



Spring 2018 Newsletter

A message from the President

Happy Spring !! Finally after one of the coldest and driest winters in a very long time we are just into Spring and a new Open Garden season which kicks off in late October. We have 7 wonderful gardens prior to Christmas and several already for next autumn(see website for details). Unfortunately, mainly due to the drought, there are a very limited number of gardens outside the suburbs this season. We hope that the drought will break soon to give our country people some relief. Tom, Jane, Deirdre and Shirley, our garden selectors, deserve our thanks.

Thank you to all those members who responded to our survey, the results have been very helpful in future garden selections. Special thanks to Deirdre and Merryl for their work on the survey.

There was a most successful afternoon tea at the Botanic Gardens for all our wonderful garden owners and volunteers. Paulene Cairnduff gave a very professional presentation.

Our Secretary, Sue, has done a marvellous job on our Facebook page, as has Deirdre on our Web Page, both now functioning and informative.

Lastly our AGM is to be conducted in October and whilst all the current committee are standing again there are a couple of vacancies and we would welcome new additions. It is not terribly onerous and very rewarding, the gardens cannot open without a healthy committee.

I hope you can join us at the AGM. See below under Membership and the AGM for details.

Chris Lord, President

Spring Open Gardens

Our spring season will soon be under way with the following events during October and November. 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.

20-21 October 2018

A Relaxed Garden

17 Gilmore Crescent Garran, ACT

A productive cottage garden without a lawn. Featuring moving water, fruit trees, a wisteria-covered arbour, camellias and bulbs. The owner's efforts to establish a sound basic structure of visual rooms and access paths, and to improve the soil, have paid off. Now they have garden that does not need constant attention, allowing them to simply relax and enjoy the constantly changing colours of flowers and foliage.



El's Garden

3 Ramage Place Flynn, ACT

A quarter acre, gently south-sloping block, The garden includes a variety of ornamental zones front and back including a substantial variety of native plants. In the back garden a small pond and creek make a lovely setting. A wisteria covered pergola creates a shady outdoor area for a cup of tea or coffee.



3-4 November 2018

Finch Farmlet

68 Hambidge Crescent Chisholm, ACT

One of 15 demonstration gardens chosen under the ACT Government's H2OK Healthy Waterways Program Stage 1. Water capture is integrated into the sloping, terraced gardens which also feature many ornamental and vegetable garden beds, herbs, fruit trees, a poultry enclosure, an orchid shade-house, a winter glasshouse, pleasant sitting areas and themed art works. Short talks on the water sensitive gardening will be held at 11.30am and 1.30 pm each day.



Mayfield

26 Gratwick Street Gowrie, ACT

Established during Canberra's most recent drought (2003-2008), this garden was transformed from an uninteresting and mostly bare yard, to a plant-filled colourful surprise. Sited on a gentle slope the garden is on several levels, filled with a mix of natives and exotics



in the front and roses under-planted with cottage plants in the back. Flowering shrubs, shady sections and a touch of formality add extra interest.

10-11 November 2018

Cuppacumbalong

21 Naas Road Tharwa, NSW

Both the heritage listed Cuppacumbalong House and the surrounding gardens will be opened to the public. The new owners are renovating the terraced gardens, in keeping with early 20th Century styles. The grounds, suitable for picnics, are framed by large shade trees and face onto the Murrumbidgee River, where a mown path lead to a small historic cemetery. Refreshments are available, visitors are encouraged to bring mugs so as to reduce waste.



The owners now provide accommodation, an events venue and teaching in crafts. The open gardens weekend will feature black-smithing demonstrations on both days and one day knife-making courses. Courses may be booked through the [Tharwa Valley Forge](#) . A Bush to Beach Florals course on Saturday may be booked at [Trybooking](#).

24-25 November 2018

Serendipitous Garden

12 Lawrence Circ Kambah, ACT

This prolific and mature native garden has tall trees at the front and a panoramic view of the Brindabellas. The back is a contrast, where woodland is interspersed with vegetable plots, a large berry patch, fruit trees, a chook shed and bee colonies.

