Gardens that are open for all to enjoy

Most would agree that gardens are good for our wellbeing yet they are not always accessible to everyone in our community. Open Gardens Canberra would love to hear from garden owners whose gardens offer good experiences to persons with disabilities.

We would like to include in our program, gardens which are safe and accessible to those using wheel chairs, walking sticks and walkers or those of us who just have bad knees or hips. For example, paths made with loose stones can be a problem. We would also like to include gardens which provide an enhanced sensory experience. For example, visitors with sight impairment might enjoy scented plants, different textures for touching, sounds of running water or birds, music, or wind in the trees. The ambience of a garden, its atmosphere and sense of place are likely to appeal to those with impaired hearing (along with the rest of us!).

Gardens can also be designed especially for keen gardeners with disabilities, including those ageing related, and it would be great to see a range of gardens on show over the next few years which have been designed with this in mind.

Or perhaps you'd like to use your open garden to raise funds for projects benefitting people with disabilities.

Please contact us on info@opengardenscanberra.org.au if you are interested in opening your garden, particularly if you, or your friends, have gardens suitable for visitation by those less able.

Seeking Volunteers

Volunteers are an essential part of opening a garden to the public, as anyone who has visited one of our open gardens will know. So once again, I'm seeking your assistance in helping out at the entrance table for this autumn's gardens.

The duties are not onerous and many have told me that they thoroughly enjoy their time 'on the gate'. The entrance table volunteers welcome visitors, take entrance fees, renew memberships as appropriate, give general advice about the garden and its features and hand out notes if available. Two people are on duty each shift.

Anyone who feels like helping will be most appreciated! You make Open Gardens Canberra the success it is. Some of you have already noted on your membership form that you are happy to assist. Those on that list should already have received my email appeal for volunteers.

Sally Stephens

Volunteers Coordinator.

Open Gardens Canberra Facebook Page



If you are a current member or you have subscribed to our newsletter via our web site, you will automatically receive reminder emails just prior to the opening of each garden.

If you like or follow our Facebook Page you will also see our garden events appearing in your Facebook news feed.

Of course, if you'd rather not receive reminders that's always an option. The current program is available on our web site, so you can check what's coming up and mark it on your calendar.

Tom's Tips

Some thoughts from Tom on weeds prepared for the Molonglo Catchment Management Group.

Why Weeds?

Weeds are plants that are strong and vigorous
Can thrive in conditions that are quite rigorous
From out of nowhere they appear
The strangest names you will ever hear.

Fleabane, goosefoot, devils claw
Mint, dodder, spurge and more
Chickweed, privet, rhus and burr
The endless list becomes a blur.

Berries, herbs, honey and fruits
All from weeds when management suits
Fuel, shelter, fibres for clothes
Special sprays for clearing your nose.

If only that was all they did
They'd be worth many a quid
Weeds can even beat disease
So why do they so oft displease?

Perhaps we need to balance this tale
And ask why weeds are 'beyond the pale'.
If only they knew when to stop
Or change their genes, the whole damn lot.

Weeds jump borders, over the fence,
Moving on, it's their sixth sense,
Look for climes that suit their needs,
Not shy to mix, with other weeds.

Tom Baker

The excellent Weed Pack, prepared by the Molonglo Catchment Group, can be obtained from the MCG Office at 89 Tennant Street Fyshwick 2609 or contact the Office Coordinator on 62992119 or consult Molonglocatchment.org.au

Run with the wind, freeload on socks,
They hitch a lift on animal locks,
Hold on like death, to cars and trucks,
To pave the way for the next influx.

Serrated tussock, Patterson's curse,
The dreaded wort, others yet worse,
Striking terror in farms and towns,
Are there more in the transit lounge?

Puncture our bikes and tender feet,
Crowd our crops, stunt our wheat,
Costs the earth to make them stop,
Pasture, orchard, garden and crop.

Weeds are wont to vastly breed,
So chop and spray before they seed,
Keep your land 'clean' and covered,
A healthy land leaves weeds smothered.

So don't leave land in a bare state,
To leave a gap is tempting fate,
Once the weeds come to stay,
Be sure, they're not on a holiday.

Chat with friends and keep an eye,
Lift your chin, and spirit high,
Help is nigh to beat this thrall,
Makes money sense after all.

Please be sure to read our packs,
Turn the pages to learn the facts,
Spread the word to others near,
Lets get the weeds right out of here.