Listen to the owners reminisce about the garden's evolution and inform visitors about keeping chooks and bees, growing berries and vegetables, managing possums and managing a sustainable water supply.



Roserie de la Faunt

2 Larakia Street Waramanga, ACT

Full of the grace and charm of a cottage garden, Roserie de la Faunt includes over 500 bush and climbing roses. This large suburban garden features mature trees, along with a pond and



fountain. The understorey includes a variety of flowering bulbs, hellebores, azalea and camellias. Fruit trees, raised vegetable beds and chooks ensure the garden is productive as well as beautiful.

From our open garden owners

Dragon flies and blue bees: Open Garden 24 & 25 February 2018

Visiting open gardens is a delightful way to spend an afternoon. You get to meet people who love gardens and gardening and look into their creative gardening visions.

Julie and I had the pleasure this year of hosting our own garden on 24 and 25 February, 2018. Advertised as 'Dragon flies and blue bees' the garden represents our vision of a permaculture philosophy and what can be achieved on a small 600 square metre plot. The garden is eight years old and on display were summer vegetables, 100 fruit and nut trees, free range chickens and a natural swimming pool. The garden is landscaped with rock paths and varieties of native plants to attract beneficial insects and wild life.

Saturday opened with over 800 visitors it was very busy. The Canberra Times and also local radio covered the event. People were very interested in the espalier fruit trees, hazelnut truffle trees, the Maran chickens and how the natural pool worked. Julie and I spent the whole day talking about our garden with visitors. Our most frequently asked question was about the swamp hibiscus which was in full bloom in the natural pool.



Sunday started with very high rain fall. The front garden was under 10 cm of water in the morning but it dissipated by mid-day when the rain cleared. Gardeners seem not to be deterred by a bit of rain and the day also received many visitors.



Julie and I consider the experience of hosting the open garden as a major highlight of this year; we loved engaging with the visitors and talking about gardening.

We really did appreciate all the work of the volunteers on the day as well as those behind the scenes and thank them for giving us the opportunity.

Robyn and Julie

With thanks to Robyn for the photos

Evalees: Open Garden 7 & 8 April 2018

Firstly, thank you for the wonderful encouragement, assistance and support to all the Open Garden members and volunteers. You all helped to ensure the success of the day.

The lead up to 7th & 8th April was worryingly dry - however, a few slight showers before the event improved conditions and greened up the grasses. The two days of lovely weather amplified the layout of the garden and tree plantings.

We tried to create a country fair-like atmosphere by incorporating local cafes, a coffee cart and a young neighbouring couple providing musical interludes. The visitors were interesting and interested, especially in water and power provisions, and were appreciative of the opportunity to see the garden.

It was a lovely time for us as two daughters, a son in law and three grandsons assisted in the preparations and participated in a wonderful shared experience, especially at the plant stall. The appearance of our wild/pet wombat and baby, on both days, gave the garden visitors a little exposure to life in a rural setting.

Once again, many thanks to Open Gardens Canberra for approaching us to display our garden.

Lois and Brian Mor

Volunteers and Garden Owners

'Thank you' afternoon tea:

We've had no open gardens since the autumn newsletter, but we did celebrate the generosity of our garden owners and volunteers with an afternoon tea at the Australian National Botanic Gardens on Sunday 29 July.

A total of 20 garden owners and volunteers joined several of the Committee in the Crosbie Morrison building. We all enjoyed catching up with and meeting other gardeners over tea, coffee, scones and friends.

Paulene Cairnduff, known to many from 2CC's 'Garden Gurus' program, then gave us a presentation on the Fetherston Gardens in Weston. These public gardens are a 3.4ha section of what was once the School of Horticulture Weston Campus. When gazetted for public use in 2010, the gardens were named in honour of Tony Fetherston, the School's first and longest-serving Head of Horticulture.

Paulene studied horticulture there and 'did not dream that I would still be in the garden all these years later'. The site is now an ACT Urban Park. Volunteers from the 'Friends of Fetherston Gardens' are responsible for restoring and maintaining the gardens, in collaboration with Parks staff. Everyone is welcome to attend their regular working bees!

The Fetherston Gardens represent an important part of Canberra's horticultural history and are well worth a visit.

There will be an open day in the gardens on 28 October (11am – 3pm) to celebrate Weston Creeks 50th birthday.

Open Gardens Canberra also needs volunteers!

We always need help at the entrance table at our open gardens. Each shift is a morning or afternoon and volunteers can do as many or as few as they choose. Your offer to help will be much appreciated!

Membership and the AGM

The Spring open garden season is almost upon us and your highly valued membership is now due.

You may pay your membership via bank transfer, cheque or in person at any of our open gardens. The volunteers who greet you at these locations will have a record of membership and will be able to quickly advise you of the status of your membership and accept payment if required.

As advised previously the Committee decided to dispense with the costly and time consuming Membership Cards however if you still have yours feel free to wear it at the open gardens.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 17 October from 12 noon to 1 pm in the Catchpole Room at the Southern Cross Club in Jamison.

If you are planning to attend the AGM you will need to be a financial member to nominate for the Committee or to vote for nominees. Payment may be made prior to the AGM or on the day.

Finally, our membership database is only as good as the information you supply to us so if you change your postal address, phone number or email address please let us know promptly either via info@opengardenscanberra.org.au or complete a Change of Details Form at an open garden.

Membership continues to be \$25 per year. Payment can be by:

1. Direct deposit: BSB: 633-000
 Account number: 155187628
 Account Name: Open Gardens Canberra Inc
 Reference: Your name
2. Cheque by mail to: Membership Officer
 Open Gardens Canberra
 PO Box 344
 Jamison Centre ACT 2614
3. Cash at an open garden

Open Gardens Canberra Survey 2018

Thank you to the many members, ex members and newsletter subscribers who completed our on-line survey. Of the 994 people we invited to participate we had a very pleasing 31% response rate. Overall the feedback was very positive with over 80% of respondents either satisfied or very satisfied with the number of gardens opened, the range of garden styles and the quality of gardens opened. This

newsletter and our website were the preferred means of receiving information about our open gardens.

We received a lot of comments and some interesting ideas that the committee and garden selectors are now considering. We will present a comprehensive report on the survey at the AGM.

Tom's Tips

Botanic Gardens: they are not museums & they are always 'Open Gardens'

Most of us have visited the Australian National Botanic Gardens and it is easy to be tempted to put off yet another visit. The strange thing about the ANBG is that the experience is always different. The plants, landscaping wisdom and the spirit of place is always inspiring and always changing.

The other Botanic Garden that we don't think of so much is the contrasting Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden on the Princes Highway near Batemans Bay. Like the ANBG, ERBG relies upon Friends of. In this case, the 150 friends of EBG are absolutely essential to the existence of this garden, including the wonderful shop and plant nursery.

Like the National Arboretum, these institutions are becoming meccas for tourists and locals. They are also a focus of science, horticulture, conservation, good company and good food. They are always 'Open Gardens'. The Open Garden fraternity are often the older generation and there are rewarding opportunities to join the Friends of, sharing our time, interests and skills, while learning ourselves.

Go on!

For more information go to:

[Friends of the ANBG](#)

[Friends of Eurobodella Regional Botanic Garden](#)

[Friends of the National Arboretum](#)

Other Events

Artsound Garden Party 2018

Date: Saturday 6 October
Time: 10am to 4 pm
Location: Reid House, 7A Thorpe Ave, Queanbeyal
Entry fee \$30 CASH Only at the garden gate

Artsound is throwing a Garden Party to raise funds to assist with the renewal process across all areas of the Station's operations. Throughout the day there'll be

live music by the Zimmer Twins, the Canberra Mandolin Orchestra, the Artsound Wonders and a dance performance by Tango Capital.

Entry fee includes:

- Raffle ticket to the 'Private Gardens of the Monaro' valued at \$400
- Light refreshments
- Art exhibition and sale including garden artworks on display
- Garden tours
- A variety of artisan craft for sale

Click [here](#) for further details